

Guide to using colour coding in the Flash Flood Chronology files

1. Highlight colours

Yellow: In all regions this identifies all events which are described as walls of water, a breast or a wave, or gives a description which can be inferred as such. Now referred to as 'abrupt wave front floods' (AWF).

Green: In all regions this identifies occurrences of severe hail, either in terms of their diameter or circumference or of the impact in breaking glass or depth accumulated. Selection is somewhat subjective.

Red: Only in Pennine and Scottish catchments (Northeast, Yorkshire Swale, Yorkshire South, Cumbria Eden, Cumbria, South Lakes, Lancashire, Scotland) for events identified as walls of water gives the grid reference of the point at which the flood was observed.

2. Print colours

Red: Used for Pennine catchments only. Using a gauged record of 15 minute rates of rise in level in metres per hour (rather than actual level), the rank order of maximum rates of rise are provided (up to rank 5)

For example, **Roe beck at Stockdalewath had its highest 15 minute rate of rise 2003 to 2012 of 3.06 m per hour (second highest was 1.80 m per hour).** Less detailed information is given for Southwest Devon and Cornwall region. Digital records of level usually start around 1980 and this analysis stops around 2014.

Pink: Pennine catchments and southwest Devon and Cornwall catchments. Based on HIFLOWS UK record to 2009, annual maximum levels summer events are identified from the annual maximum series of each gauging station. Thus events are designated for example AMS1 AM25 which means that the event was the Rank 1 annual maximum (peak) level for the summer months April to September but only the Rank 25 annual maximum for winter and summer events combined. Only events of AMS Rank 1 to Rank 3 are identified. This analysis shows that summer events only rarely provide the annual maximum, and these events tend to be well down the annual maximum rank list.

For example:

Eamont at Udford 1961-09 AMS Rank 2 AM 45
Eamont at Pooley Bridge 1970-09 AMS Rank 1 AM 32
Haweswater at Burnbanks 1978-09 AMS Rank 1 AM 20
Irthing at Greenholme 1967-09 AMS Rank 2 AM 10
Eden at Kirkby Stephen 1971-09 AMS rank 3 AM 33