Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 14 to Tuesday 20 September 2016

Summary: The west of England has been dry, with wetter weather in the east and south-east. River flows are mainly normal for the time of year.

Rainfall

Over the past week the west of England has been relatively dry, whereas the east and south-east of England have experienced wetter weather. Rainfall totals range from 5 mm in central and north-west England to 25 mm in south-east England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for September to date range from 48% of the long term average (LTA) in north-west England to 82% in east England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at just over half of our indicator sites in England compared to the previous week. However, the latest daily mean river flows are normal or higher for the time of year at more than three-quarters of our indicator sites (Figure 2).

Outlook

A weakening frontal band of patchy rain will clear eastwards on Thursday morning, leaving generally fine and dry weather for the rest of Thursday and Friday. On Saturday morning, another frontal rain band will move in from the west, with persistent rain expected in the north and west over the weekend. Monday is likely to be bright and breezy, but further unsettled weather is expected on Tuesday. South-east England is likely to see the driest weather.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 14 to 20 Sep 2016	Latest month to date: Sep 2016		Last month: Aug 2016		Last 3 months: Jun 2016 to Aug 2016		Last 6 months: Mar 2016 to Aug 2016		Last 12 months: Sep 2015 to Aug 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	5	54	48	138	133	371	140	600	120	1,630	140
north-east	9	34	50	94	124	231	118	432	114	1,107	135
central	5	38	62	60	94	198	114	399	117	827	116
east	21	40	82	40	73	174	112	354	119	669	112
south-east	25	46	72	37	64	153	96	355	109	803	110
south-west	8	53	64	68	91	192	97	406	99	1,097	109
England	13	43	62	68	98	209	113	411	113	972	120

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.

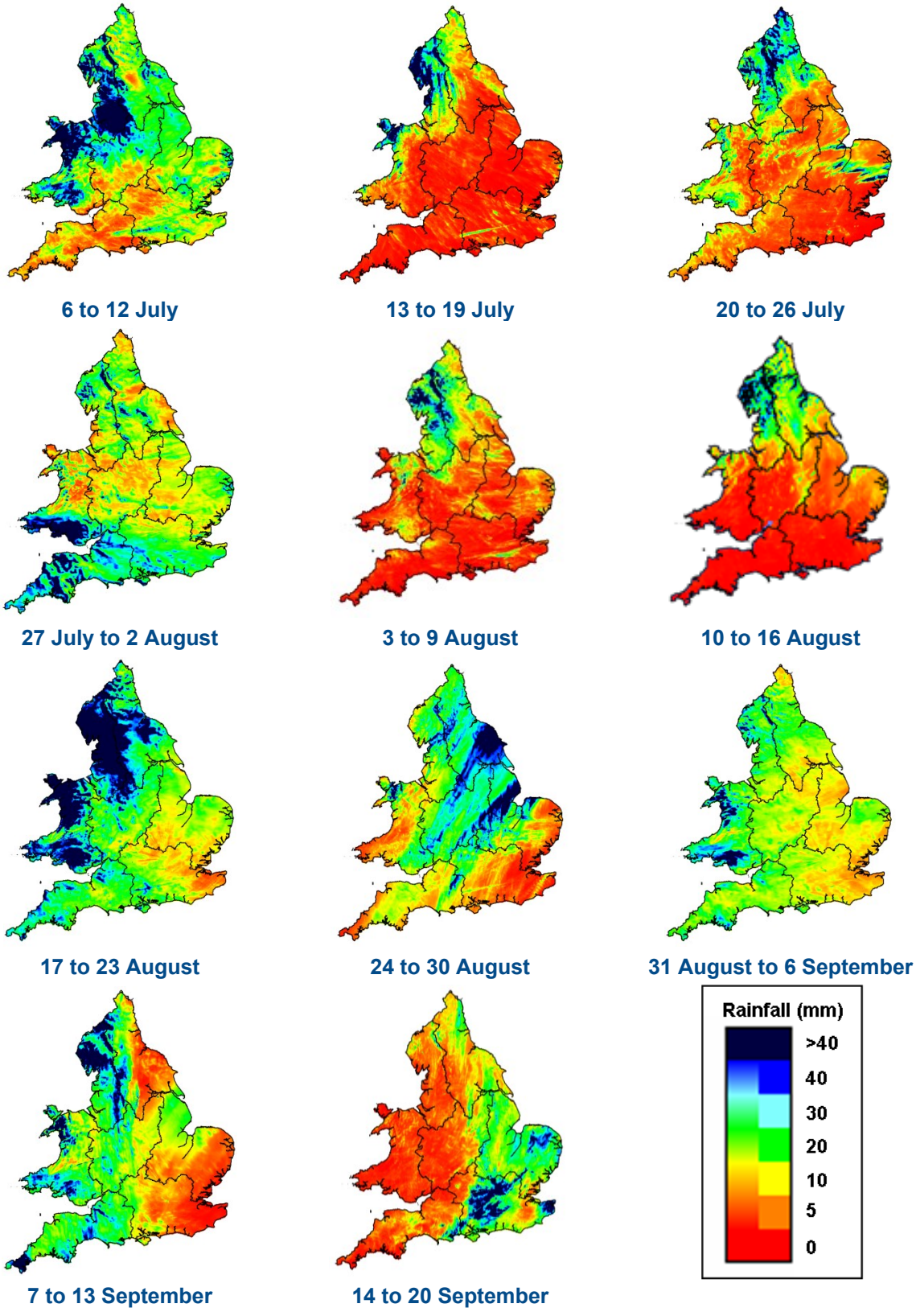
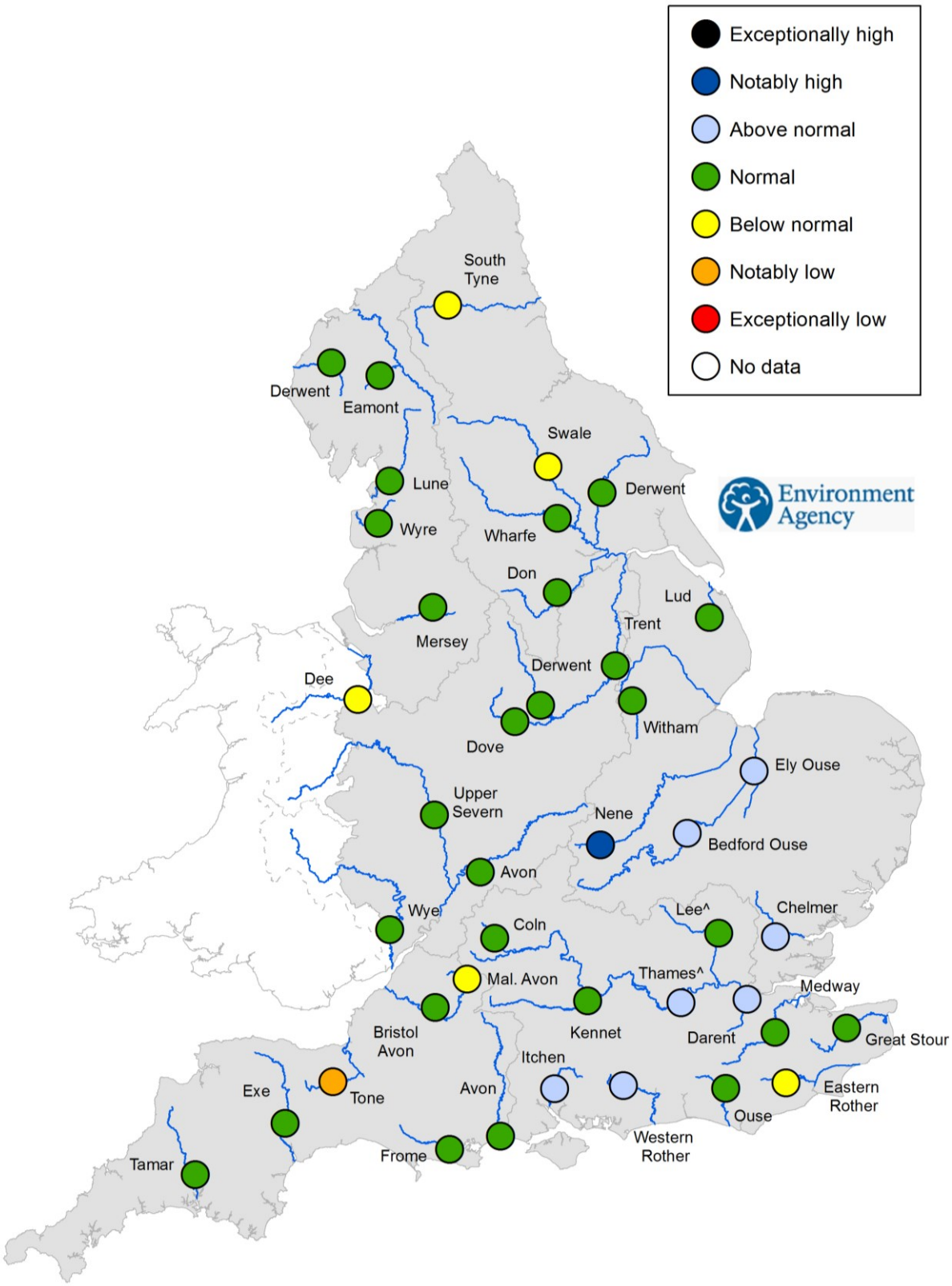


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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

Return to summary page