Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 16 to Tuesday 22 October 2019

Summary: Although it has been a drier week across England compared to recent weeks, all but three of the rivers that we report on are classed as normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall
Rainfall totals for the past week ranged from 7mm in east England to 22mm in south-east England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for October to date ranged from 83% of the monthly long term average (LTA) in north-west England to 141% in east England (Table 1).

River flow
River flows continue to respond to recent wet weather with three fifths of the rivers we report on being classed as above normal or higher; a third of sites are classed as normal for the time of year. Flows at the three sites across the chalk aquifers in Hertfordshire, and the Essex/Cambridgeshire border are below normal or lower for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook
Locally heavy rain will move northwards across the south-east England on Thursday. A frontal system will bring persistent rain from the west on Friday to northern and central areas before tracking across to the east on Saturday. Sunday and Monday are likely to be drier as high pressure starts to build in from the west.

Author: National Water Resources Hydrology Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic regions</th>
<th>Latest Week: 16 to 22 Oct 2019</th>
<th>Latest month to date: Oct 2019</th>
<th>Last month: Sep 2019</th>
<th>Last 3 months: Jul to Sep 2019</th>
<th>Last 6 months: Apr to Sep 2019</th>
<th>Last 12 months: Oct 2018 to Sep 2019</th>
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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2019)

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Notes:
- 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.
Rainfall

7 to 13 August

14 to 20 August

21 to 27 August

28 August to 3 September

4 to 10 September

11 to 17 September

18 to 24 September

25 September to 1 October

2 to 8 October

9 to 15 October

16 to 22 October

Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2019). 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, 100026380, 2019.
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 year\(^2\) (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2019\(^3\).

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\(^2\)Flow 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.

\(^3\)The 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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