# Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

## Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 24 to Tuesday 30 September 2014

### Summary

The past week has continued to be dry across England, resulting in the cumulative rainfall totals for September being less than 30% of the September long term average (LTA) across all areas. As a result river flows have decreased at the majority of our indicators sites. River flows though are **normal** or higher for the time of year at the majority of our sites, although almost two-fifths of sites are **below normal** or lower for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week are 2 mm in east and southeast England and 3 mm elsewhere. (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from 12 mm in southeast England to 16 mm in northeast and southwest England and represent less than 30% of the September LTA in all areas (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased or remained similar to last week at the majority of our indicator sites. Latest daily mean river flows are **normal** for the time of year at three-fifths of our sites, with only 2 sites remaining **above normal** for the time of year. Flows are **below normal** or lower for the time of year at nearly two-fifths of sites and **exceptionally low** for the time of year at 2 sites (Figure 2).

### Outlook

Conditions will continue to be dry and settled across England on Friday until the evening when a band of persistent and sometimes heavy rain will move into northwest England. This rain is expected to move south and east during Saturday, bringing some heavy bursts of rain to the rest of England. Sunday is expected to start dry before showers move into western England, with some heavy showers in the afternoon. Monday and Tuesday are expected to turn more unsettled across England.

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| Geographic regions | Latest Week: 24 Sep - 30 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 | 3 | 15 | 13 | 142 | 137 | 261 | 99 | 500 | 100 | 1362 | 117 |
| North East | 3 | 16 | 24 | 112 | 148 | 212 | 108 | 425 | 112 | 991 | 121 |
| Central | 3 | 13 | 22 | 96 | 149 | 198 | 114 | 386 | 113 | 941 | 132 |
| East | 2 | 13 | 27 | 94 | 171 | 190 | 123 | 332 | 112 | 740 | 124 |
| South East | 2 | 12 | 19 | 102 | 176 | 181 | 113 | 363 | 112 | 1087 | 149 |
| South West | 3 | 16 | 19 | 124 | 165 | 231 | 117 | 484 | 118 | 1450 | 144 |
| England | 2 | 14 | 20 | 109 | 157 | 208 | 112 | 406 | 111 | 1064 | 132 |

**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.

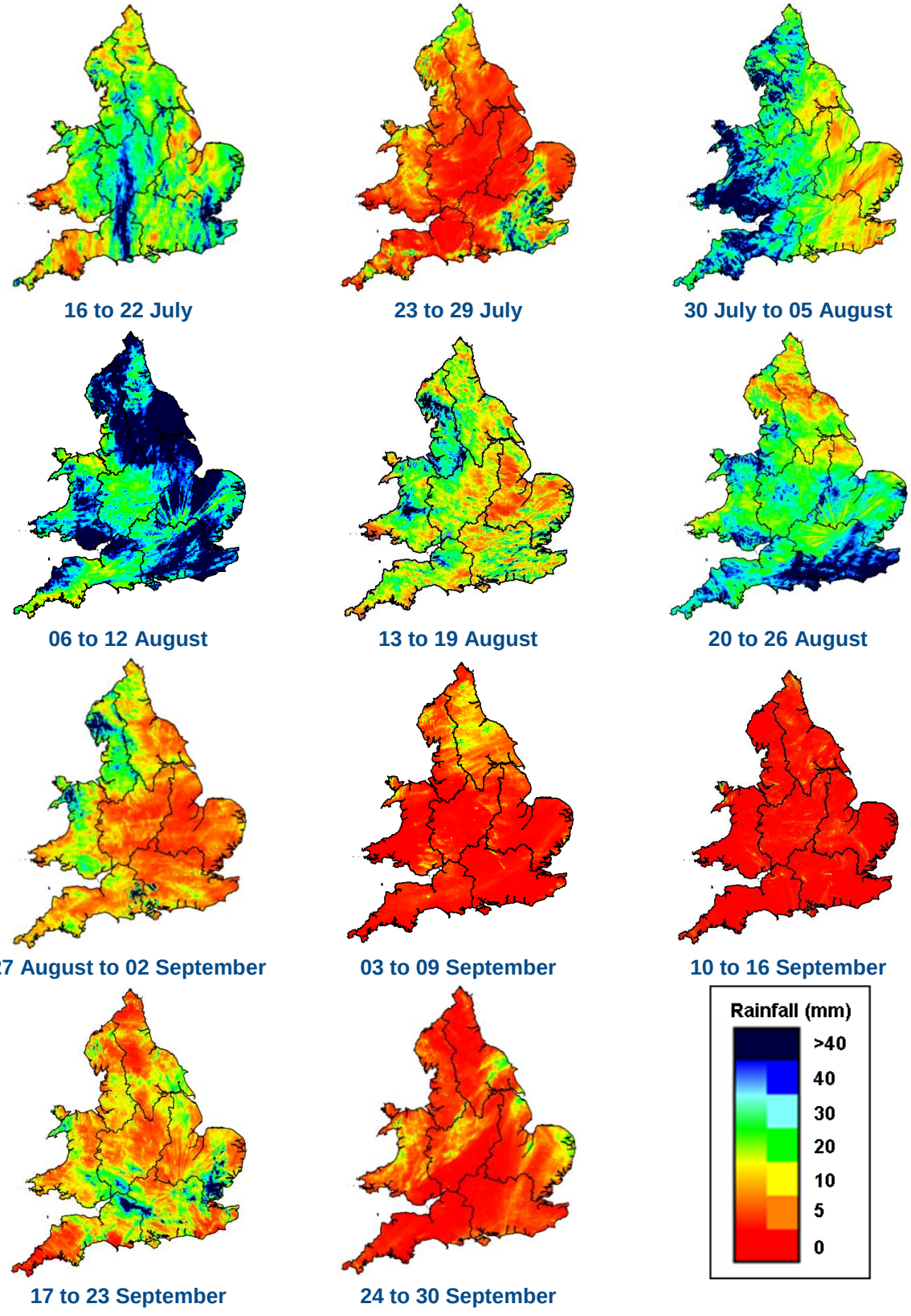
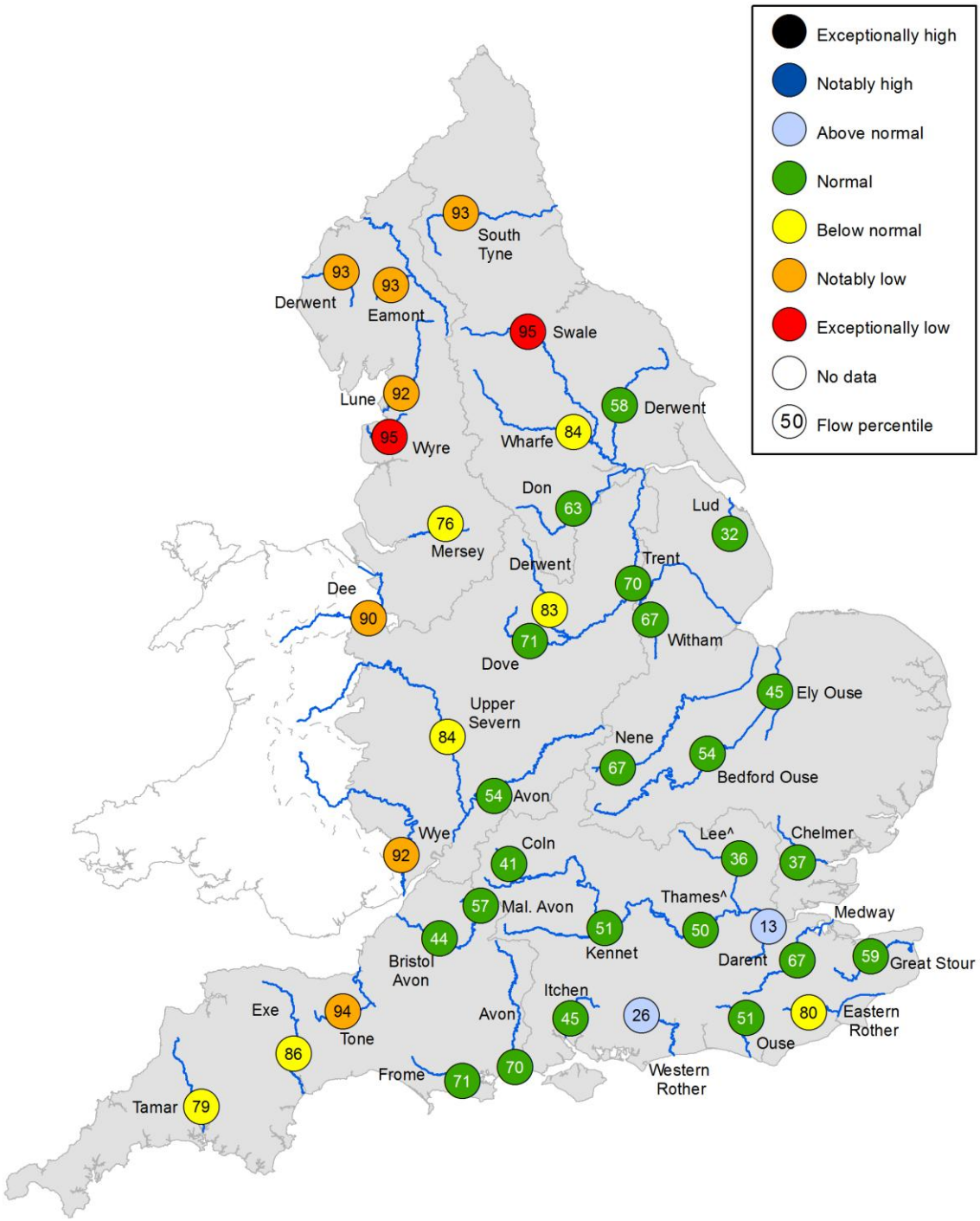



**Figure 1**: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

# 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.