Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 1 to Tuesday 7 October 2014

Summary

It has been a wet start to October across England, particularly in the northwest which has received 50% of the monthly long term average (LTA) rainfall in just one week. River flows have increased at all indicators sites and are now **normal** or higher for the time of year at all but two sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week (and for the month to date) range from 20 mm in the east of England to 62 mm in the northwest (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Rainfall totals for the month to date range from 38% of the October LTA in central, east and southeast England to 50% in the northwest (Table 1).
- The latest daily mean river flows are **normal** for the time of year at all but two indicator sites; the River Exe in southwest England and the Upper Severn in central England remain **below normal** (Figure 2).

Outlook

On Thursday, bands of heavy and occasionally thundery showers will move across western areas. Further bands of heavy and thundery showers will continue to affect most areas on Friday through to Sunday. These will be heaviest in the west and south, but will become more isolated and less intense by the end of the weekend. Light showers will continue in some places on Monday, before a deep area of low pressure begins to arrive on Tuesday. This will bring showers and longer spells of rain to western areas while eastern areas will be drier and brighter.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 01 - 07 Oct '14	Latest month to date: Oct '14		Last month: Sep '14		Last 3 months: Jul '14 - Sep '14		Last 6 months: Apr '14 - Sep '14		Last 12 months: Oct '13 - Sep '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	62	62	50	15	14	233	78	424	82	1295	112
North East	32	32	43	19	28	186	90	387	101	958	117
Central	23	23	38	12	20	157	89	354	103	912	128
East	20	20	38	16	32	169	110	324	108	717	120
South East	27	27	38	13	21	158	94	340	103	1049	144
South West	42	42	43	15	18	182	84	434	107	1397	138
England	32	32	42	15	22	177	90	372	101	1026	127

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.

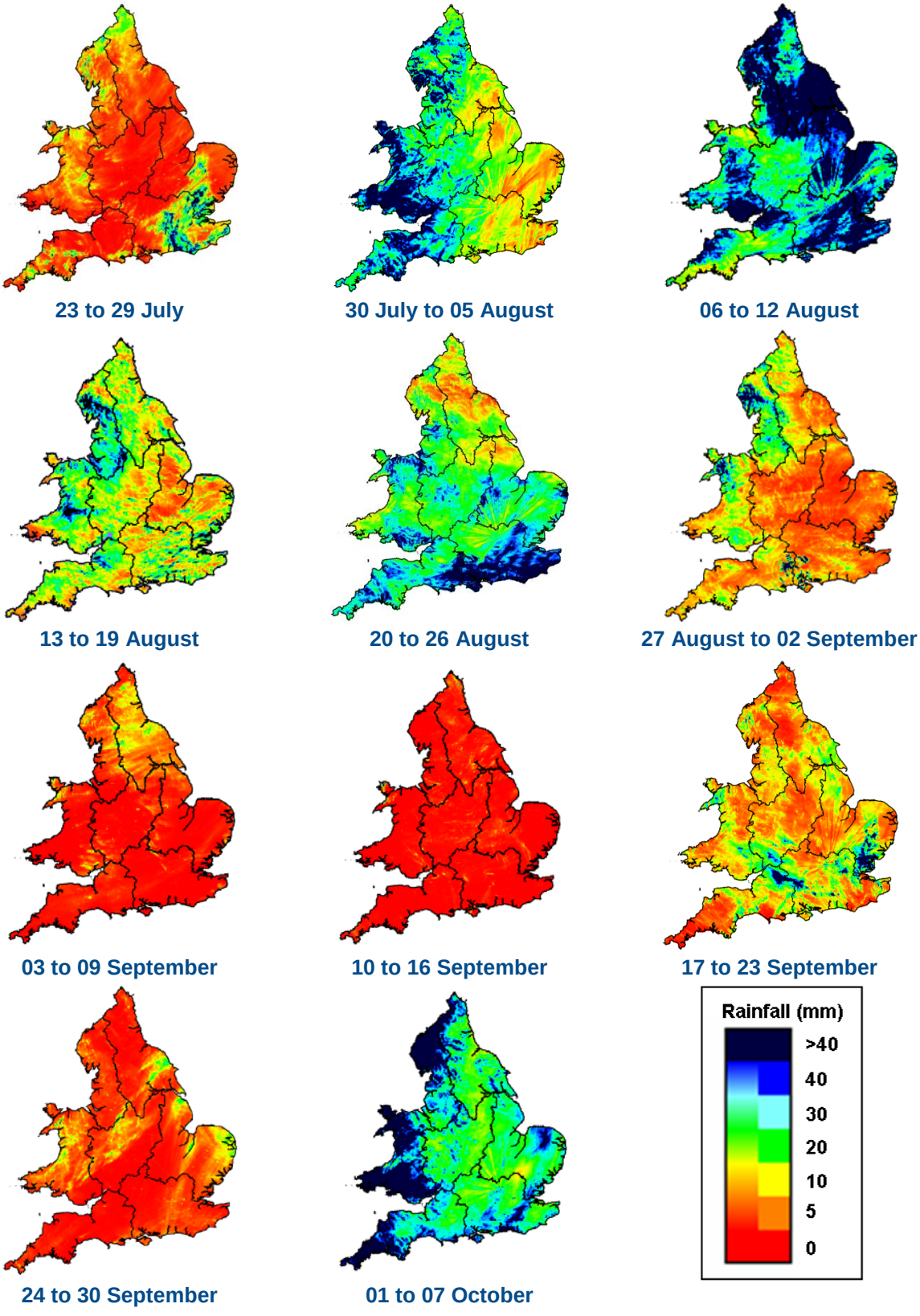
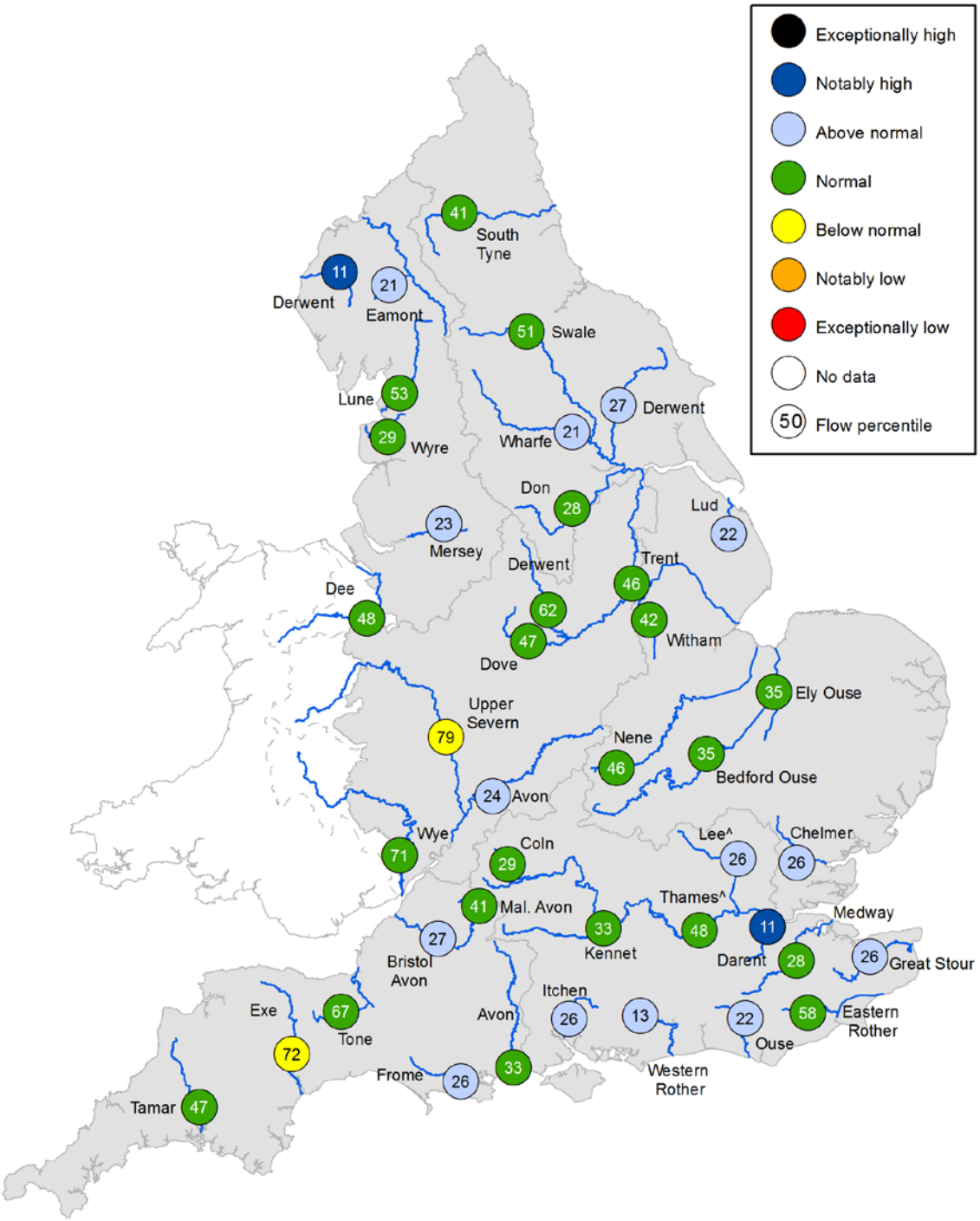


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

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.