

# Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 27 August to Tuesday 2 September 2014

## Summary

It has been drier across most of England this week than the previous week, with the lowest rainfall totals in southern, eastern and central England. River flows have decreased at nearly three quarters of our indicator sites compared to last week, although nearly half our indicator sites remain **above normal** or higher for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 5 millimetres (mm) in the east of England to 20 mm in the northwest (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for August were all well above the August long term average (LTA) and ranged from 137% of the August LTA in northwest England to 176% in the southeast (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at nearly three quarters of our indicator sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at all except 1 of our indicator sites. Nearly half our indicator sites remain **above normal** or higher for the time of year, with most of these located in southern and eastern England (Figure 2).

## Outlook

Thursday and Friday are expected to be predominantly dry, although some light rain is possible at times. A weak band of rain is expected to move south into northern England later on Friday, with potential for a few showers on Friday evening and into Saturday. Sunday and Monday are expected to be mostly dry, although northern England may see some light rain on Monday. Tuesday is expected to be unsettled in northwest England with the possibility of showers or longer spells of rain, while southern England remains largely dry.

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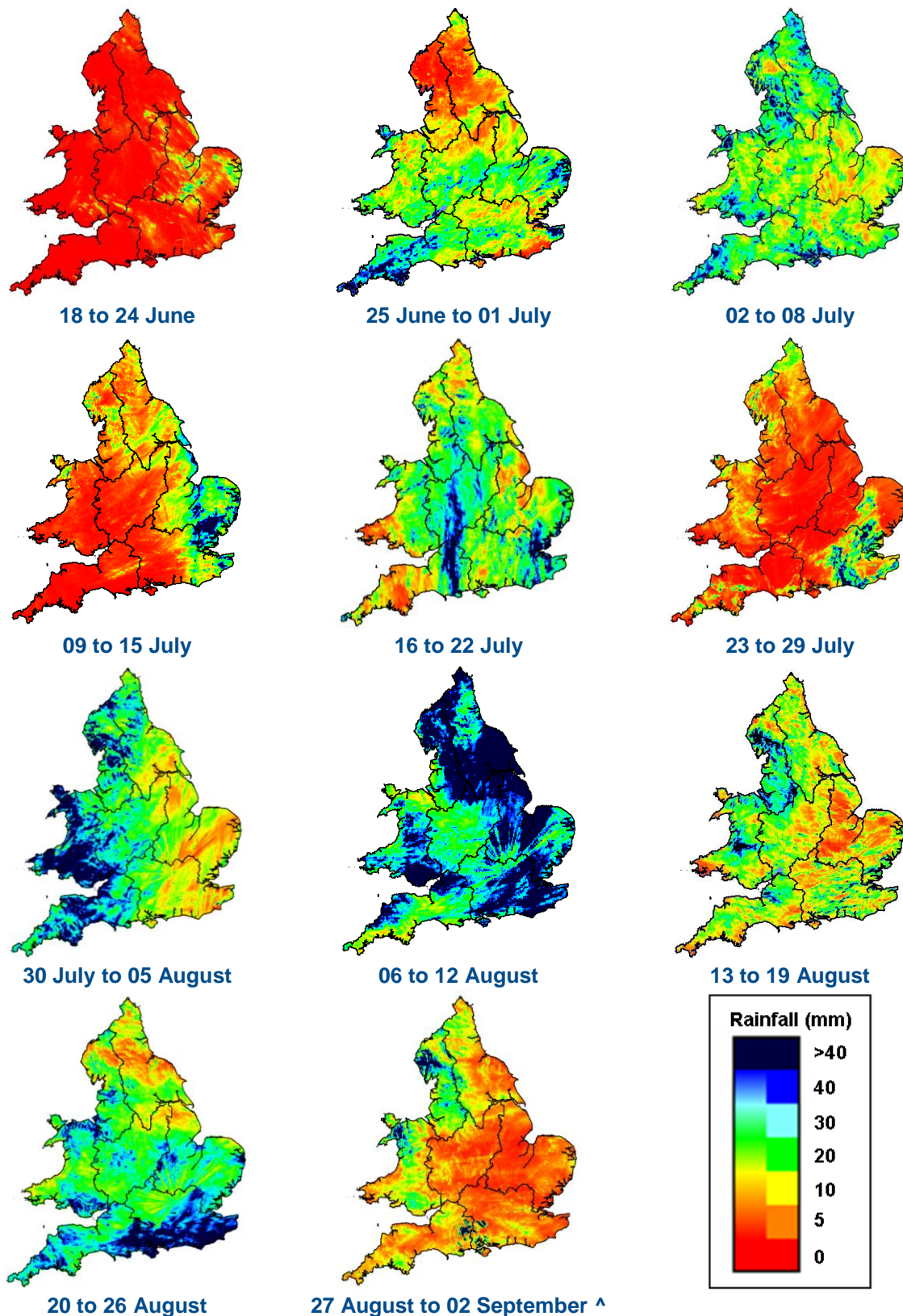
Geographic regions	Latest Week: 27 Aug - 02 Sep '14	Latest month to date: Sep '14		Last month: Aug '14		Last 3 months: Jun '14 - Aug '14		Last 6 months: Mar '14 - Aug '14		Last 12 months: Sep '13 - Aug '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	20	0	0	142	137	261	99	500	100	1362	117
North East	10	0.1	0.1	112	148	212	108	425	112	991	121
Central	7	0.4	0.7	96	149	198	114	386	113	941	132
East	5	2	4	94	171	190	123	332	112	740	124
South East	6	0.7	1	102	176	181	113	363	112	1087	149
South West	12	1	1	124	165	231	117	484	118	1450	144
England	9	1	1	109	157	208	112	406	111	1064	132

**Table 1:** Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

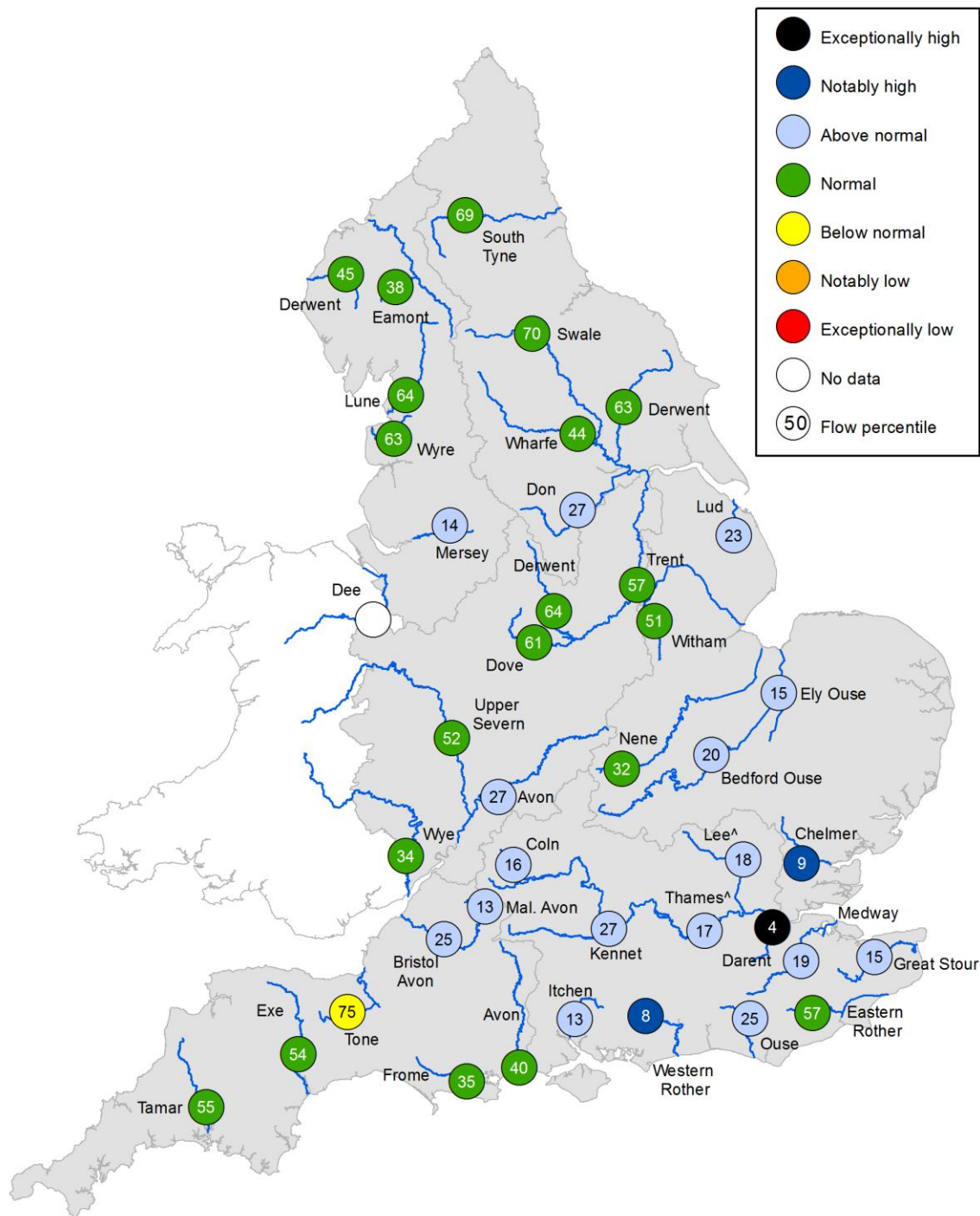
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^ – There was an error in the radar data on 30 August which has caused this week's map to show erroneously high rainfall totals for a limited area in area in southern England.

**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



<sup>^</sup> – ‘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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.