Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 18 – Tuesday 24 June 2014

Summary

The past week has been dry across almost all of England, with most areas receiving very little rainfall. The cumulative rainfall for the month to date remains below the June long term average. River flows have decreased at nearly all our indicator sites. Two thirds of sites are *normal* for the time of year, although some sites in the northwest and far north of England are *below normal* for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from less than 1 mm in northwest, northeast and central England to 3 mm in the east (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from 48% of the June long term average (LTA) in southeast England to 70% in central England (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at nearly all our indicator sites this week compared to last week. The latest daily mean river flows are *normal* for the time of year at two thirds of our indicator sites. (Figure 2).
- Indicator sites in the southeast of England remain *above normal* or *notably high* for the time of year in the groundwater dominated catchments. In contrast, some sites in the northwest and far north of England are *below normal* for the time of year.

Outlook

Showery outbreaks of rain, some of which may be heavy or prolonged, will affect mainly southern and central parts of England on Friday and Saturday. The rain is expected to clear on Sunday. Monday and Tuesday are expected to be unsettled, particularly in the north. More settled conditions are expected over southern England.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 18 - 24 Jun '14	Latest month to date: Jun '14		Last month: May '14		Last 3 months: Mar '14 - May '14		Last 6 months: Dec '13 - May '14		Last 12 months: Jun '13 - May '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	0.5	40	51	94	129	238	102	756	140	1362	117
North East	0.4	40	67	106	177	213	116	547	136	955	116
Central	0.3	40	70	97	168	188	112	508	143	899	126
East	3	23	44	96	199	142	100	359	126	658	110
South East	1	26	48	76	139	182	111	658	183	1003	138
South West	0	36	58	94	142	253	120	863	164	1349	134
England	1	33	56	94	160	198	111	596	150	1002	124

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.

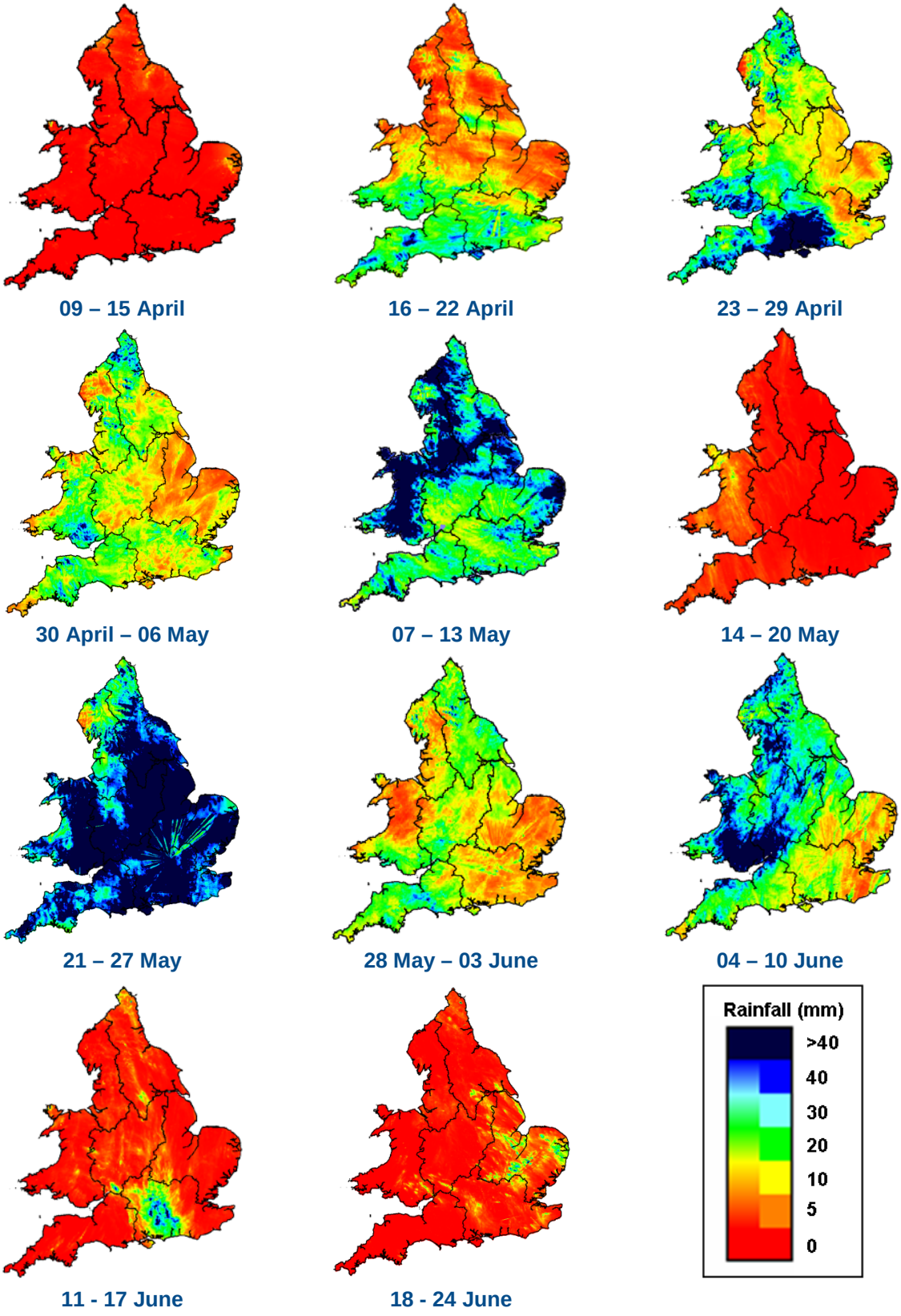
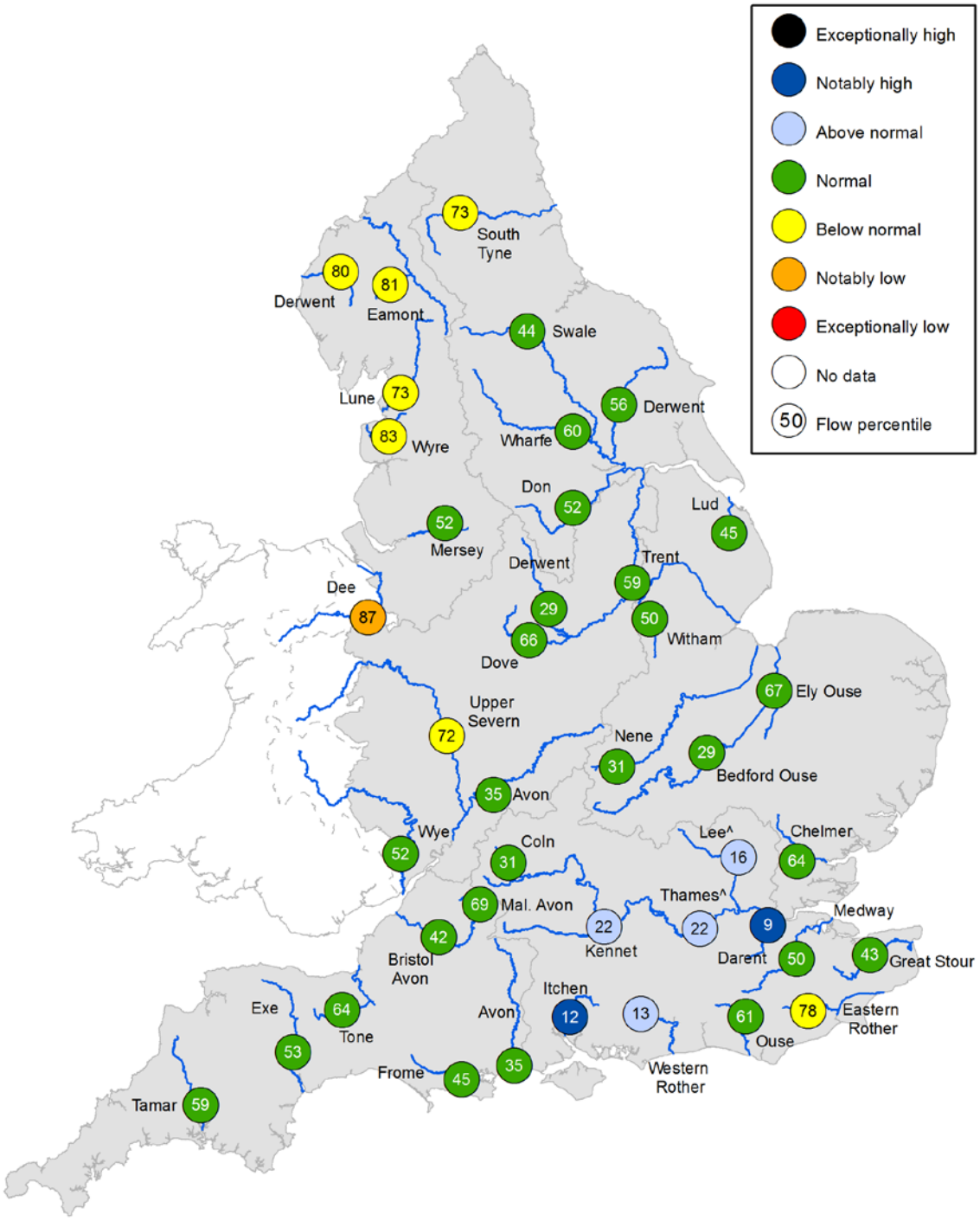


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

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.