Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 29 July to Tuesday 04 August 2015

Summary

The past week has been relatively dry across the whole of England, especially in southern and central England. River flows have decreased at the majority of our indicator sites, and are currently **normal** for the time of year at two-thirds of sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from less than 1mm in south-east England to 14mm in north-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for July ranged from 114% of the July long term average (LTA) in central England to 165% in south-west England (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at over three-quarters of our indicator sites over the past week. The latest daily mean flows are currently **normal** for the time of year at two-thirds of our indicator sites, with most of the remaining sites being **below normal** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday will be damp for much of England in the morning with drier weather in the afternoon, although there could be the odd heavy shower over north-east England. Conditions are expected to be mostly dry on Friday, but there could be some slow-moving heavy showers in the far north and some showery outbreaks in the south-west. Most of England will be dry on Saturday before a front brings some rain south-east on Sunday, although probably not reaching southern England. Monday and Tuesday are expected to be unsettled for north and west England, with drier conditions expected in the south-east.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 29 Jul - 04 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	14	8	8	111	134	286	122	521	111	1256	108
north-east	9	4	6	95	156	224	125	357	99	816	100
central	3	2	3	59	114	173	103	280	85	693	97
east	4	0.1	0.2	77	158	158	106	241	87	614	103
south-east	0.9	0.2	0.3	64	132	151	96	255	81	742	102
south-west	2	1	2	100	165	224	118	375	90	996	99
England	5	2	3	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.

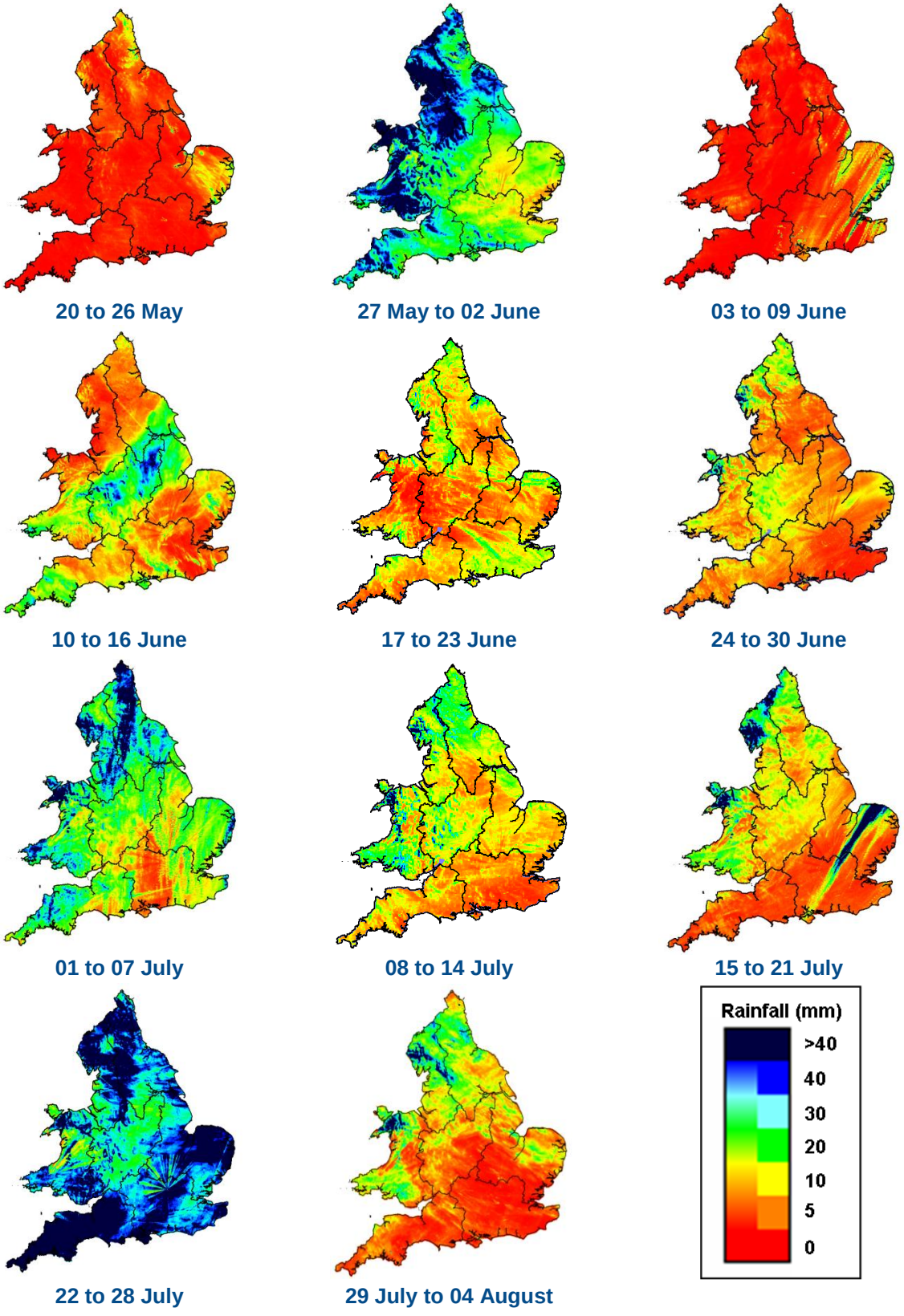
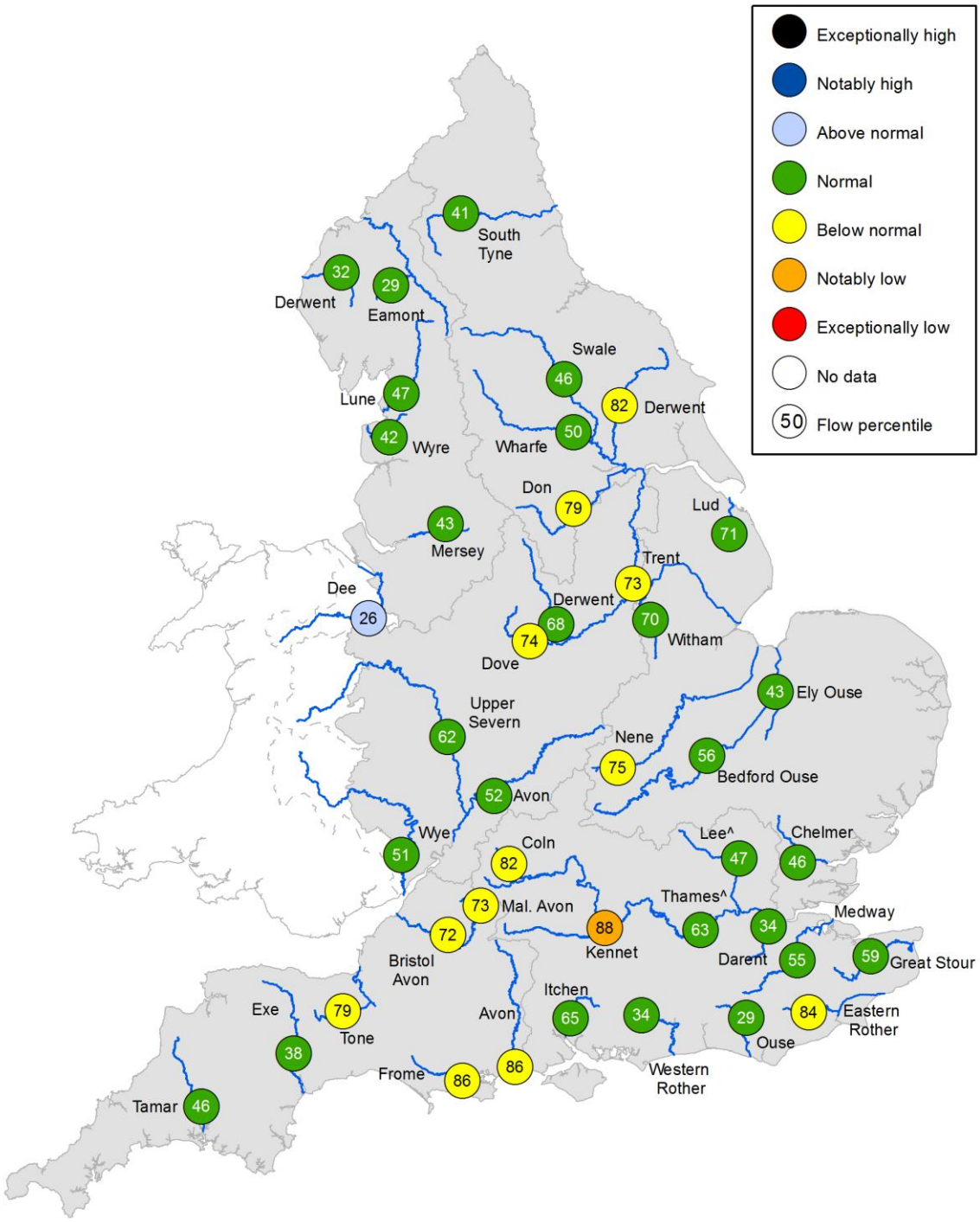


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

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.