Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 02 – Tuesday 08 July 2014

Summary

The last seven days have been wet across much of England. The cumulative rainfall total for the month to date is close to one third of the long term average for most of England, with the exception of the east, where rainfall represents one fifth of the long term average. River flows are *normal* for the time of year at two thirds of our indicator sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 10 mm in east England to 28 mm in the northwest (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for July to date range from 21% of the July long term average (LTA) in east England to 36% in southwest England (Table 1).
- River flows have increased at just under half of our indicator sites this week compared to last week and decreased at a similar proportion of sites. The latest daily mean river flows are *normal* for the time of year at just over two thirds of our indicator sites and *above normal* or higher at just over a quarter of sites (Figure 2).

Outlook

Rain on Thursday may become heavy at times across central and eastern areas, and may continue overnight into Friday. Heavy showers will affect parts of east England on Saturday and Sunday. Monday and Tuesday will remain unsettled as rain and showers move in from the west, although parts of the south and east of England are likely to be drier.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 02 - 08 Jul '14	Latest month to date: Jul '14		Last month: Jun '14		Last 3 months: Apr '14 - Jun '14		Last 6 months: Jan '14 - Jun '14		Last 12 months: Jul '13 - Jun '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	28	28	33	44	56	192	87	632	126	1352	116
North East	19	19	31	46	77	201	114	495	130	961	117
Central	15	15	30	53	93	197	118	487	143	916	128
East	10	10	21	37	73	155	106	346	123	671	112
South East	15	15	30	36	67	182	114	548	161	1016	140
South West	22	22	36	64	102	252	133	741	157	1384	137
England	17	17	30	46	78	195	113	527	141	1015	126

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.

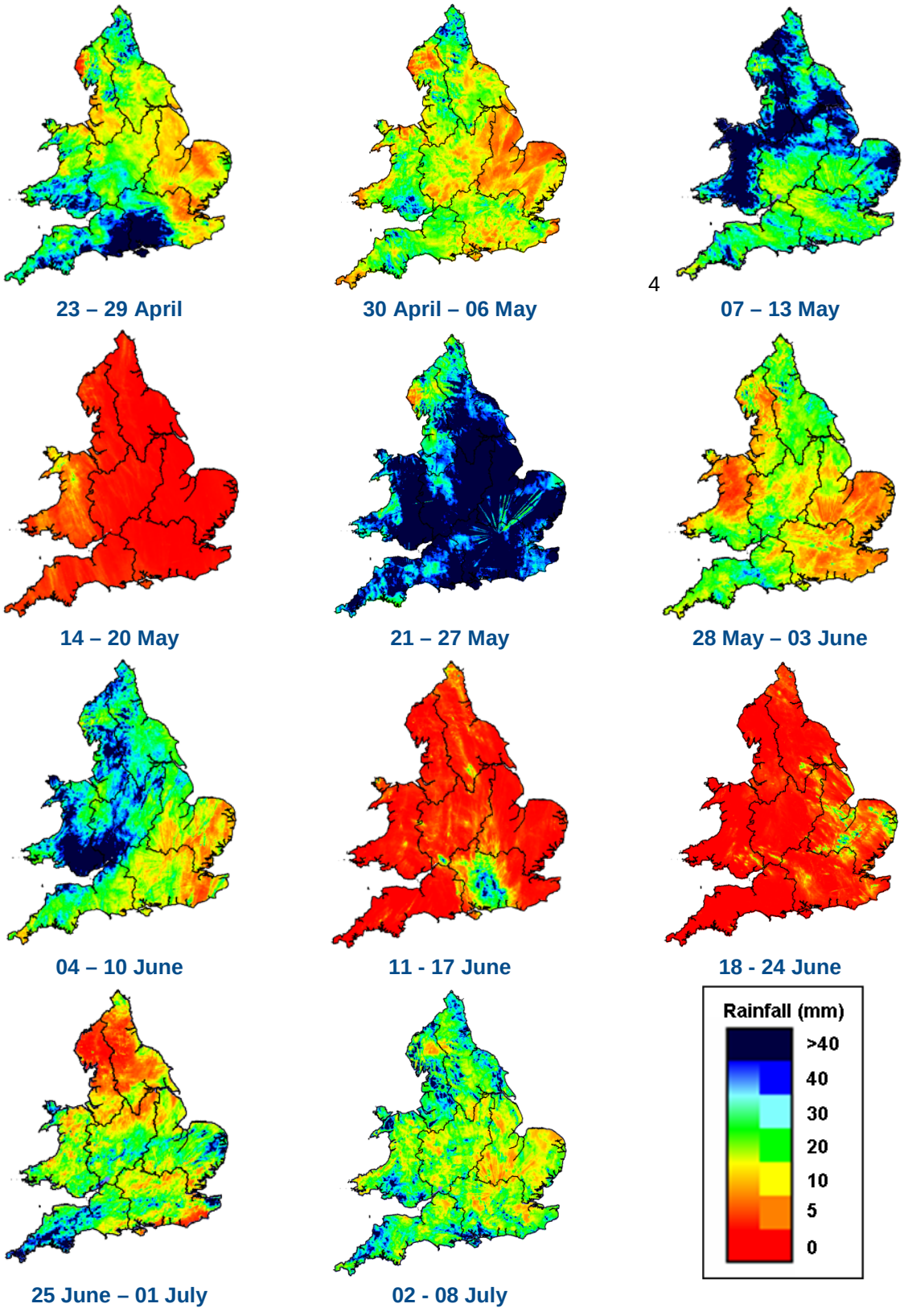
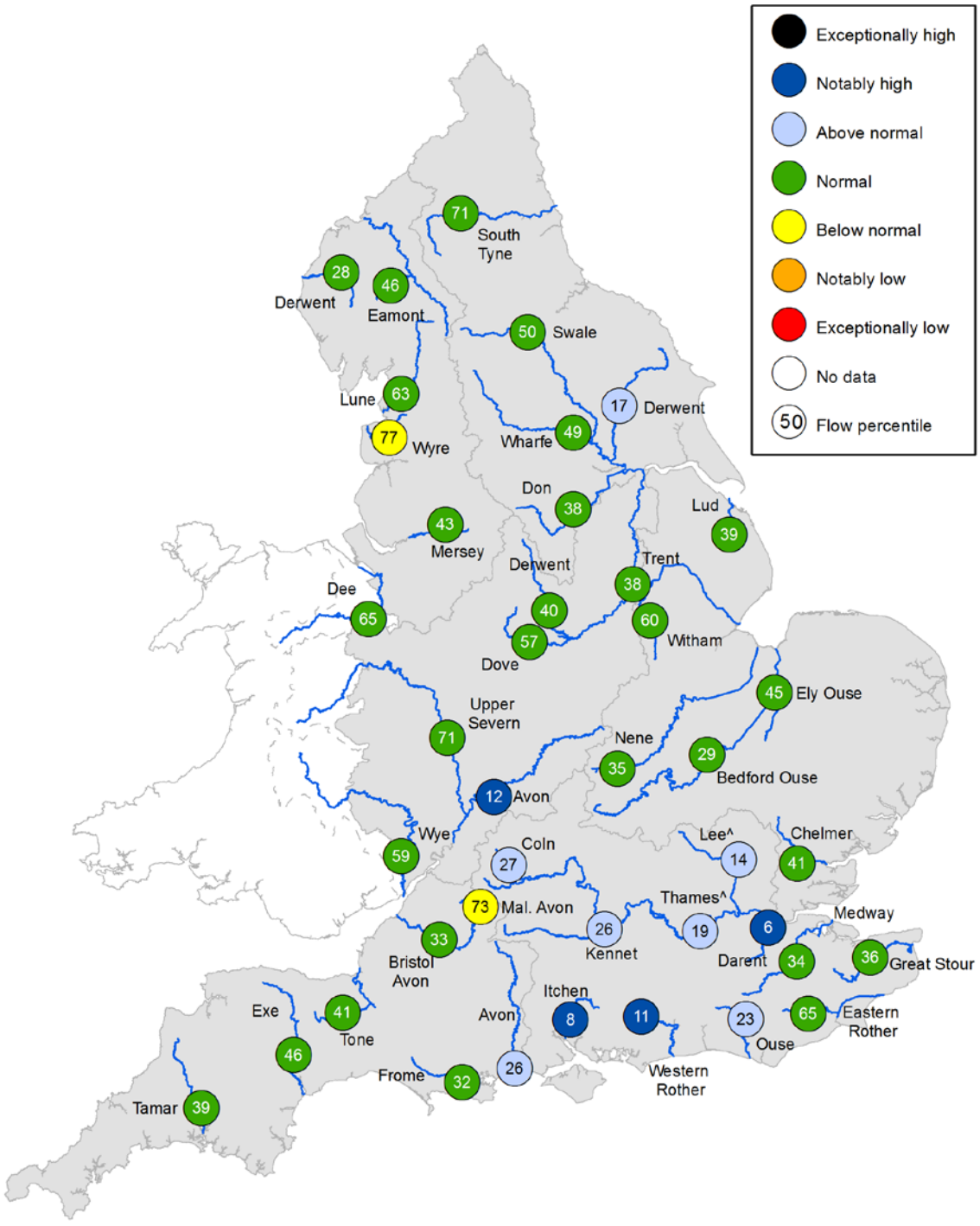


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

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.