Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 15 to Tuesday 21 July 2015

Summary

The past week has been relatively dry across most of southern and central England, except for a thin band of thunderstorms across eastern England. The far north has also continued to be wetter than the rest of England. River flows have decreased at three quarters of our indicator sites, and are currently **below normal** or lower for the time of year at over half of sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 3mm in south-west England to 19mm in north-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Locally though, some locations received a month's average in a day.
- Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from just 43% of the July long term average (LTA) in south-east England to 93% in north-east England (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at three quarters of our indicator sites over the past week. The latest daily mean flows are currently **below normal** or lower for the time of year at just over half of our indicator sites (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday will be mainly dry across England. On Friday a band of widespread and heavy frontal rain is expected to move across southern England with scattered showers to the north. The rain will clear to the east on Saturday to leave mainly dry conditions for Saturday and Sunday. Monday and Tuesday are then expected to be unsettled with rain most likely in the west and north, while the south-east has the greatest chance of remaining dry.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 15 - 21 Jul '15	Latest month to date: Jul '15		Last month: Jun '15		Last 3 months: Apr '15 - Jun '15		Last 6 months: Jan '15 - Jun '15		Last 12 months: Jul '14 - Jun '15	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	19	66	80	45	58	228	104	567	113	1218	105
north-east	14	57	93	34	57	160	91	344	91	777	95
central	6	37	72	39	67	133	79	285	84	683	96
east	8	35	72	25	49	100	69	213	76	591	99
south-east	4	21	43	27	50	108	68	283	83	724	99
south-west	3	35	58	43	69	148	78	410	87	936	93
England	9	40	71	34	58	140	81	332	89	788	98

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.

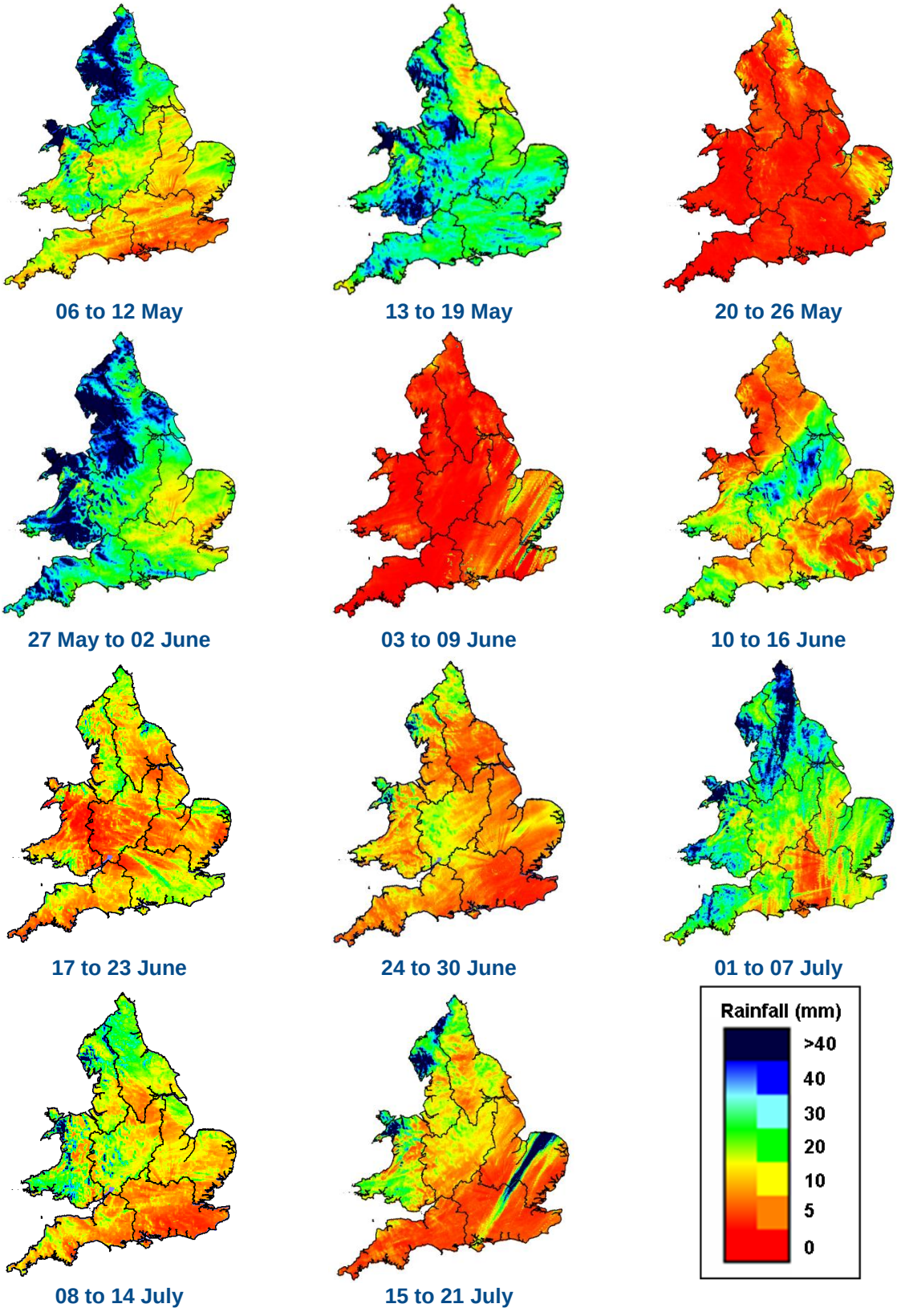
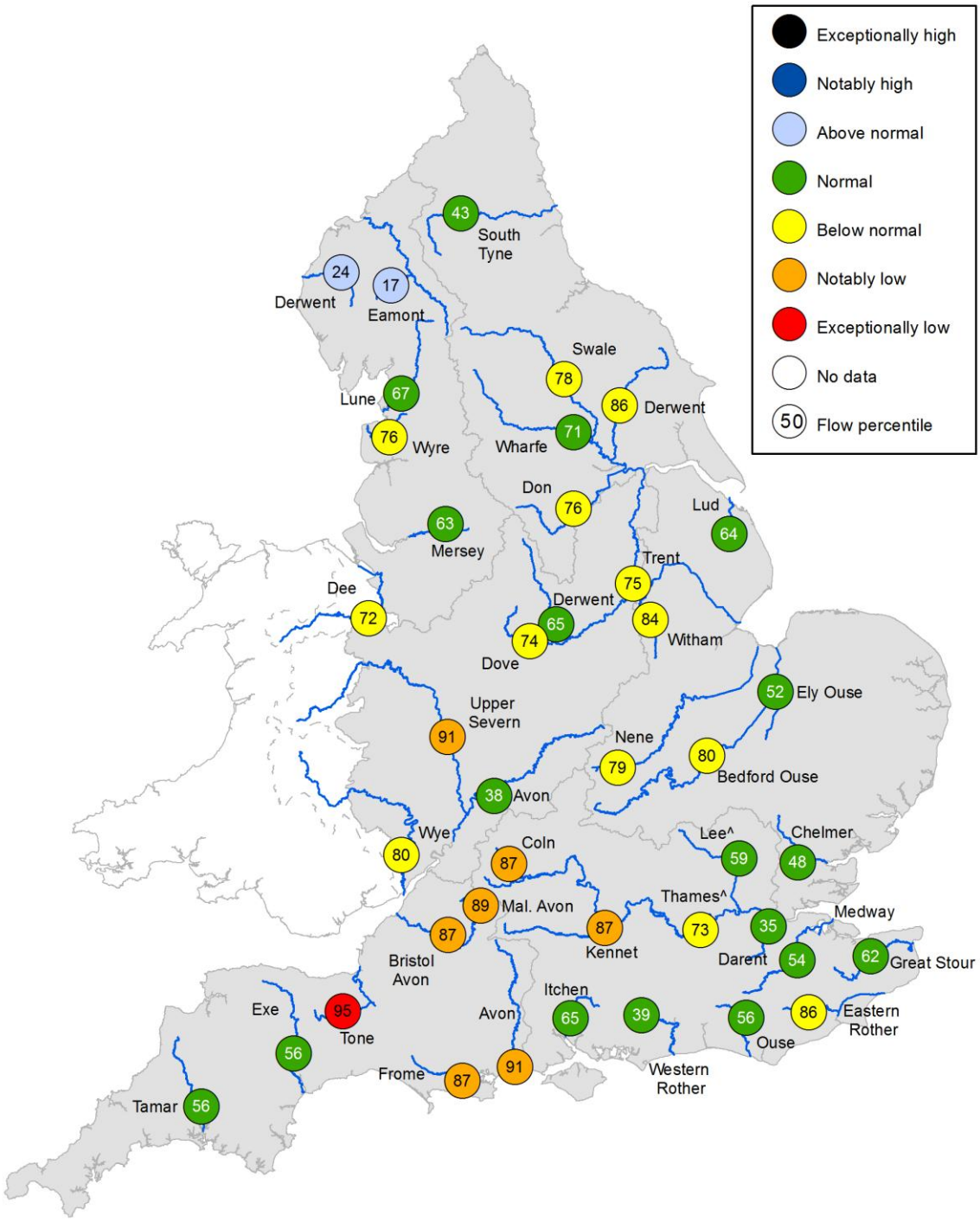


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

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.