Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 19 to Tuesday 25 August 2015

Summary

The past week has been a second consecutive week of high rainfall over much of England. Cumulative rainfall totals are now close to, or above, the long term average for August. River flows have increased at almost all of our indicator sites and the latest daily mean flows are **notably high** or higher for the time of year at almost half of sites. Flows are **normal** for the time of year at all but one of the remaining sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 22mm in east England to 77mm in south-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for August to date range from 84% of the August long term average (LTA) in east England to 170% in south-west England (Table 1).
- River flows have increased at almost all of our indicator sites over the past week. The latest daily mean flows are currently **normal** or higher for the time of year at all but one of our indicator sites. Almost half of sites are **notably high or exceptionally high** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday and Friday are likely to be unsettled, with blustery showers interspersed with periods of bright sunshine. Showers will affect most parts of England on Saturday, particularly across south and east England. The rain should clear through Sunday morning. Monday and Tuesday are expected to see more settled conditions.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 19 - 25 Aug '15	Latest month to date: Aug '15		Last month: Jul '15		Last 3 months: May '15 - Jul '15		Last 6 months: Feb '15 - Jul '15		Last 12 months: Aug '14 - Jul '15	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	47	95	92	111	134	286	122	521	111	1256	108
north-east	33	78	102	95	156	224	125	357	99	816	100
central	35	66	102	59	114	173	103	280	85	693	97
east	22	46	84	77	158	158	106	241	87	614	103
south-east	50	78	135	64	132	151	96	255	81	742	102
south-west	77	128	170	100	165	224	118	375	90	996	99
England	43	79	114	82	144	196	112	323	92	819	101

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.

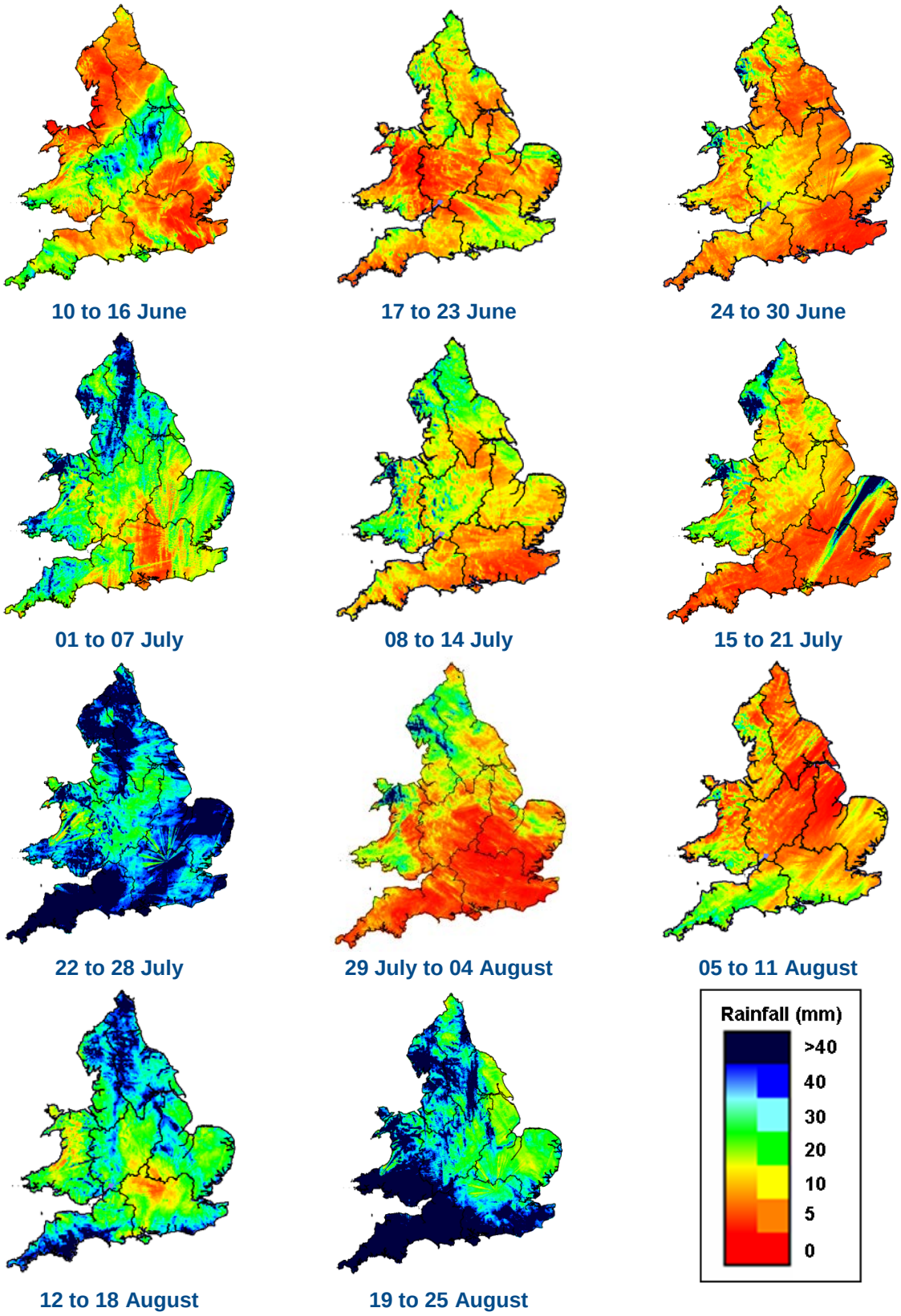
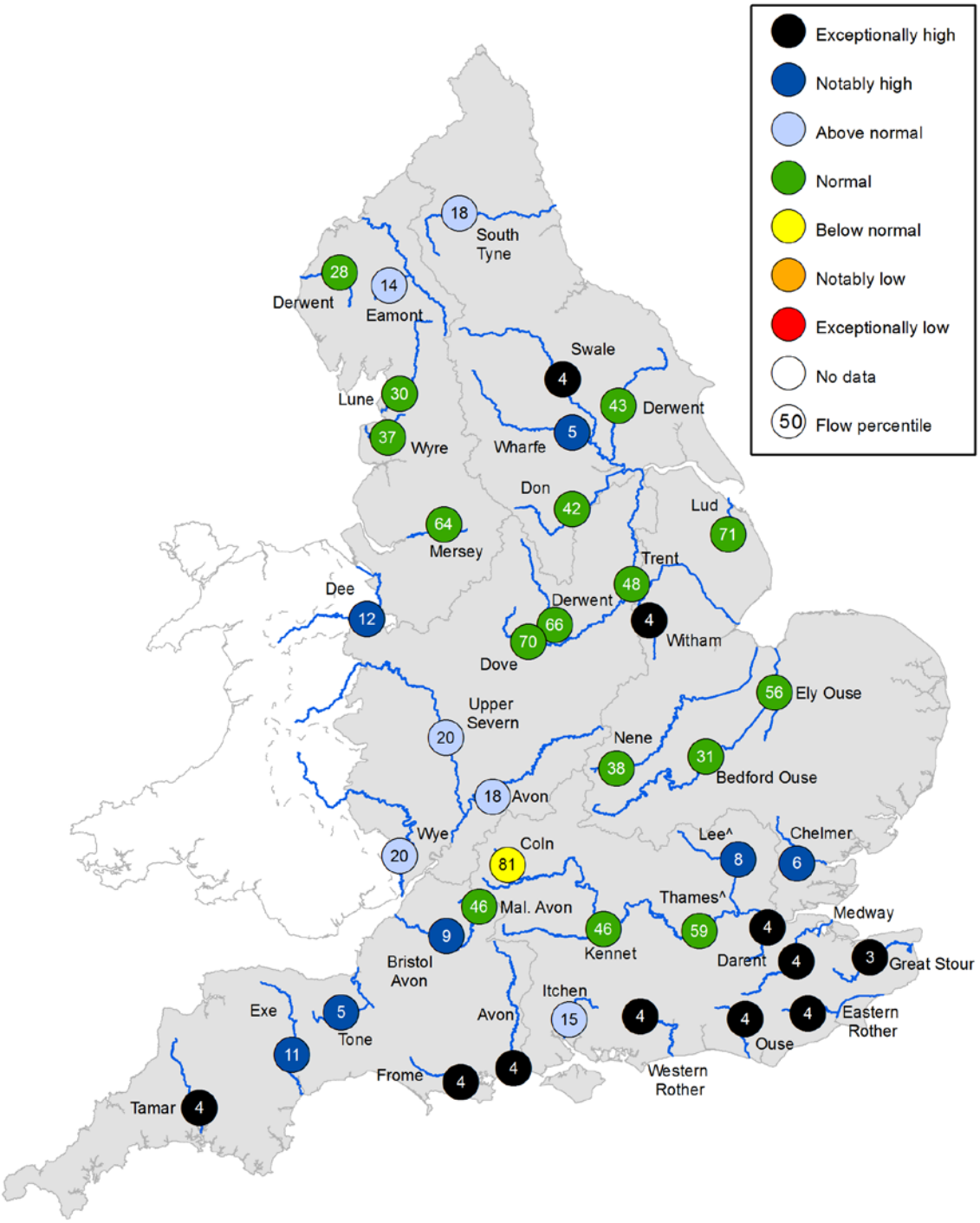


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

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 for the same time of year, expressed as a percentile[2] (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

[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.