Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 24 to Tuesday 30 August 2016

Summary: Wetter in north-east, eastern and central England, drier in the south. River flows are mostly normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall

The past week has been wet in north-east, central and parts of eastern England, with the south-east and south-west experiencing drier weather. Rainfall totals range from 7 mm in south-east England to 30 mm in north-east England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for August to date range from 66% of the long term average (LTA) in south-east England to 119% in north-east England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at three quarters of our indicator sites in England compared to the previous week. The latest daily mean river flows are normal or higher for the time of year at all but 3 indicator sites (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday is expected to be mainly dry across England, with unsettled weather likely by Friday as weather fronts move in from the west bringing occasional rain, especially in north-west England. Saturday is expected to be mild but becoming wet later in the day, and further showers are likely on Sunday. The unsettled weather is expected to continue into Monday and Tuesday.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 24 to 30 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	18	121	116	104	126	280	120	602	128	1,589	137
north-east	30	90	119	58	94	179	99	408	113	1,095	133
central	24	59	92	32	62	192	115	405	124	848	119
east	18	39	71	32	64	183	123	347	124	696	116
south-east	7	38	66	21	43	178	113	371	118	865	119
south-west	10	67	90	23	38	184	97	452	108	1,166	116
England	18	65	93	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.

Rainfall

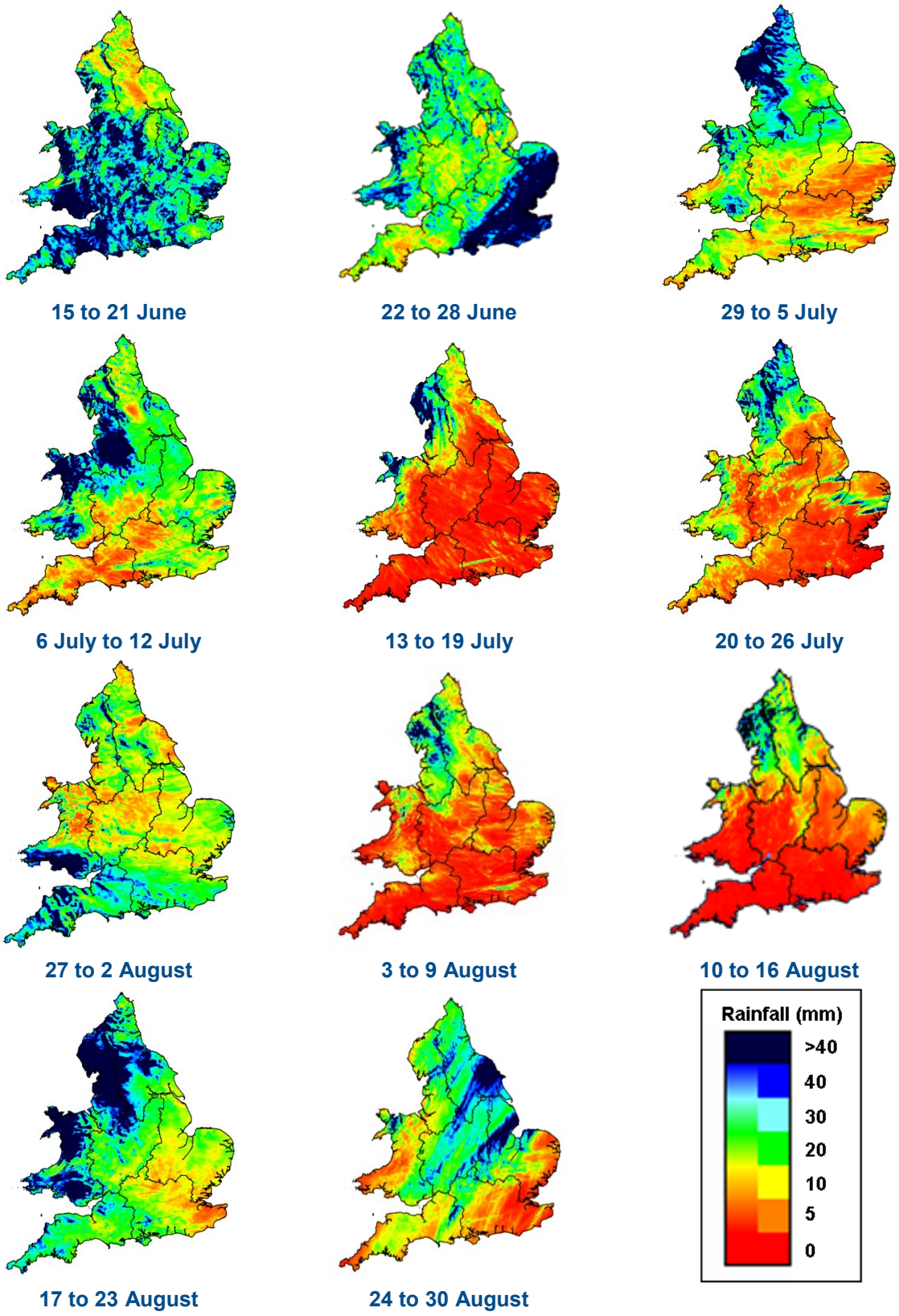
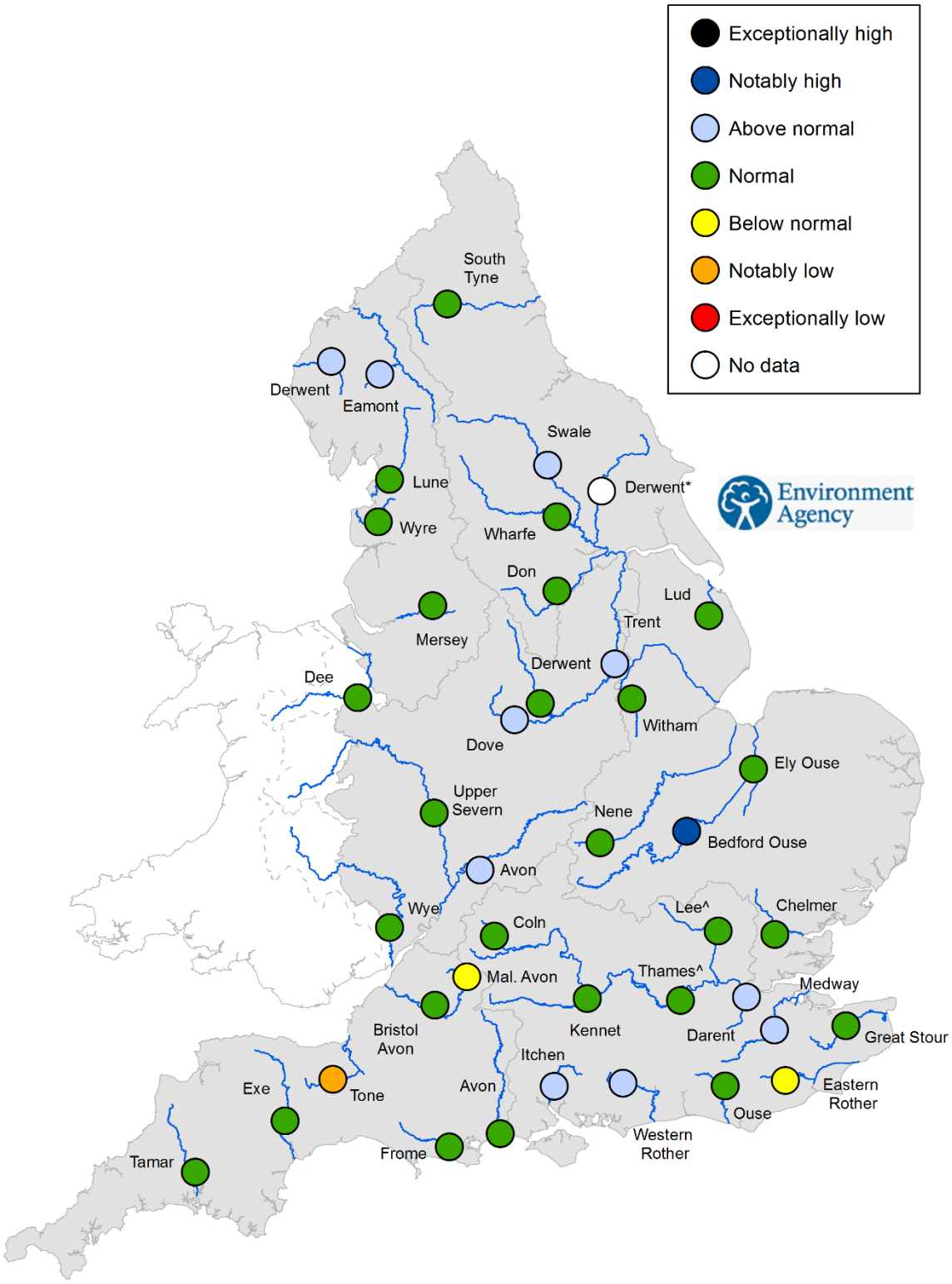


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

River flow



^ 'Naturalised' flows are provided for the Thames at Kingston and the Lee at Feildes Weir.

* Data unavailable for the Derwent at Buttercrambe due to an external communication fault at the gauge.

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

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