Weekly rainfall and river flow summary



Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 20 to Tuesday 26 August 2014

Summary

Rain affected most parts of England over the previous week, particularly in southeast and southwest England on Monday. River flows across England increased at almost two thirds of our indicator sites, with all of our sites being **normal** or higher for the time of year. A significant number of our indicator sites in south east England are classed as **exceptionally high** for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 11 millimetres (mm) in northeast England to 37 mm in the southwest (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for the month range from 126% of the August long term average (LTA) in northwest England to 170% in the southeast (Table 1).
- River flows have increased at almost two thirds of our indicator sites compared to last week. The
 latest daily mean flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at all our indicator sites, with over a
 quarter of our indicator sites, predominantly in southeast England, being **exceptionally high** for the
 time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Rain on Thursday morning from the southwest will be followed by isolated showers later in the day in some areas. Further rain will move in from the west on Friday and Saturday, with some sunshine inbetween. Sunday is expected to be mostly dry although rain may move in from the west in the evening. Monday will be unsettled with showers especially in the north. Tuesday may see more settled conditions.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 20 - 26 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	22	131	126	75	91	213	91	526	112	1321	114
North East	11	102	135	54	89	205	114	418	116	948	116
Central	24	95	148	49	95	199	119	392	120	897	125
East	21	88	160	59	121	193	130	302	108	694	116
South East	35	98	170	44	90	156	99	399	126	1026	141
South West	37	115	154	44	72	201	106	555	133	1387	137
England	25	103	148	53	93	193	110	420	120	1014	125

Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright)¹

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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.

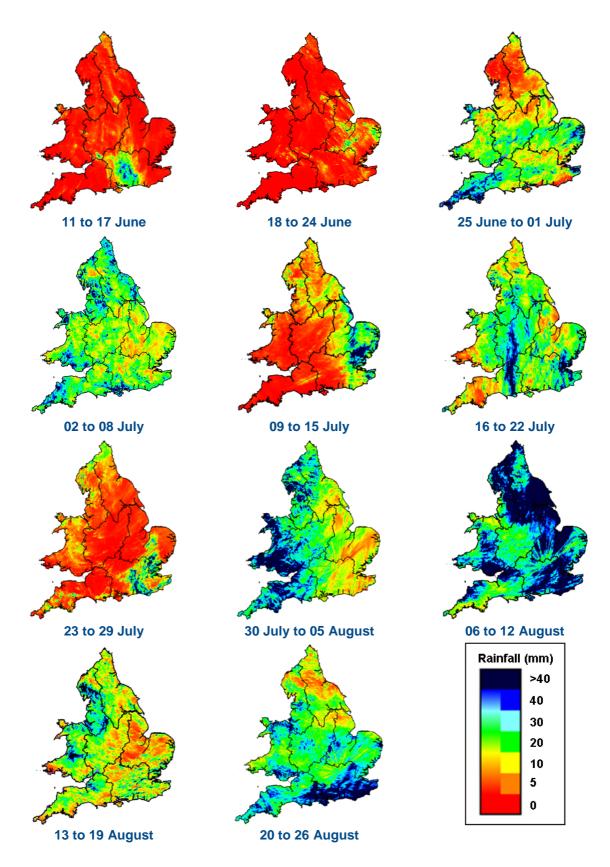
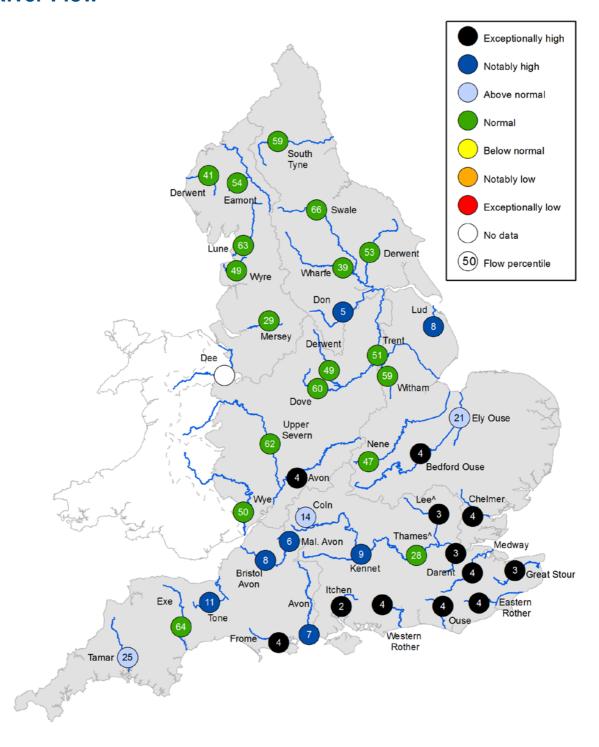


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

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 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.