

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 14 March to Tuesday 20 March 2018

Summary: It has been a drier week than the previous week across England. River flows have decreased at the majority of indicator sites but remain normal or higher for the time of year at almost all indicator sites.

Rainfall

Rainfall totals over the past week range from 6mm in east England to 29mm in south-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from 65% of the March long term average (LTA) in north-west England to 118% in central England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at all but four of the indicator sites across England compared to the previous week. Latest daily mean flows are [normal](#) or higher for the time of year at almost all indicator sites (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday will see dry conditions for most areas although a band of rain with strong southerly winds will spread from the west late on Thursday night. The rain will be heaviest across the west of England. The frontal band will move east, weakening through Friday. Scattered showers are likely across the country on Saturday and slow moving heavy showers are anticipated across the Midlands, southern England and East Anglia on Sunday. It will be mainly dry on Monday however heavy, persistent rain is expected on Tuesday particularly in the north-west.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 14 to 20 Mar 2018	Latest month to date: Mar 2018		Last month: Feb 2018		Last 3 months: Dec 2017 to Feb 2018		Last 6 months: Sep 2017 to Feb 2018		Last 12 months: Mar 2017 to Feb 2018	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	10	59	65	70	93	341	111	792	120	1,395	120
north-east	16	66	98	51	88	201	93	452	103	891	109
central	16	67	118	32	62	195	104	368	98	710	99
east	6	44	95	38	100	176	123	302	100	626	105
south-east	14	50	85	38	79	219	112	364	90	708	97
south-west	29	92	109	50	60	319	101	577	96	1,028	102
England	15	62	93	45	77	233	104	450	99	852	103

Table 1 Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2018)¹

¹ Notes:

- LTA = long term average rainfall for 1961 – 1990.
- Data for the current month are calculated using MORECS (Met Office Rainfall and Evaporation Calculation System); data for past months are provisional values from the National Climate Information Centre (NCIC).
- The data is rounded to the nearest millimetre or percent (except when values are less than 1).
- Recorded amounts of rainfall are likely to be underestimated during snow events.

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Rainfall

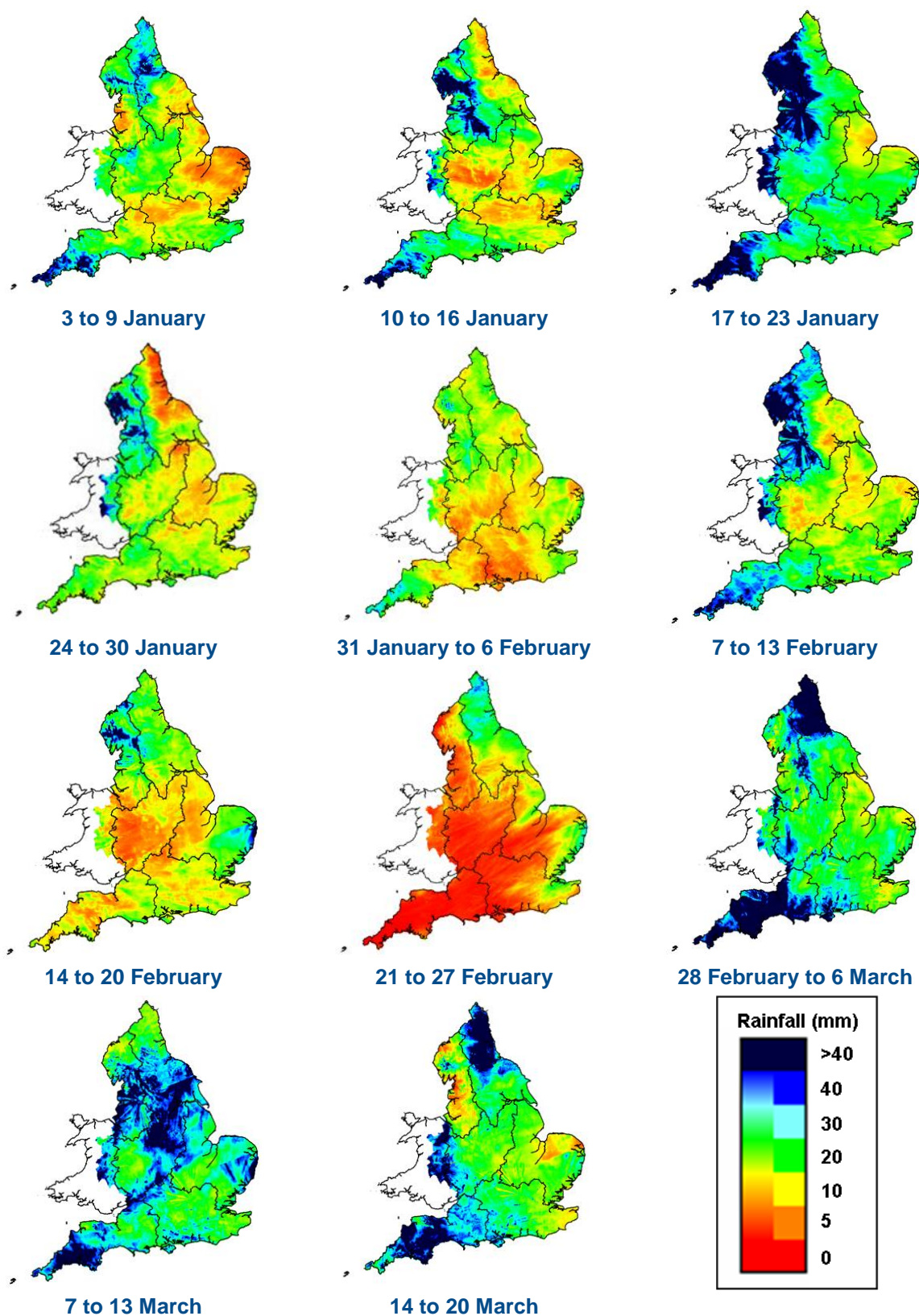
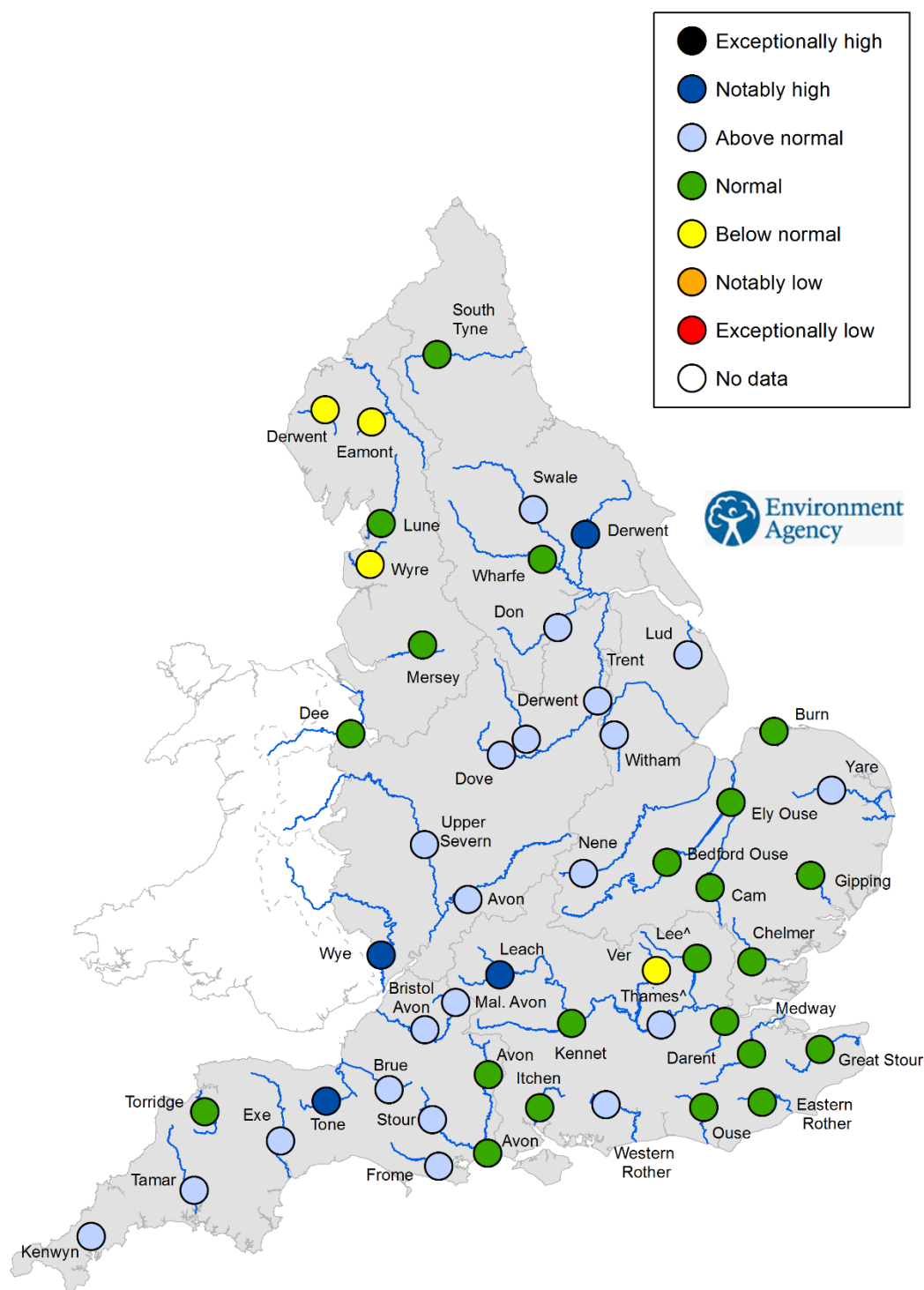


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2018). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2018.

River flow



'Naturalised' flows are provided for the River Thames at Kingston and the River Lee at Feildes Weir.

Figure 2 Latest daily mean river flow, relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows, classed by flow percentile for the same time of year² (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2018.

²Flow percentiles describe the percentage of time that a particular flow has been equalled or exceeded compared to the historic flow record for that site for the time of year. Flow percentiles presented relate to an analysis for the time of year and not a whole year.

River flow categories

Exceptionally high	Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time
Notably high	Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time
Above normal	Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time
Normal	Value likely to fall within this band 44% of the time
Below normal	Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time
Notably low	Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time
Exceptionally low	Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time

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