

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 17 to Tuesday 23 August 2016

Summary: The past week has been particularly wet in the north-west. River flows are mostly normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall

The past week has been wetter than the previous couple of weeks, especially in north-west England, where it has been the wettest week so far this year. Rainfall totals ranged from 10mm in east and south-east England to 63mm in north-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for August range from 38% of the long term average (LTA) in east England to 99% in north-west England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have increased at just over 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 all but 2 indicator sites, with 6 sites are now exceptionally high for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Rain will continue to move north-east across England for the rest of Thursday, intensifying in the evening with some locally heavy, thundery downpours in central and north-east England. The rain is expected to clear to the east early on Friday to leave a generally dry day across England. On Saturday and Sunday a further band of locally heavy, thundery rain is expected to move north across England followed by scattered heavy showers. Showers are expected at first on Monday before conditions turn fine and dry.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 17 to 23 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	63	103	99	104	126	280	120	602	128	1,589	137
north-east	32	60	79	58	94	179	99	408	113	1,095	133
central	21	35	55	32	62	192	115	405	124	848	119
east	10	21	38	32	64	183	123	347	124	696	116
south-east	10	31	54	21	43	178	113	371	118	865	119
south-west	20	58	77	23	38	184	97	452	108	1,166	116
England	23	47	68	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

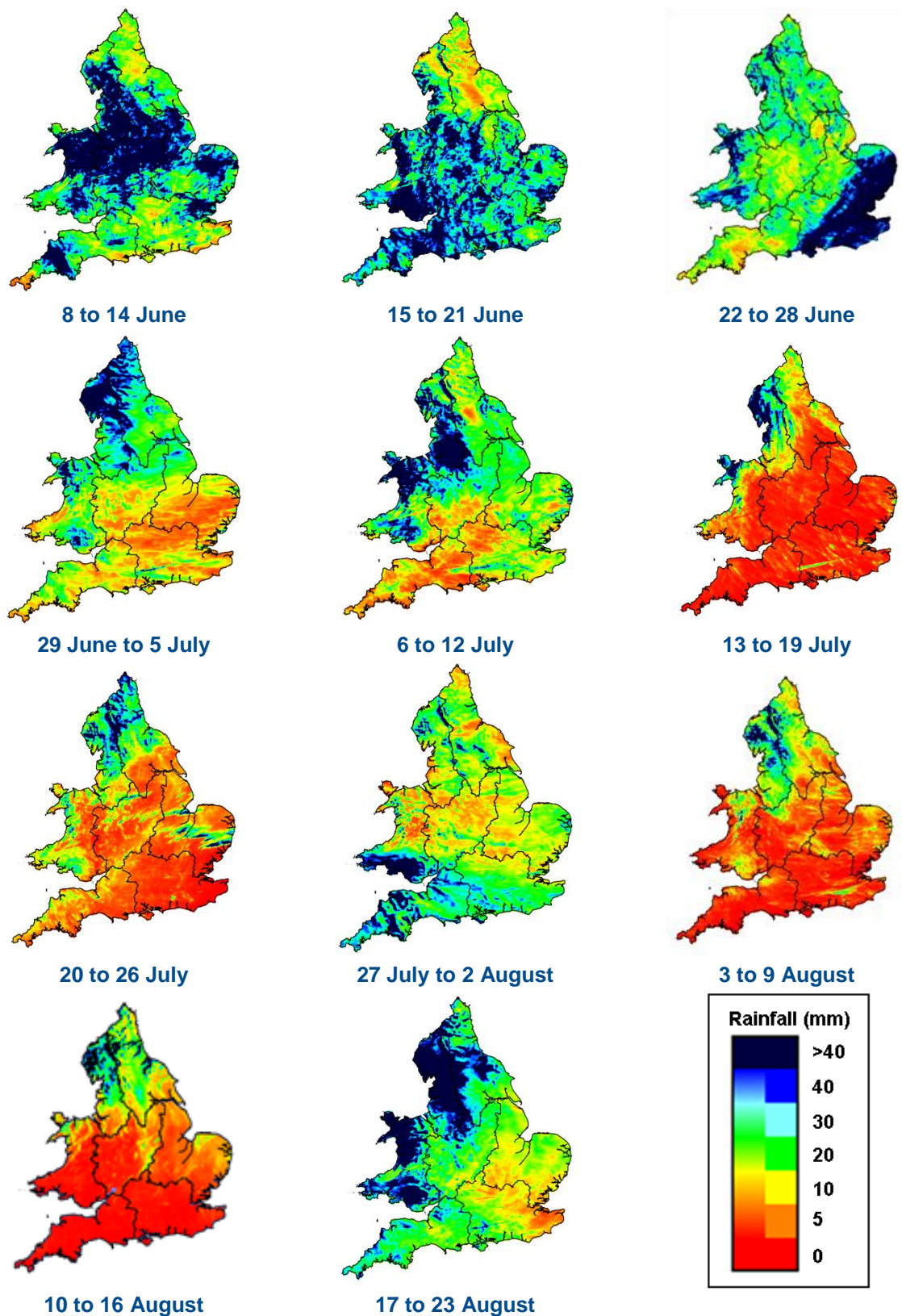
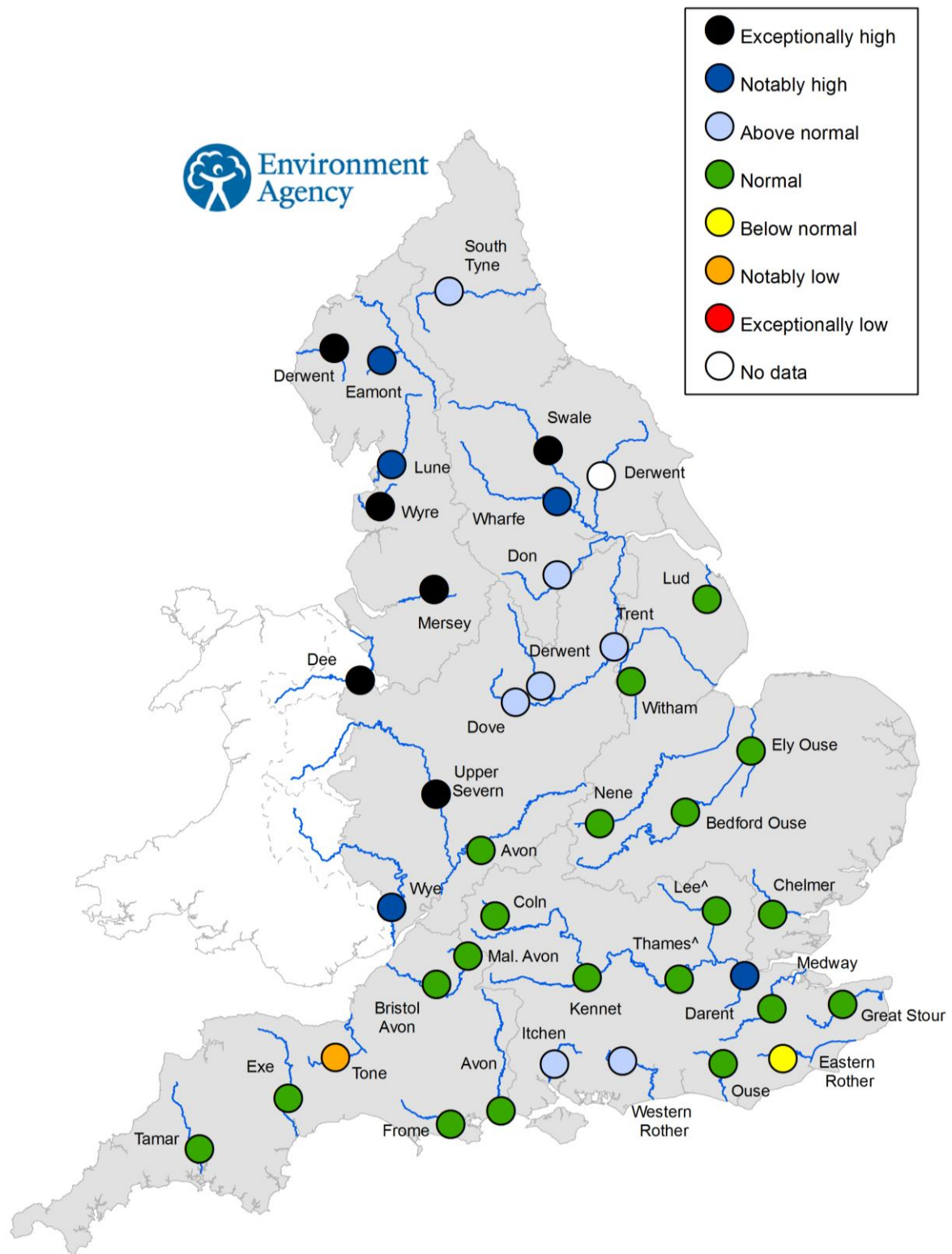


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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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