

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 06 to Tuesday 12 August 2014

Summary

It has been very wet across all of England this week, with the highest rainfall totals across eastern and northern England. River flows across England have increased at the majority of our indicator sites in response to these high rainfall totals with the majority of our indicator sites now **above normal** or higher for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 26 millimetres (mm) in southwest England to 57 mm in northeast England (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- At less than half way through August, cumulative rainfall totals are over 85% of the August long term average (LTA) for all of England, with the north east and east of England both already receiving more than the August LTA (Table 1).
- River flows have increased at almost all of our indicator sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at all of our indicator sites. The majority of our indicator sites are **above normal** or higher for the time of year, with 4 sites now **exceptionally high** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

On Thursday heavy showers are expected for many parts of England. Friday is then expected to be dry for most areas of England, although some scattered heavy showers are possible in the east. Most areas are expected to be dry over the weekend although there could be some heavy rain across southern England later on Sunday. Monday and Tuesday are expected to be unsettled across northern England but drier in southern England.

Author: [Katharine McChesney](#) (Water Resources Technical Services)

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 06 - 12 Aug '14	Latest month to date: 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	47	88	85	75	91	213	91	526	112	1321	114
North East	57	80	106	54	89	205	114	418	116	948	116
Central	37	60	92	49	95	199	119	392	120	897	125
East	47	58	106	59	121	193	130	302	108	694	116
South East	35	52	90	44	90	156	99	399	126	1026	141
South West	26	67	89	44	72	201	106	555	133	1387	137
England	42	66	95	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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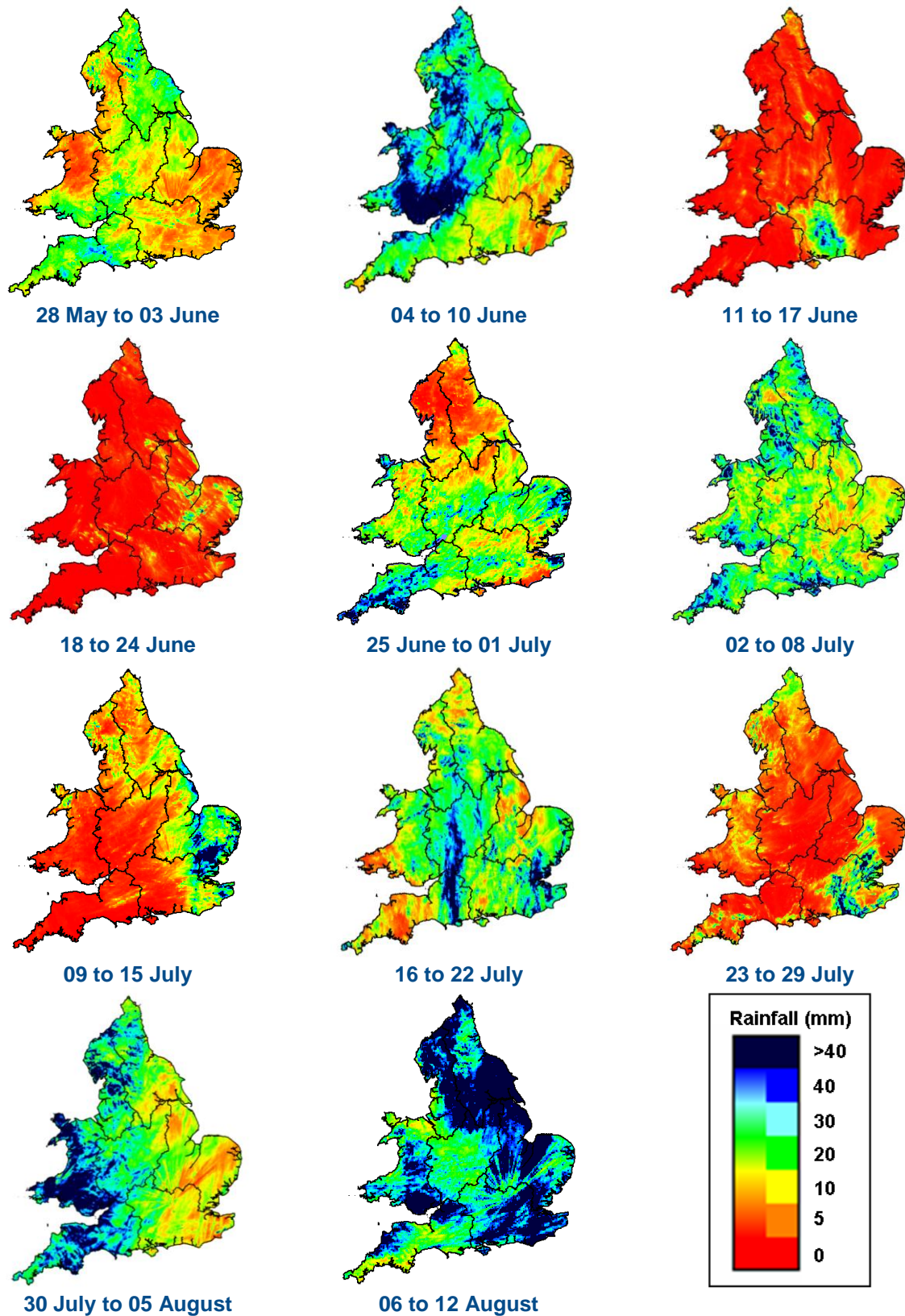
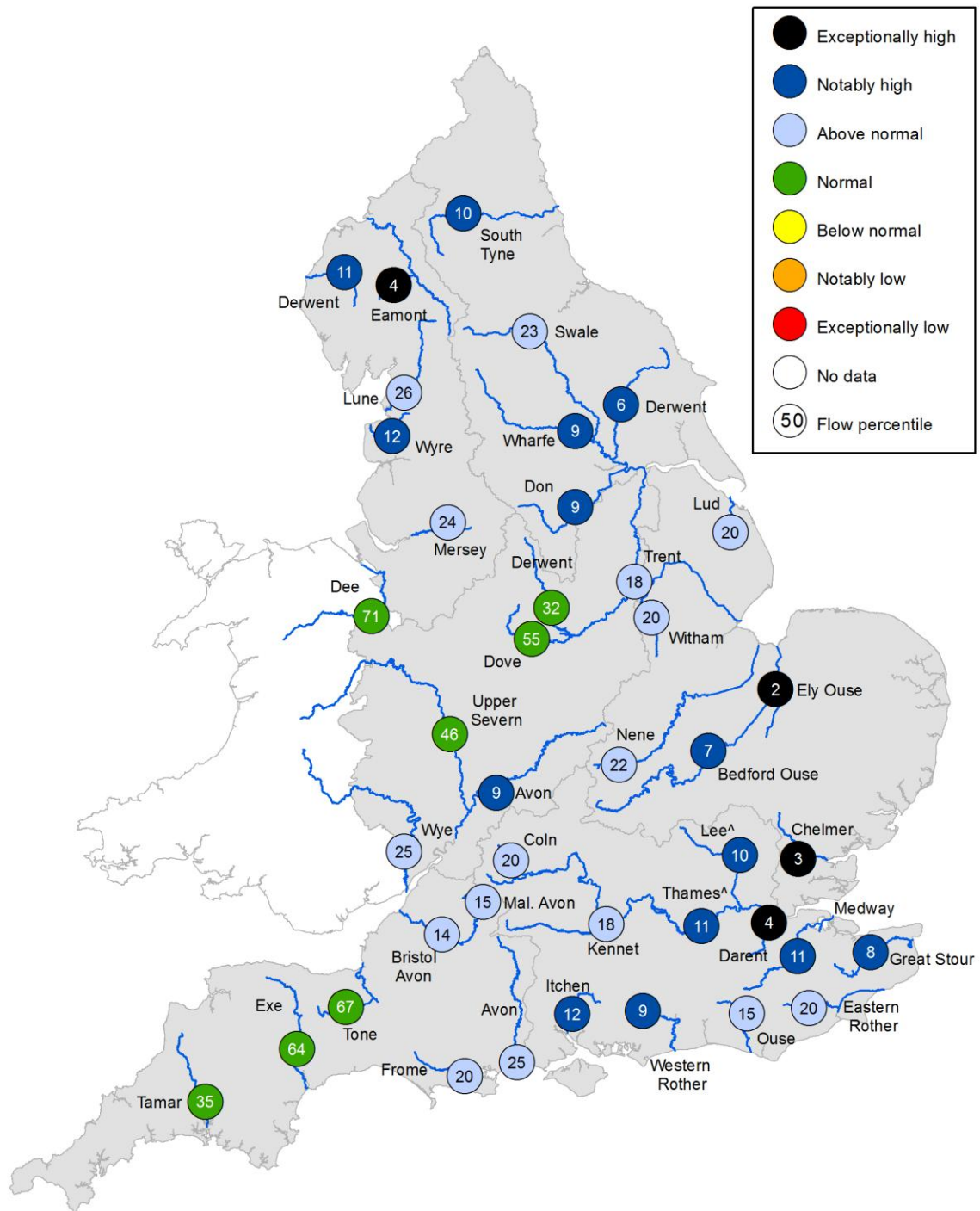


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

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.