

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 17 to Tuesday 23 September 2014

Summary

A third week of moderately dry weather across much of England has resulted in the cumulative rainfall for the month to date being less than a quarter of the September long term average (LTA) in all areas. Rain affected parts of England, predominantly on Thursday and Friday, but overall, river flows have remained static or decreased at the majority of our indicator sites. Flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at the majority of sites, but are **below normal** or lower at the remaining two-fifths of sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 6 mm in northwest England to 11 mm in the southwest (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date are less than 15mm across England and represent less than 24% of the September LTA in all areas (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at almost half of our indicator sites compared to last week and remained broadly static at a third of sites. Latest daily mean river flows are **normal** for the time of year at almost half of our sites. Flows are **below normal** or lower for the time of year at two-fifths of sites and **exceptionally low** for the time of year at 2 sites (Figure 2).

Outlook

Rain may affect parts of England on Thursday, particularly in northwest England. Showers may affect some areas from Friday through to Sunday, but many places will stay dry. Monday and Tuesday will be predominantly dry across many areas, although some parts of the north and west may see some showers.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 17 - 23 Sep '14	Latest month to date: Sep '14		Last month: Aug '14		Last 3 months: Jun '14 - Aug '14		Last 6 months: Mar '14 - Aug '14		Last 12 months: Sep '13 - Aug '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	8	12	10	142	137	261	99	500	100	1362	117
North East	6	14	20	112	148	212	108	425	112	991	121
Central	9	11	17	96	149	198	114	386	113	941	132
East	8	12	24	94	171	190	123	332	112	740	124
South East	9	10	16	102	176	181	113	363	112	1087	149
South West	11	13	15	124	165	231	117	484	118	1450	144
England	8	12	17	109	157	208	112	406	111	1064	132

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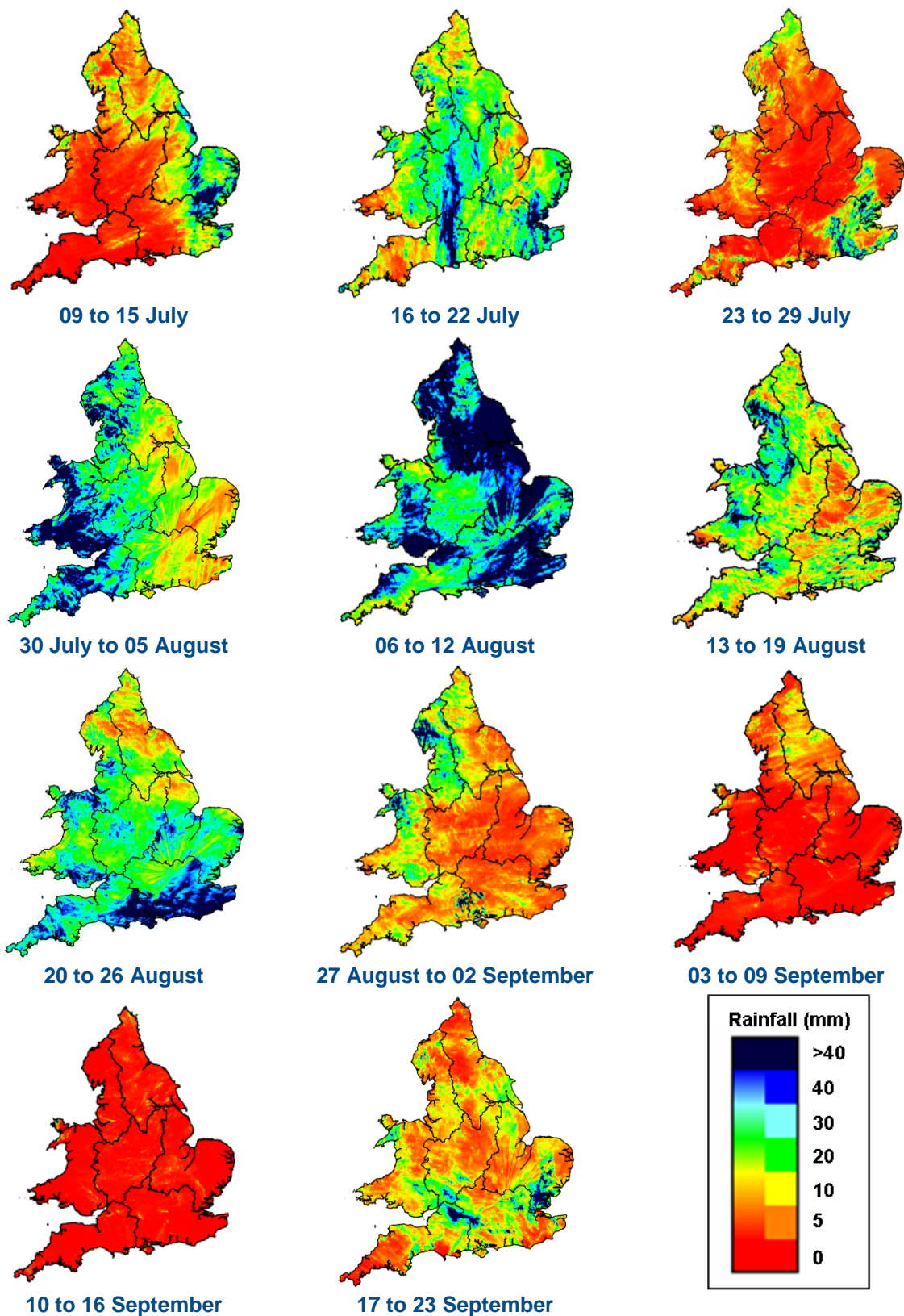
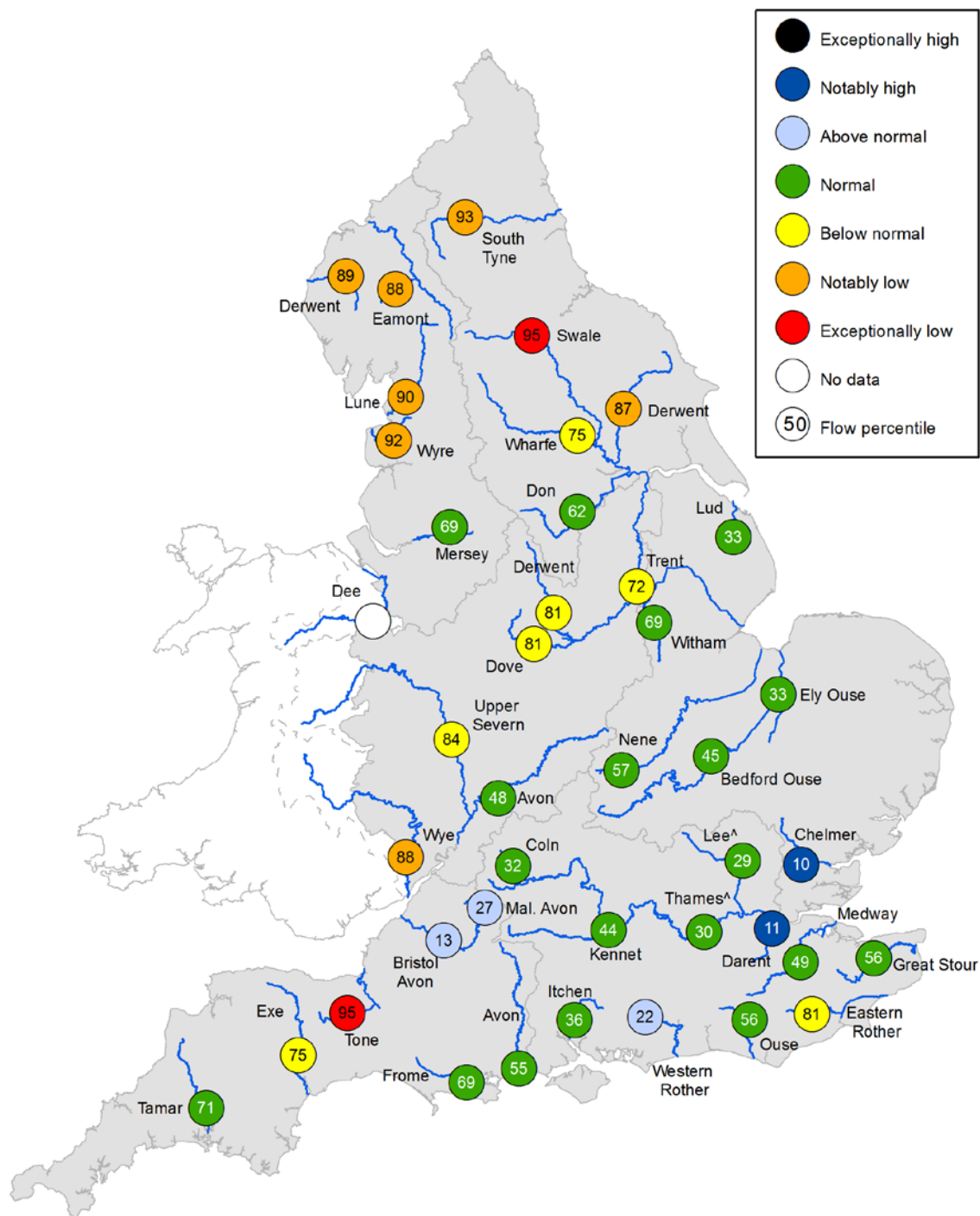


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

River Flow



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

Figure 2: Latest daily mean river flow expressed as a percentile² and classed relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows for the same time of year (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

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. For example, a flow percentile of 5 indicates that the current flow has only been equalled or exceeded approximately 5% of the time within the historic record for that time of year – i.e. a very high flow. A flow percentile of 95 indicates that the current flow has been equalled or exceeded approximately 95% of the time – i.e. a low flow. Flow percentiles presented relate to an analysis for the time of year and not a whole year.