Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 13 to Tuesday 19 July 2016

Summary: The past week has been dry across most of England. River flows remain mostly normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall

The past week has been largely dry for the majority of England, although it has remained slightly wetter in north-west England. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.5 mm in east England to 14 mm in north-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from 22% of the long term average (LTA) in south-west England to 73% in north-west England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at the majority of our indicator sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are normal for the time of year at just over half of all our indicator sites, and above normal or higher at all but one of the remaining sites (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday will be dry across most of England, with a few light showers possible in south-east England. On Friday a frontal system will move in from the west bringing the possibility of some isolated heavy showers. Saturday will remain mostly dry across England, but Sunday will see a weak frontal system move in from the west with the possibility of some rain. Monday and Tuesday will see changeable conditions, with a mix of scattered showers and some longer spells of rain, especially in north and west England, interspersed with periods of drier, brighter weather.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 13 to 19 Jul 2016	Latest month to date: Jul 2016		Last month: Jun 2016		Last 3 months: Apr 2016 to Jun 2016		Last 6 months: Jan 2016 to Jun 2016		Last 12 months: Jul 2015 to Jun 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	14	60	73	129	164	274	124	694	139	1,599	138
north-east	6	37	61	80	135	203	115	505	133	1,142	139
central	2	26	50	106	184	226	134	466	136	879	123
East	0.5	19	38	102	200	211	145	385	137	743	124
south-east	1	15	32	95	176	213	134	474	140	908	125
south-west	2	14	22	100	160	213	112	604	128	1,235	122
England	4	26	46	101	170	220	127	505	135	1,040	129

Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016)[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.

Rainfall

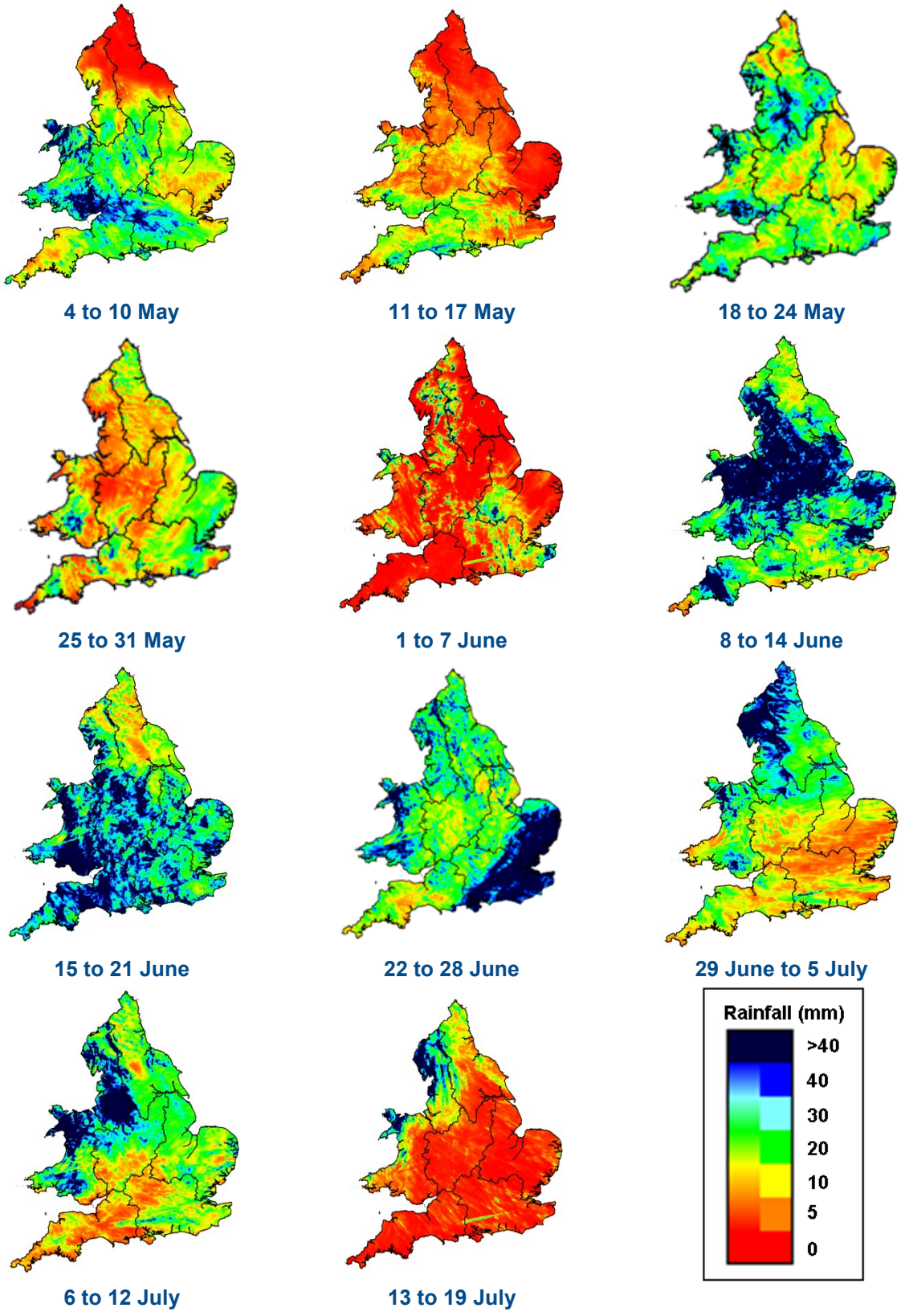
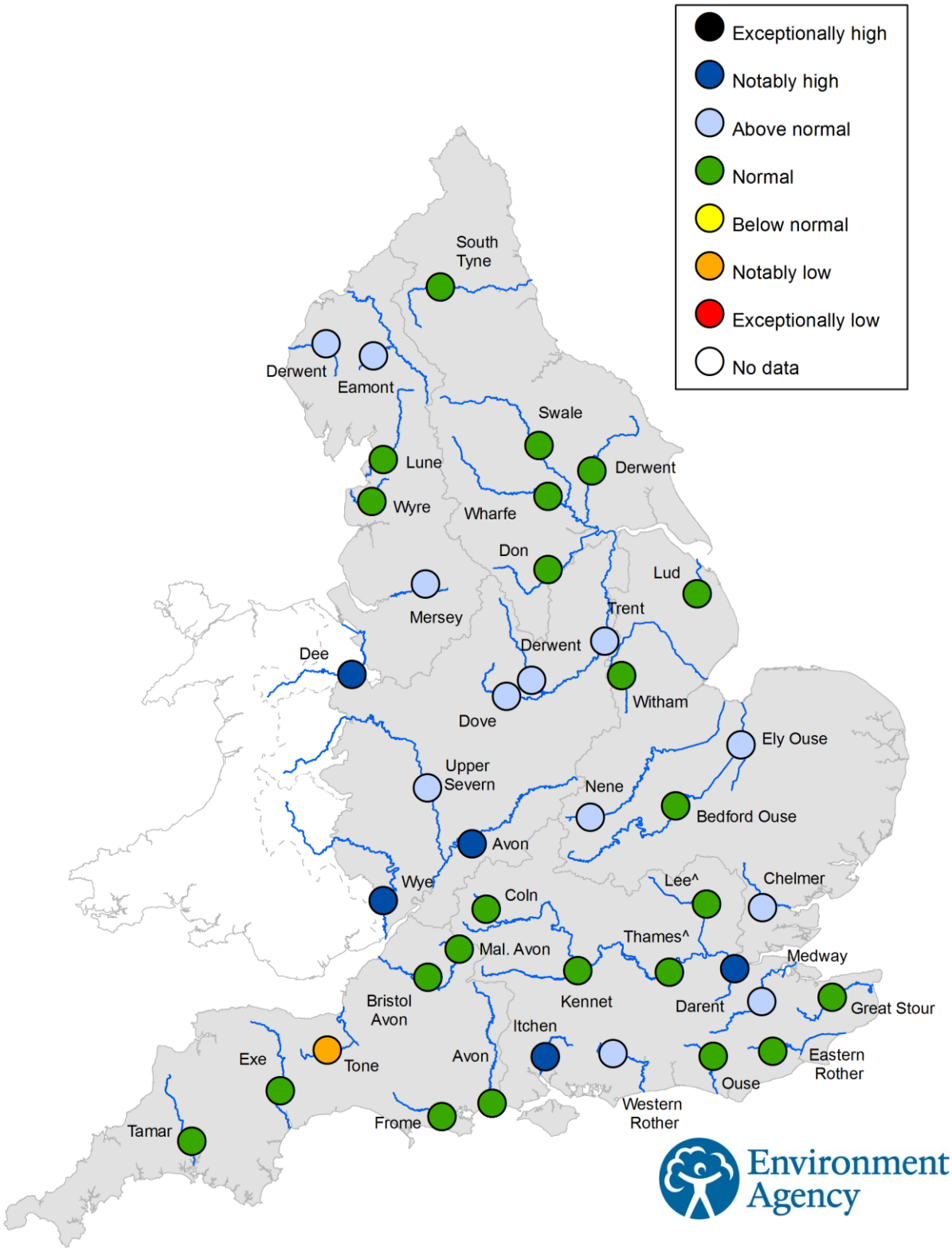


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

River flow



^ – 'Naturalised' flows are provided for the Thames at Kingston and the Lee at Feildes Weir.

Figure 2: Latest daily mean river flow, relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows, classed by flow percentile for the same time of year[2] (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

[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. Flow percentiles presented relate to an analysis for the time of year and not a whole year.

River flow categories

Exceptionally high	Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time
Notably high	Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time
Above normal	Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time
Normal	Value likely to fall within this band 44% of the time
Below normal	Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time
Notably low	Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time
Exceptionally low	Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time

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