Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 13 to Tuesday 19 August 2014

Summary

It has been drier this week across most of England than the previous week, with the lowest rainfall totals in the east of England. As such, river flows across England have decreased at all except one of our indicator sites. The majority of our river flow indicator sites are still **normal** or higher for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 8 millimetres (mm) in east England to 21 mm in the northwest (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- With 11 days of August still remaining, cumulative rainfall totals are already over 100% of the August long term average (LTA) for all of England (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at all except 1 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 2 of our indicator sites. More than a third of our indicator sites remain **above normal** or **notably high** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Sunny spells with showers are expected for most over the coming days. Thursday will see showers particularly in the north and west, clearing through Friday, but affecting the south in places. Saturday and Sunday are expected to be dry in many areas, but with some showers. From Monday onwards, cloudier weather with associated rain is expected.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 13 - 19 Aug '14	Latest month to date: Aug '14		Last month: Jul '14		Last 3 months: May '14 - Jul '14		Last 6 months: Feb '14 - Jul '14		Last 12 months: Aug '13 - Jul '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	21	109	105	75	91	213	91	526	112	1321	114
North East	12	92	121	54	89	205	114	418	116	948	116
Central	11	71	110	49	95	199	119	392	120	897	125
East	8	66	121	59	121	193	130	302	108	694	116
South East	12	63	110	44	90	156	99	399	126	1026	141
South West	11	78	104	44	72	201	106	555	133	1387	137
England	12	77	112	53	93	193	110	420	120	1014	125

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.

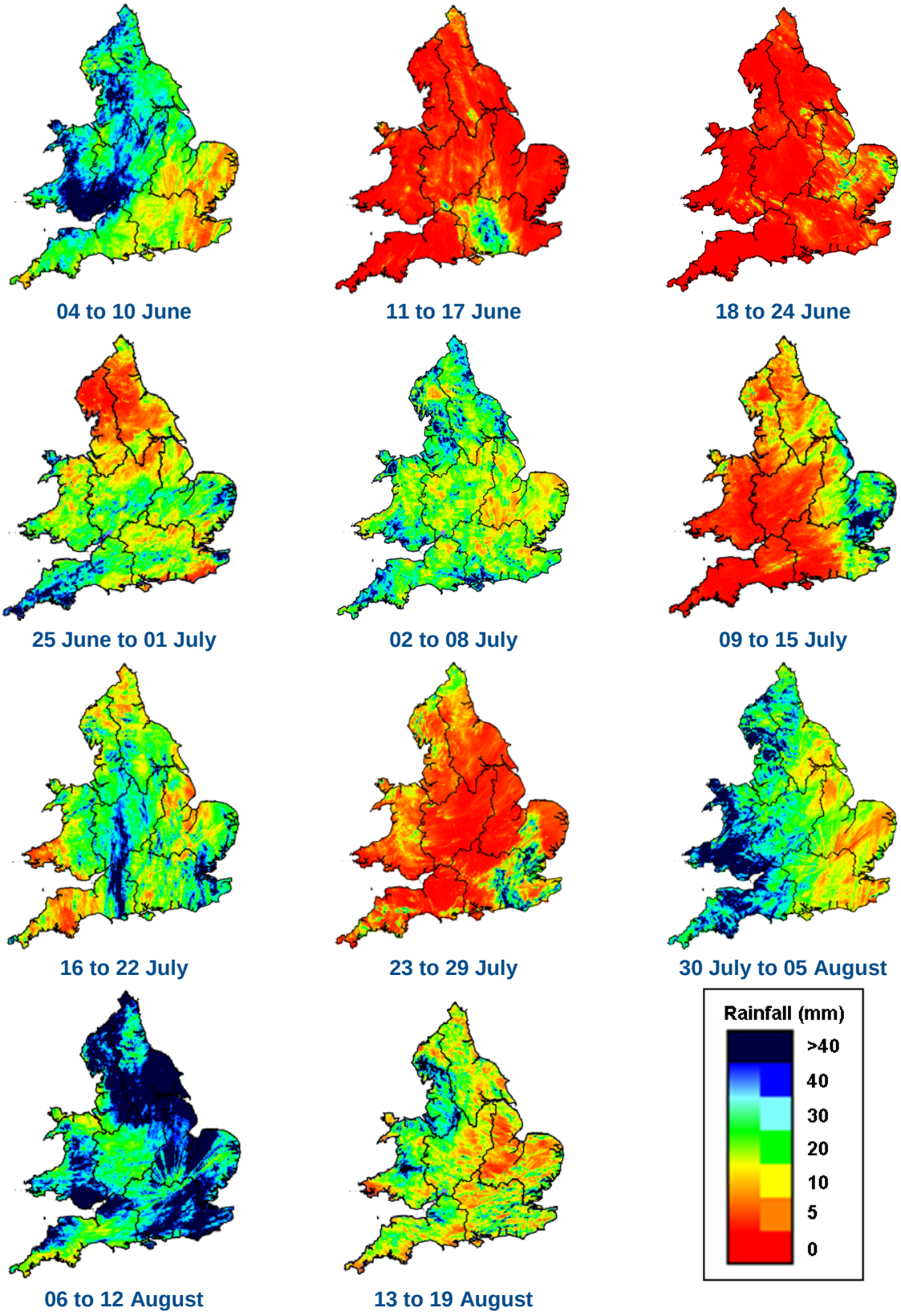
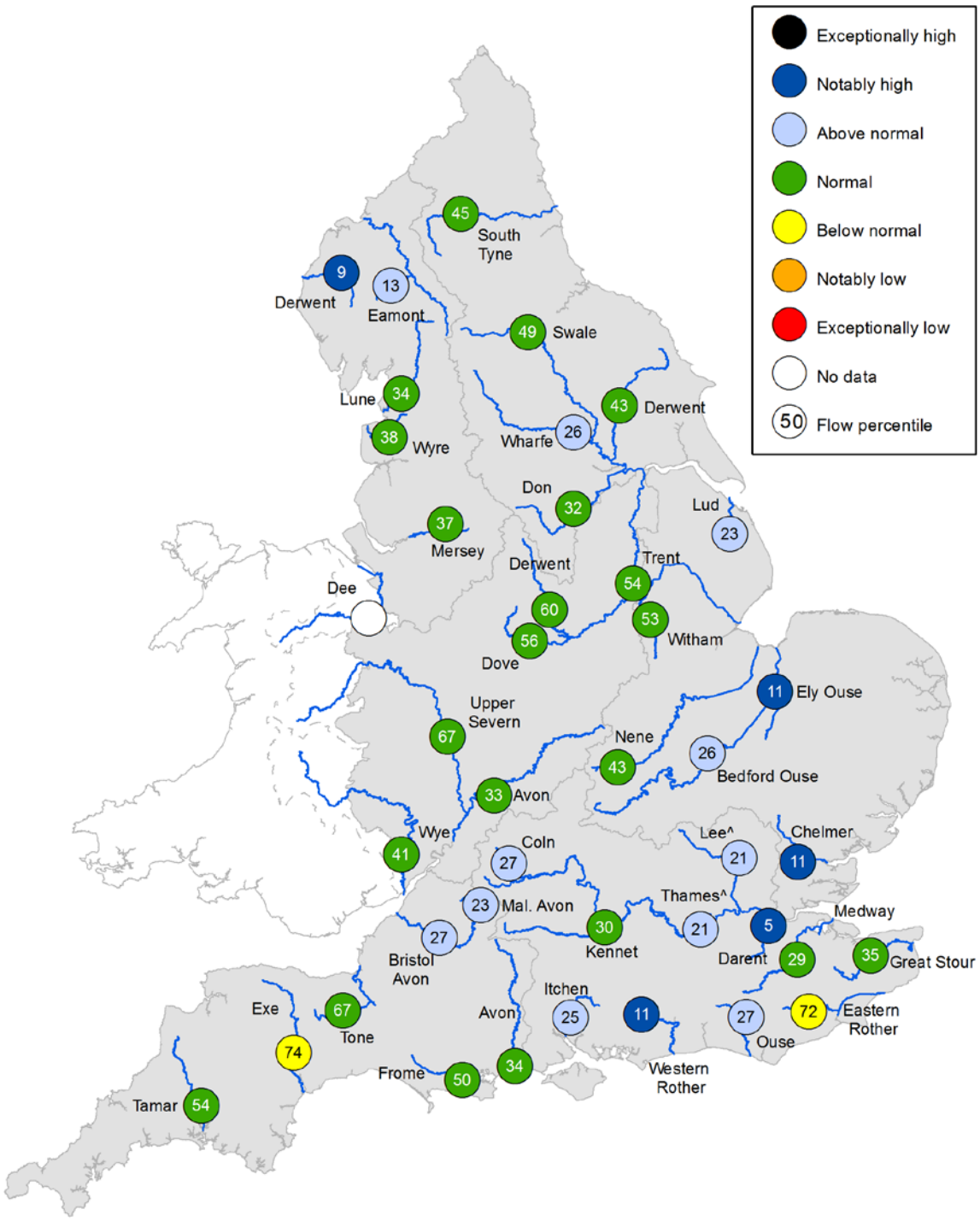


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

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.