

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 23 August to Tuesday 29 August 2023

Summary: It has been a slightly wetter week across most of England. River flows have decreased at over three quarters of the sites we report on and the majority of sites we report on are normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall

It has been a slightly wetter week across most of England, with all regions except north-west and south-east England drier than the week before. Rainfall totals ranged from 11mm in central England to 18mm in north-west and north-east England (Table 1, Figure 1). Rainfall totals for August to date range from 91% of the long term average (LTA) in central England to 115% of the LTA in north-east England (Table 1). For England as a whole, August to date, has received 104% of the LTA.

River flow

River flows have decreased at over three quarters of the sites we report on compared to the previous week. The majority of river flows across England were classed as normal or higher for the time of year. Overall, 65% of sites were normal for the time of year and 19% of sites were above normal. Seven sites (13% of the total) were below normal for the time of year. (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday is forecast to be fine across northern England. Elsewhere cloud and rain will slowly spread across southern England throughout the day, turning heavy in places. Heavy rain or showers are expected across eastern England on Friday with conditions turning drier over the weekend with increasing amounts of sunshine. On Monday and Tuesday, many parts of England should be mostly dry with some sunshine and light winds, especially in the south.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 23 to 29 Aug 2023	Latest month to date: Aug 2023		Last month: Jul 2023		Last 3 months: May to Jul 2023		Last 6 months: Feb to Jul 2023		Last 12 months: Aug 2022 to Jul 2023	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	18	107	100	206	242	312	129	558	115	1,332	111
north-east	18	89	115	134	214	207	112	379	102	856	102
central	11	59	91	108	205	191	114	368	111	786	109
east	12	62	112	85	171	152	101	303	108	632	105
south-east	12	66	114	86	177	158	100	360	113	901	123
south-west	14	73	95	143	231	231	121	504	119	1,240	121
England	14	74	104	120	204	200	111	398	111	922	111

Table 1 Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2023)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 are 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.

All data are provisional and may be subject to revision. The views expressed in this document are not necessarily those of the Environment Agency. Its officers, servants or agents accept no liability for any loss or damage arising from the interpretation or use of the information, or reliance upon views contained herein.

Rainfall

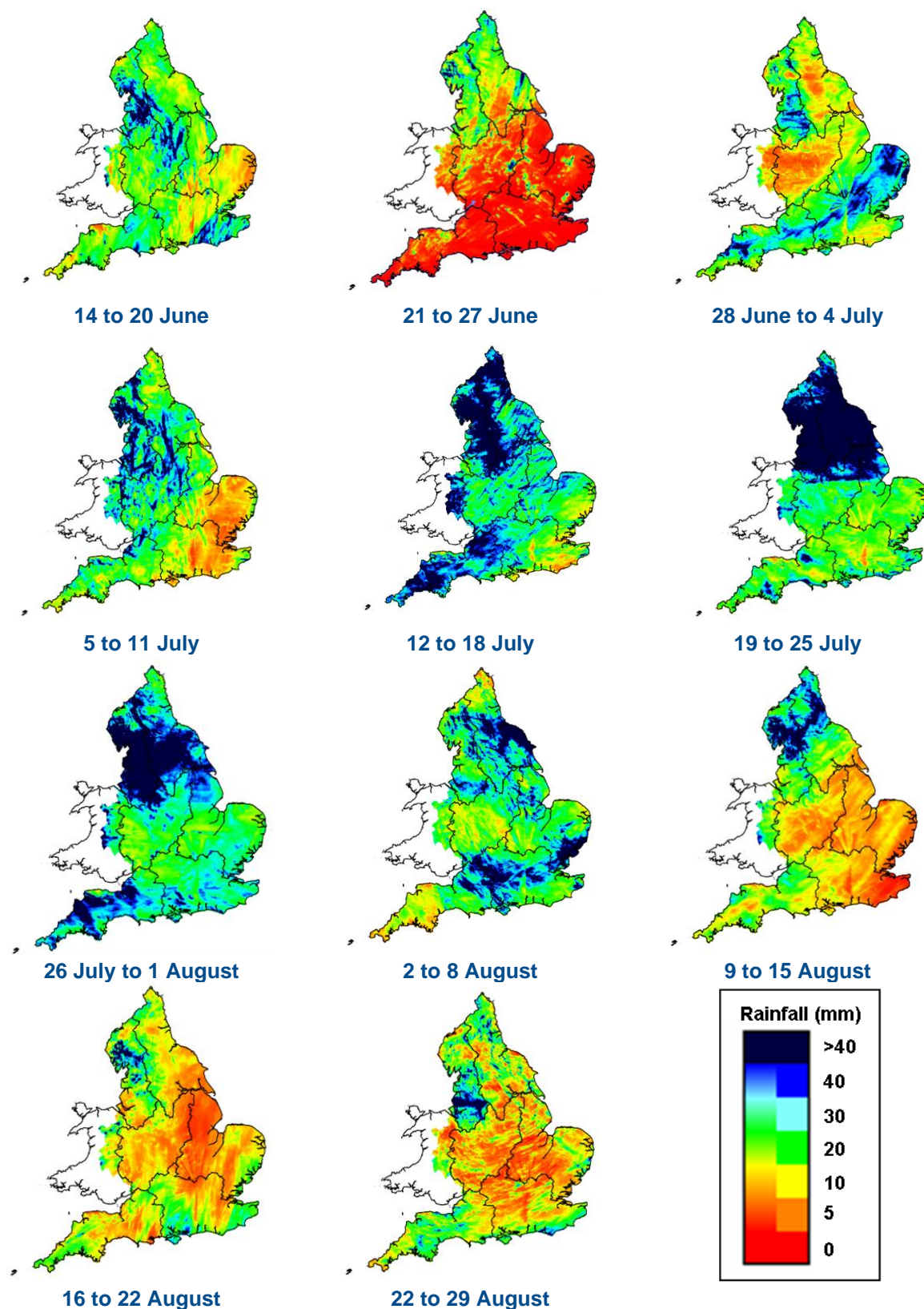
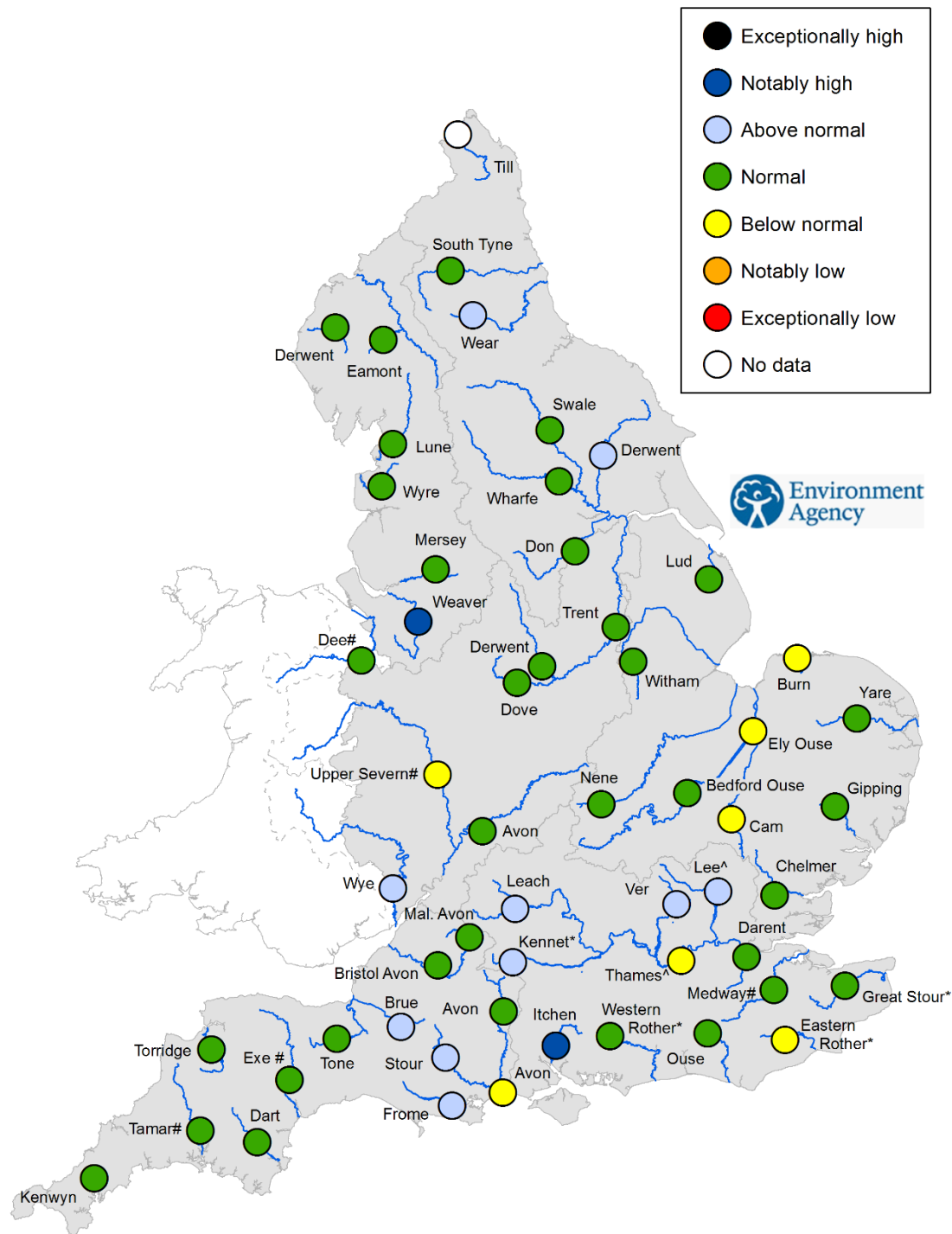


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2023). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation affecting its performance. This does not reflect actual conditions on the ground. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2023.

River flow



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

* Flows may be currently overestimated at these sites so the data should be treated with caution

Flows may be impacted at these sites by water releases from upstream reservoirs.

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, 100024198, 2023³.

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.

³The flow sites in this report are indicator sites providing a National overview and a subset of a wider flow monitoring network.

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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