Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 22 to Tuesday 28 October 2014

Summary

The most significant rainfall over the past week was in northern England, with many other areas of England receiving very little rain. The cumulative rainfall totals to date, are above the October long term average (LTA) rainfall in all areas. River flows have decreased compared to the previous week at most of our indicator sites, but are **normal** or higher for the time of year at all sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 5 mm in central and southeast England to 27 mm in the northwest (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- The cumulative rainfall totals for October to date range from 128% of the October LTA in southwest England to 168% in the east (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at the majority of indicators sites across England (Figure 2).
- The latest daily mean river flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at all of our indicator sites, with more than four fifths of our indicator sites being **normal** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Patchy rain will continue through Thursday, particularly in the west. Friday will be mild and mostly dry with some sunny spells in the south and east. Through the weekend and into Monday and Tuesday, windy weather with associated showers will move in a south-easterly direction across England, from the northwest, bringing cooler air with it.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 22 - 28 Oct '14	Latest month to date: Oct '14		Last month: Sep '14		Last 3 months: Jul '14 - Sep '14		Last 6 months: Apr '14 - Sep '14		Last 12 months: Oct '13 - Sep '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	27	171	138	15	14	233	78	424	82	1295	112
North East	15	98	134	19	28	186	90	387	101	958	117
Central	5	85	141	12	20	157	89	354	103	912	128
East	6	85	168	16	32	169	110	324	108	717	120
South East	5	103	147	13	21	158	94	340	103	1049	144
South West	9	125	128	15	18	182	84	434	107	1397	138
England	10	107	141	15	22	177	90	372	101	1026	127

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.

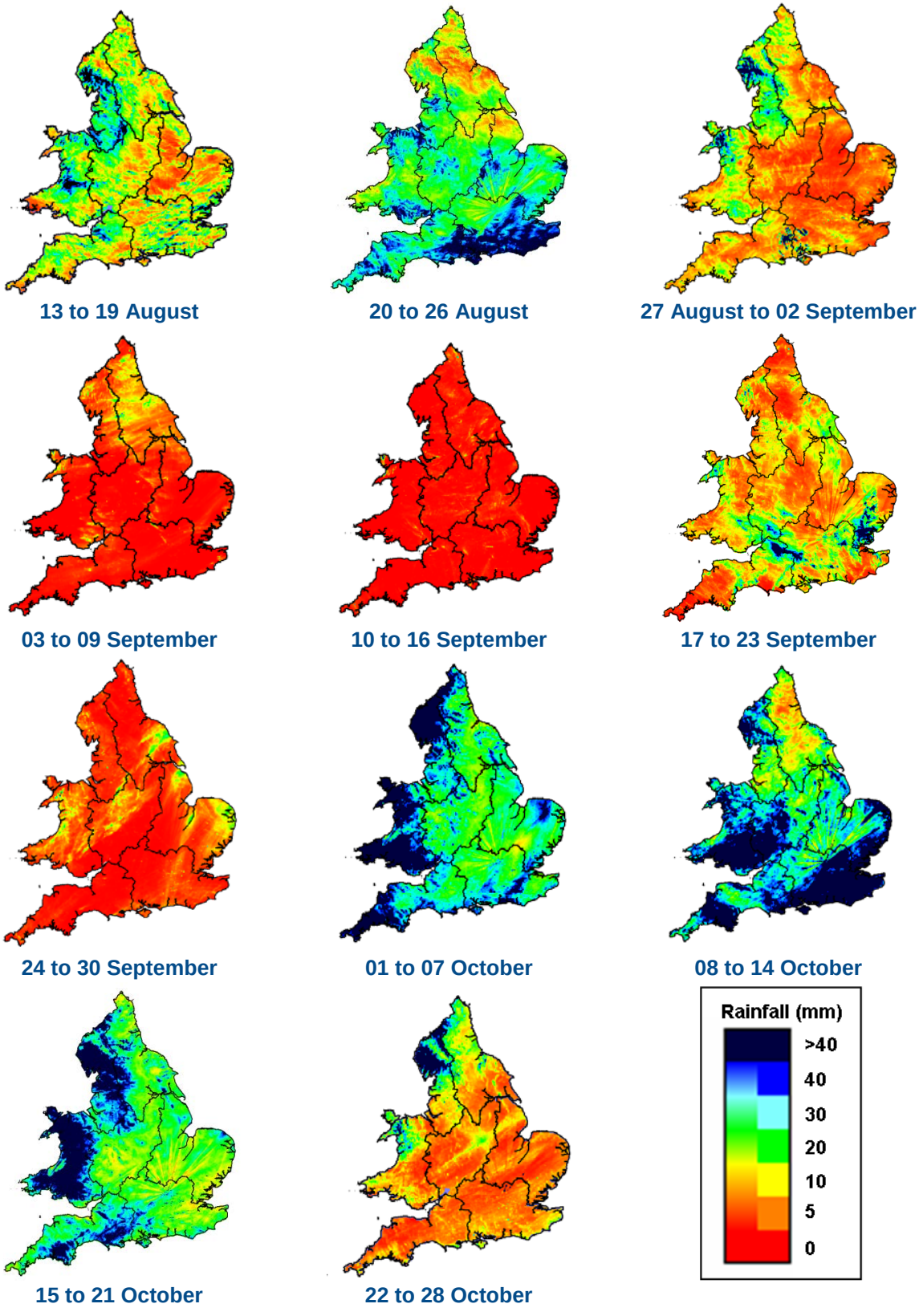
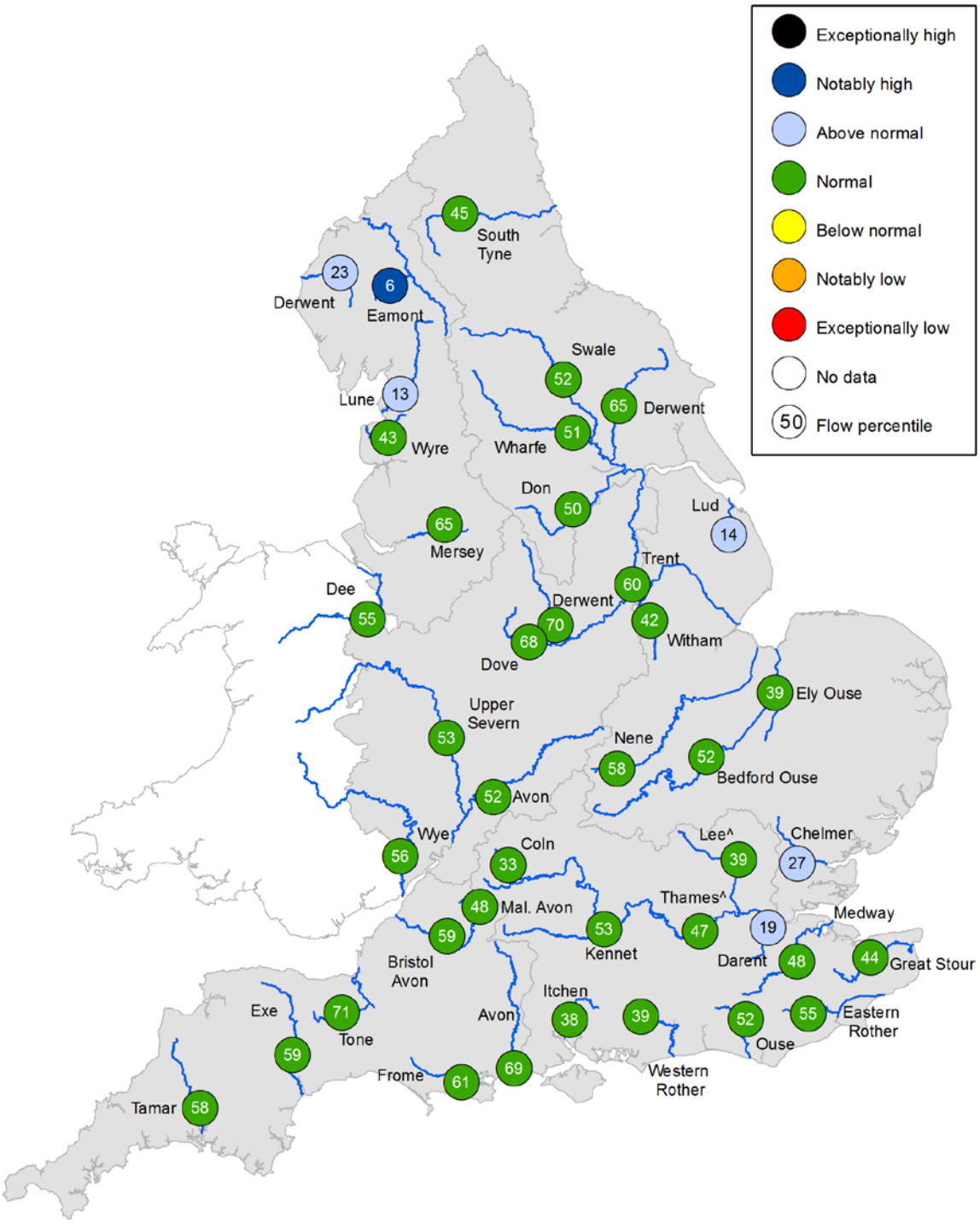


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

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 percentile[2] 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.