

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 10 to Tuesday 16 August 2016

Summary: Another dry week across southern England. River flows remain normal or higher for the time of year at two thirds of sites.

Rainfall

The past week has been dry across much of southern England, with north-west and north-east England again receiving only modest rainfall. Rainfall totals range from less than 1mm in south-east and south-west England to 18mm in north-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for August to date range from 20% of the long term average (LTA) in east England to 51% in south-west England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at three quarters of our indicator sites in England compared to the previous week. The latest daily mean flows are normal or higher for the time of year at two thirds of indicator sites. 8 sites are now below normal or lower for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday is likely to see isolated showers in southern and western England. On Friday, rain will spread across England from the south-west accompanied by a strengthening wind. From Saturday onwards showers with bright intervals are expected for much of England.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 10 to 16 Aug 2016	Latest month to date: Aug 2016		Last month: Jul 2016		Last 3 months: May 2016 to Jul 2016		Last 6 months: Feb 2016 to Jul 2016		Last 12 months: Aug 2015 to Jul 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	18	39	38	104	126	280	120	602	128	1,589	137
north-east	14	28	37	58	94	179	99	408	113	1,095	133
central	2	15	23	32	62	192	115	405	124	848	119
east	3	11	20	32	64	183	123	347	124	696	116
south-east	0.1	21	37	21	43	178	113	371	118	865	119
south-west	0.8	38	51	23	38	184	97	452	108	1,166	116
England	5	24	34	41	72	194	111	417	119	997	123

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.

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Rainfall

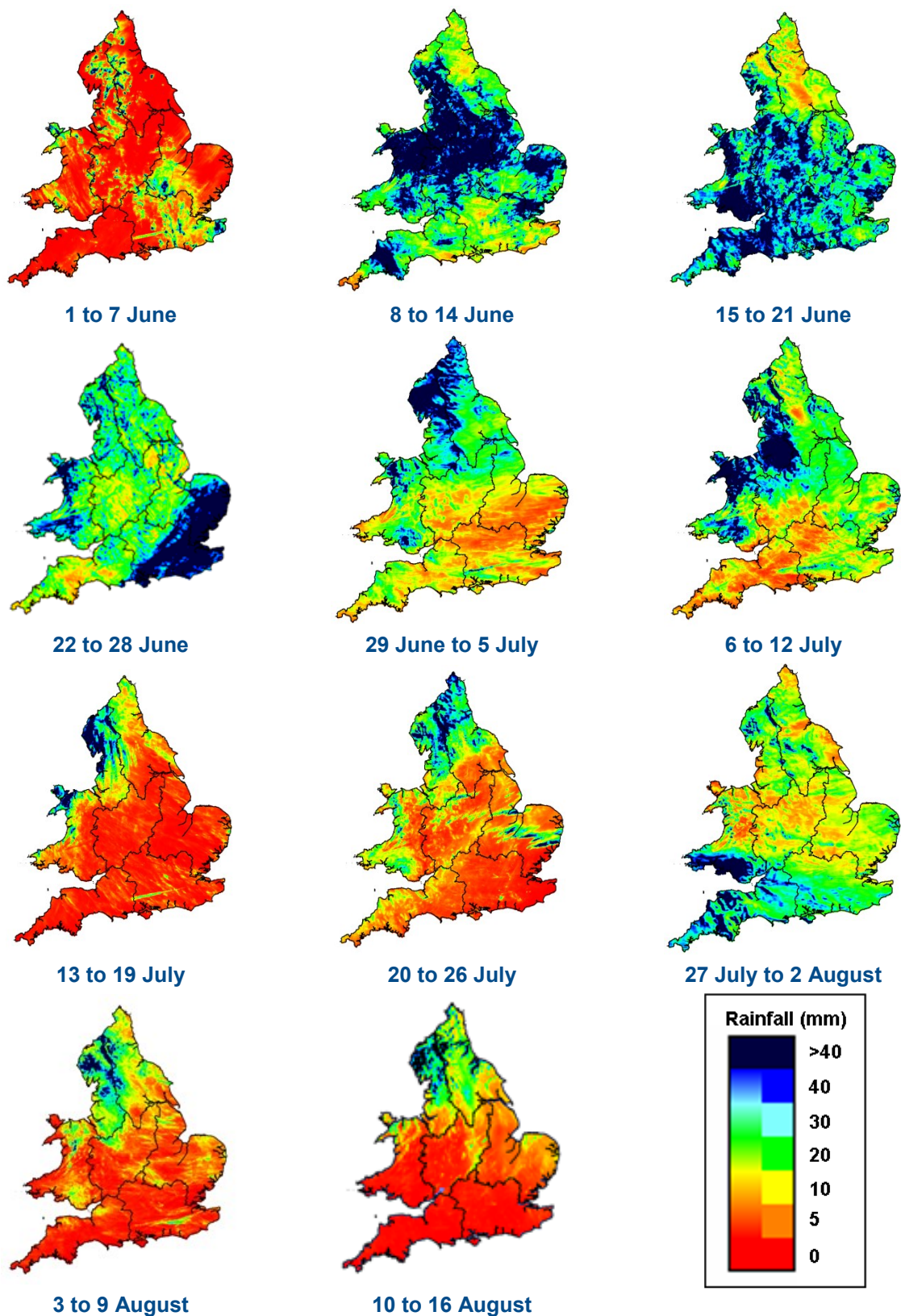
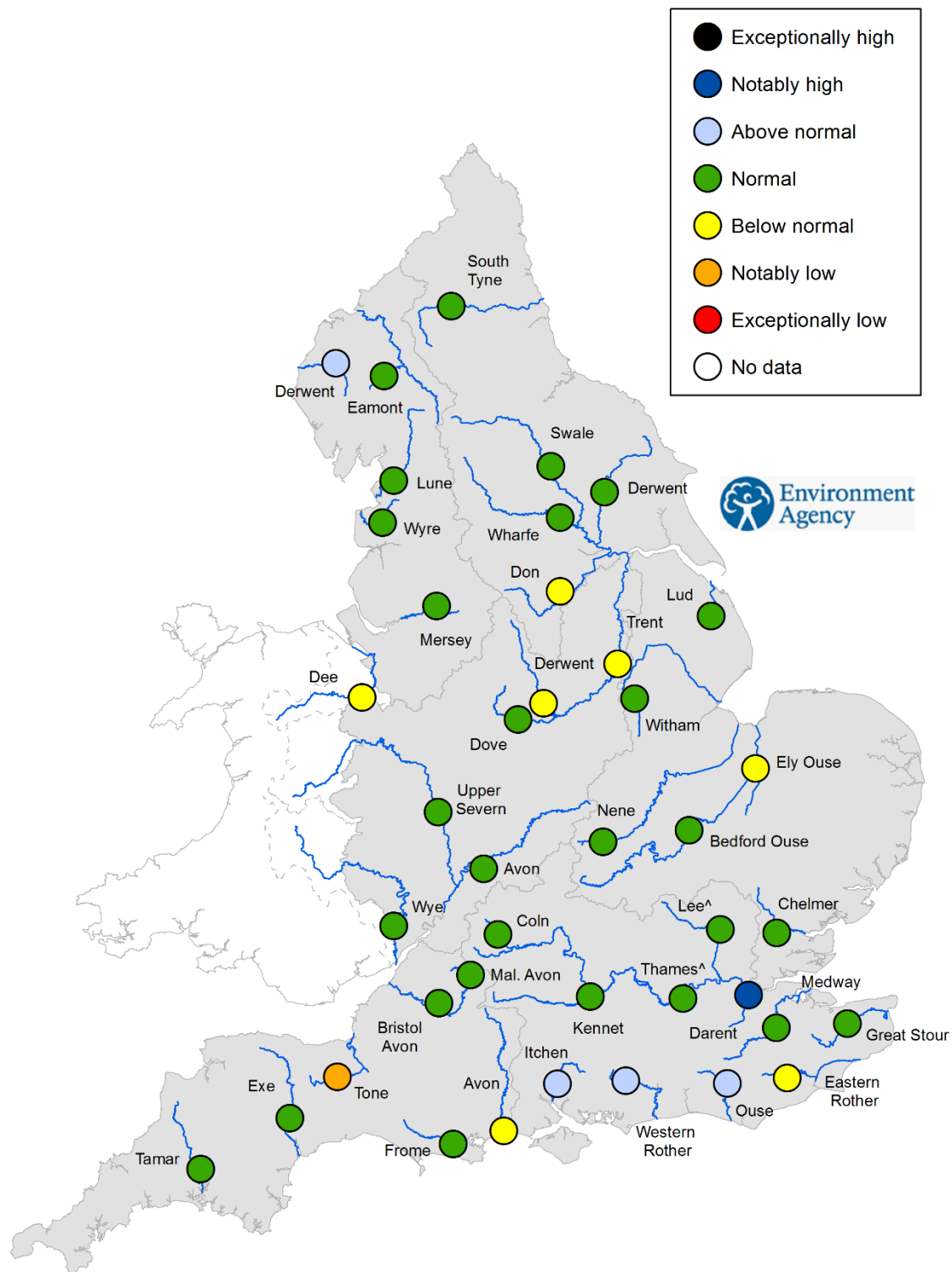


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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 year² (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

²Flow 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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