

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 30 July to Tuesday 05 August 2014

Summary

Rain affected most parts of England over the previous week, particularly in the northwest and southwest of England. Although the east of England was drier, cumulative rainfall over the week still represents a fifth of the long term average rainfall for August. River flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at almost all of our indicator sites, with only two sites being **below normal** for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 13 millimetres (mm) in the east of England to 46 mm in the northwest of England (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for the first 5 days of August range from 20% of the August long term average (LTA) in the east of England to 55% in the southwest of England (Table 1).
- River flows have increased at more than half of our indicator sites compared to the previous week. The latest daily mean flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at almost all of our indicator sites. River flows at 12 of our indicator sites across England are **above normal** or **notably high** for the time of year and 2 sites in southern England remain **below normal** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday will be mainly dry. Scattered showers in the south and east may develop on Friday and Saturday, with Friday seeing the heaviest of the rain. A low pressure may bring heavy rain to the south and west on Sunday. Monday and Tuesday will remain unsettled, with some heavy and thundery showers expected across many parts of England.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 30 Jul - 05 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	46	41	40	75	91	213	91	526	112	1321	114
North East	26	23	31	54	89	205	114	418	116	948	116
Central	25	23	35	49	95	199	119	392	120	897	125
East	13	11	20	59	121	193	130	302	108	694	116
South East	17	16	28	44	90	156	99	399	126	1026	141
South West	43	42	55	44	72	201	106	555	133	1387	137
England	26	24	35	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.

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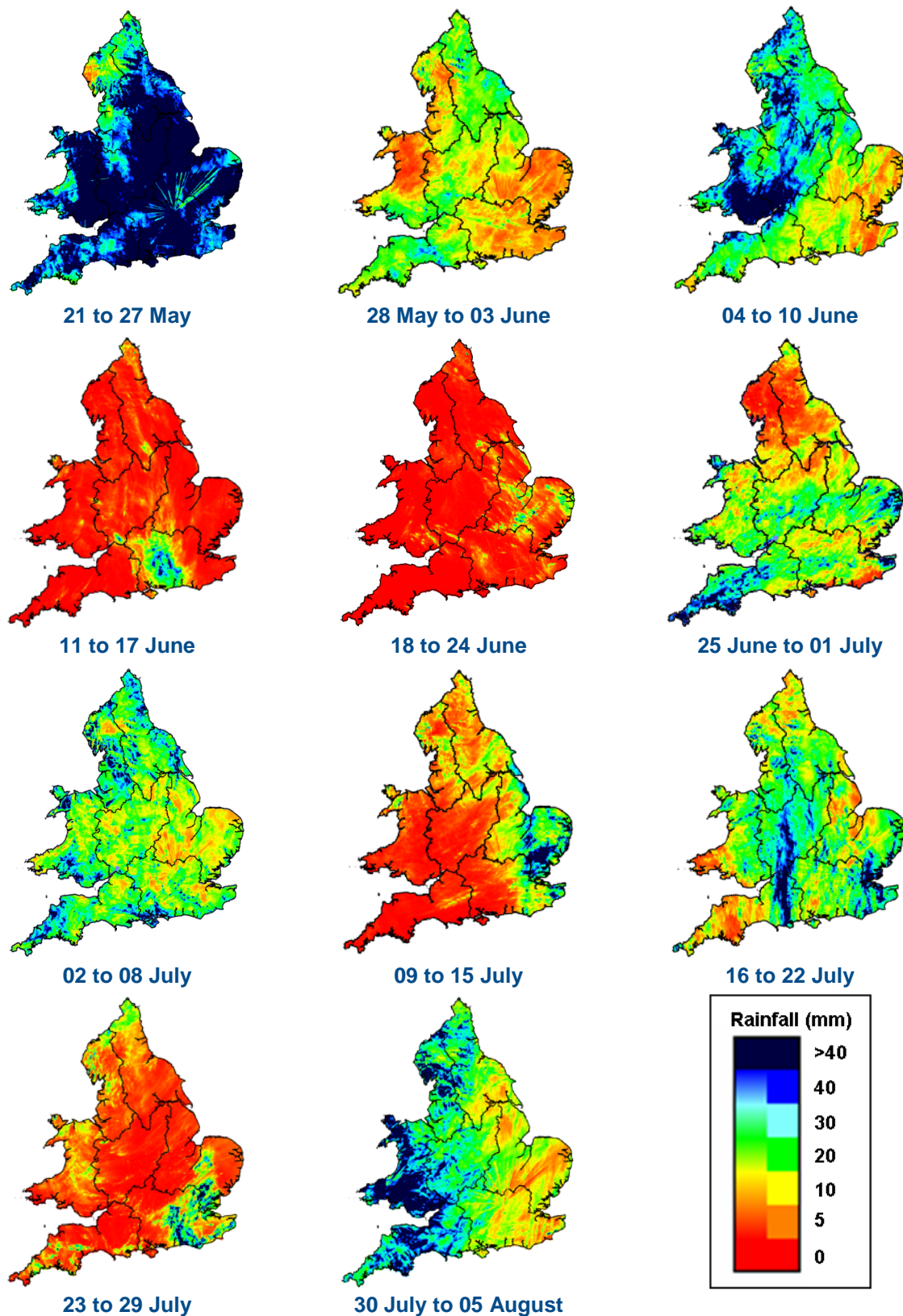
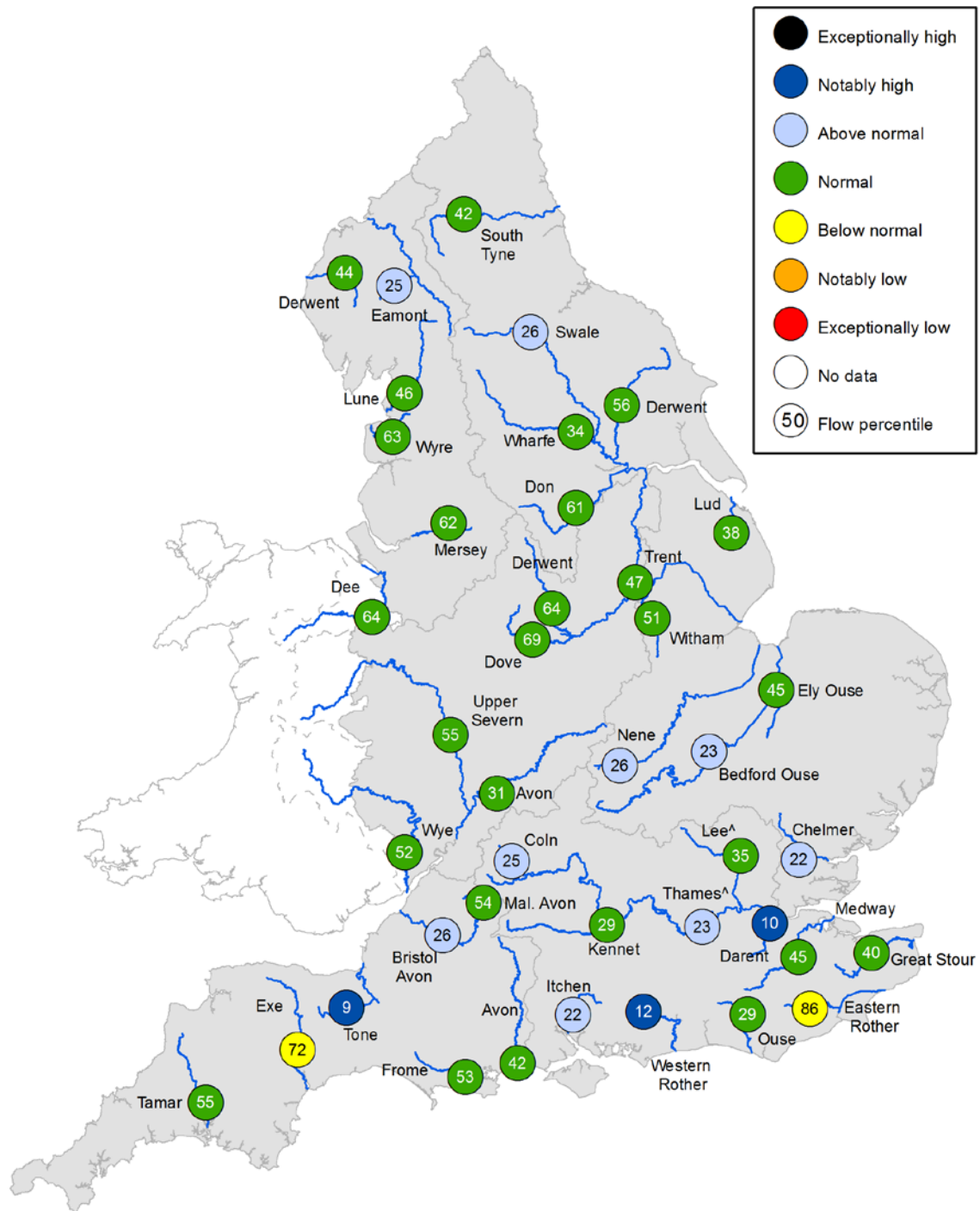


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

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.