

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 19 to Tuesday 25 October 2016

Summary: A predominantly dry week across England. River flows have decreased at the majority of indicator sites, but remain normal for the time of year at half of all sites.

Rainfall

The past week has been dry across most of England, with wetter weather in south-west, and some parts of east and north-east England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Totals ranged from 2mm in central and south-east England to 20mm in south-west England. Cumulative rainfall totals for October to date range from 30% of the long term average (LTA) in north-west England to 86% in east England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at the majority of indicator sites across England compared to the previous week. The latest daily mean flows are normal for the time of year at just over half of all indicator sites, with the remaining sites below normal or lower for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Dry weather is likely to dominate over the next few days, with the possibility of some light frontal rain in the far north-west of England. On Friday, high pressure will build again in the south of England, and it will remain dry for most areas. On Monday and Tuesday high pressure is expected to dominate, with dry conditions remaining across central and south England. North-west and west England may see periods of rain.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 19 to 25 Oct 2016	Latest month to date: Oct 2016		Last month: Sep 2016		Last 3 months: Jul 2016 to Sep 2016		Last 6 months: Apr 2016 to Sep 2016		Last 12 months: Oct 2015 to Sep 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	3	37	30	107	96	348	117	622	120	1,687	145
north-east	7	44	60	57	83	208	101	411	108	1,122	137
central	2	28	47	55	92	148	84	373	108	844	118
east	4	44	86	49	100	121	79	331	111	672	112
south-east	2	30	43	48	76	106	63	319	97	787	108
south-west	20	49	50	84	102	176	81	389	95	1,113	110
England	6	38	51	64	92	172	88	392	106	985	122

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

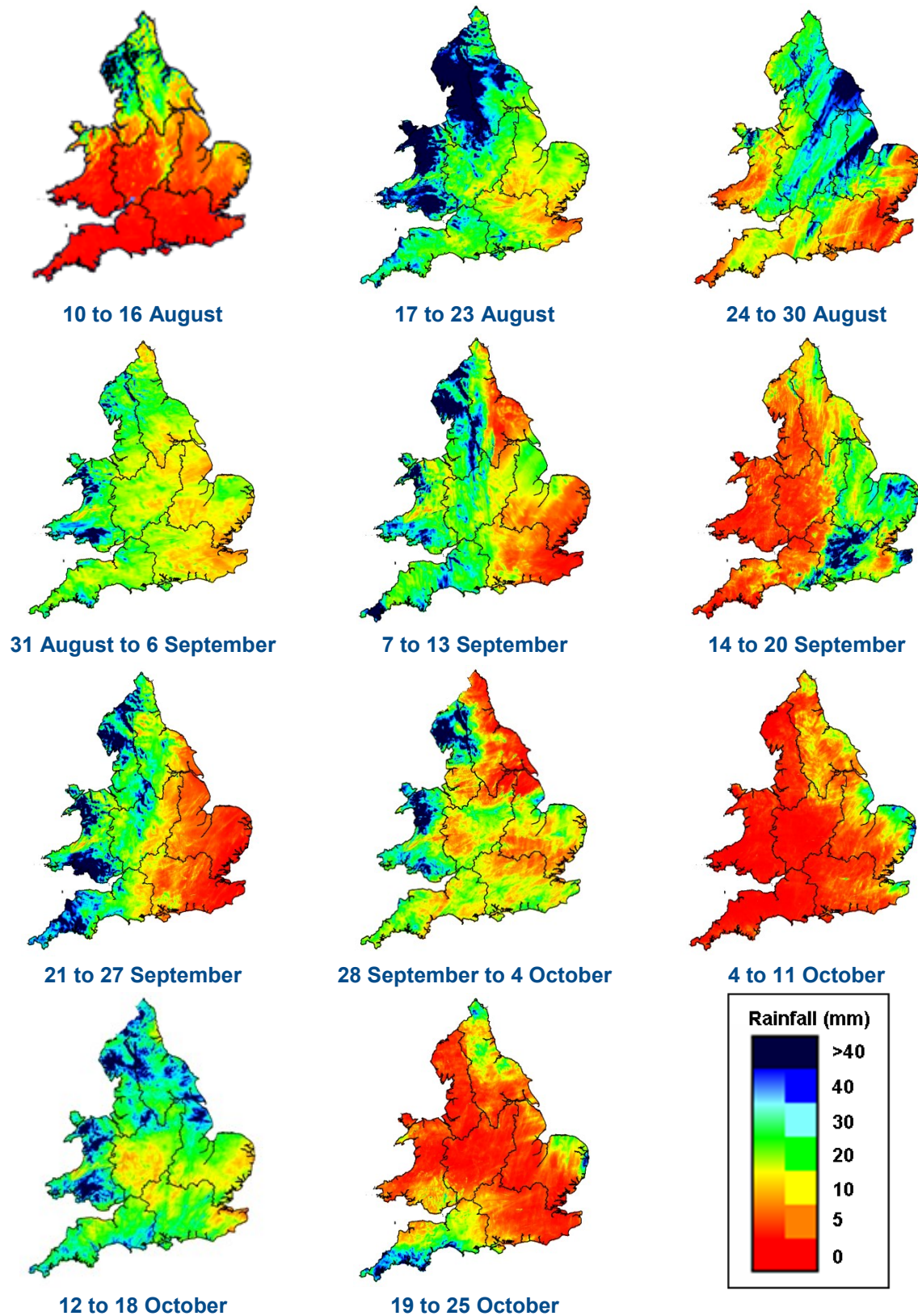
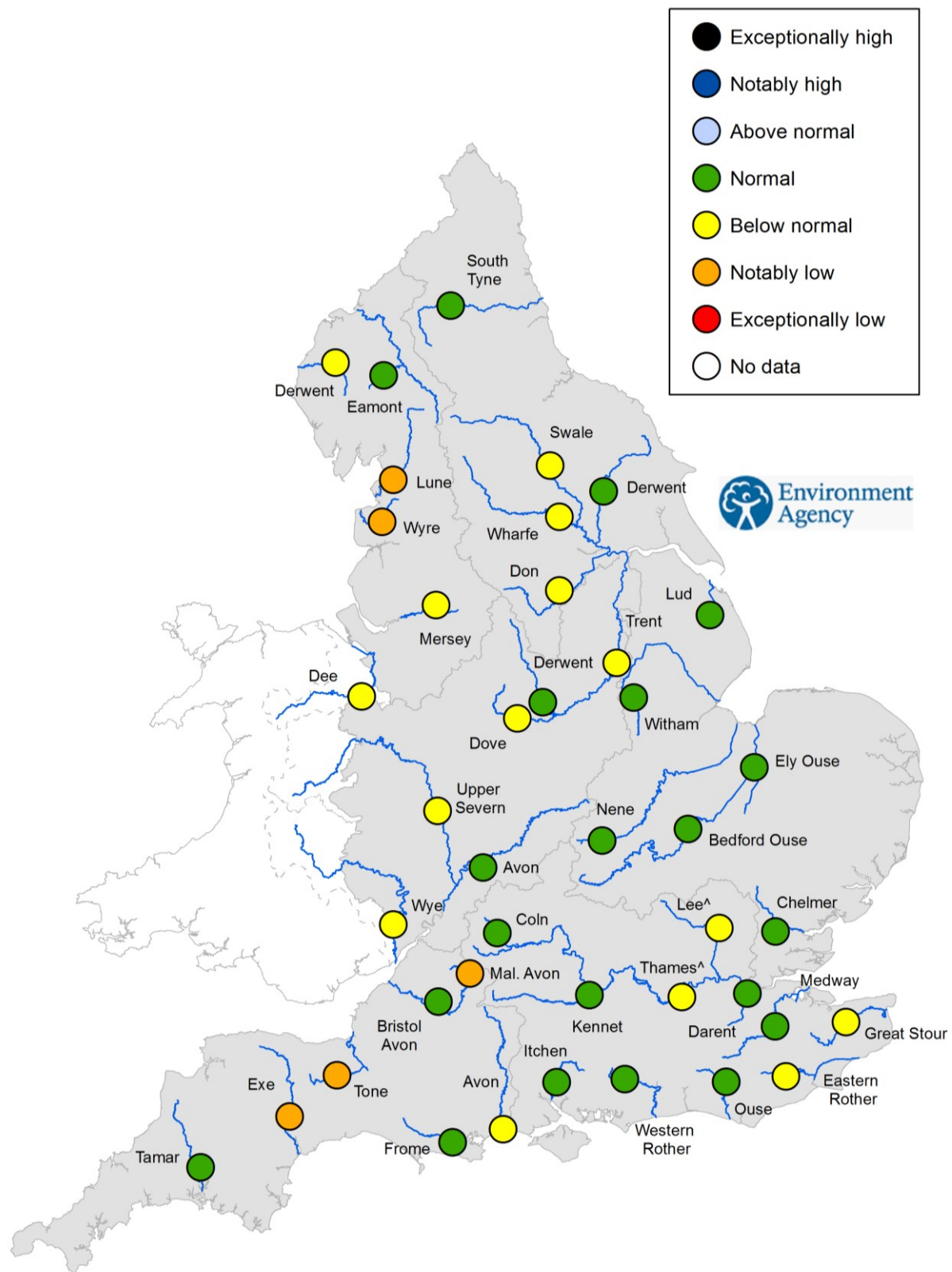


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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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