



Parts of the UK are braced for threatened further flooding as successive bands of heavy rain move across the country.

The Environment Agency (EA) said large swathes of southern and south-western England, south-east Wales and the Midlands may be threatened on Thursday.

Flood warnings are in place in the south-west, the south-east and east Anglia.

Levels are high on the river Cober in Helston, Cornwall, after persistent rain on Wednesday, while the Dolphins River Park in Charmouth, west Dorset, is under threat from the river Char.

The river Wey in Weymouth, Dorset, is rising, according to the EA, and the Somerset Levels also face risk of flooding due to heavy rainfall of up to 20mm overnight on already saturated ground.

Forecasters said the heavy rain would ease in the south-west on Thursday afternoon and it would be dry on Friday, but the weather across the whole country would remain unsettled for up to seven days.

Andy Ratcliffe, a forecaster for MeteoGroup, the weather division of the Press Association, said: "There will be persistent rain across most of the UK today, though in the south-west it will turn drier in the afternoon with the odd shower. Tomorrow it will largely be dry in the south-west but

by the evening the next band of rain will move in. That will stay throughout the weekend and into next week."

Areas of England and Wales in November were engulfed by floodwater that surged through streets and down roads, cutting off whole communities and forcing dozens to flee their homes.

Craig Woolhouse, flood risk manager at the Environment Agency, said: "We urge people to keep up to date with the weather forecast and local news overnight and remain prepared for flooding in their area by signing up to receive free flood warnings and staying away from dangerous flood water."

The Environment Agency's flood line is 0845 988 1188.