

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 7 to Tuesday 13 September 2016

Summary: Similar rainfall totals to last week across England, although slightly wetter in the north-west and drier in the south-east. River flows are mainly normal for the time of year.

Rainfall

Over the past week the east of the country has been drier than the west. Rainfall totals range from 7 mm in south-east England to 28 mm in north-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for September to date range from 32% of the long term average (LTA) in south-east England to 49% in north-west England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at over 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 2 indicator sites (Figure 2).

Outlook

Some rain is expected in the south on Thursday with further rain clearing east on Friday. After a largely dry Saturday, rain is expected from the west on Sunday and this will clear to the south-east through Monday and Tuesday. South-east England is expected to experience the driest weather.

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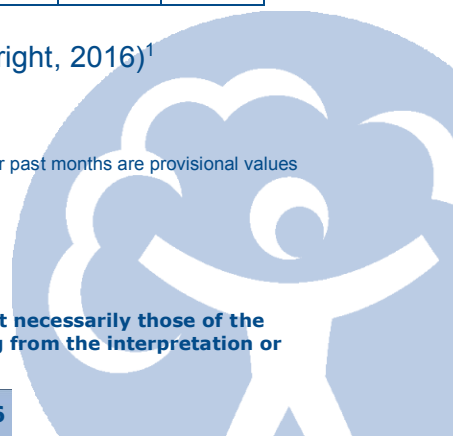
Geographic regions	Latest Week: 07 to 13 Sep 2016	Latest month to date: Sep 2016		Last month: Aug 2016		Last 3 months: Jun 2016 to Aug 2016		Last 6 months: Mar 2016 to Aug 2016		Last 12 months: Sep 2015 to Aug 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	28	49	44	138	133	371	140	600	120	1,630	140
north-east	10	25	36	94	124	231	118	432	114	1,107	135
central	17	33	54	60	94	198	114	399	117	827	116
east	11	19	39	40	73	174	112	354	119	669	112
south-east	7	20	32	37	64	153	96	355	109	803	110
south-west	20	45	55	68	91	192	97	406	99	1,097	109
England	14	30	43	68	98	209	113	411	113	972	120

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

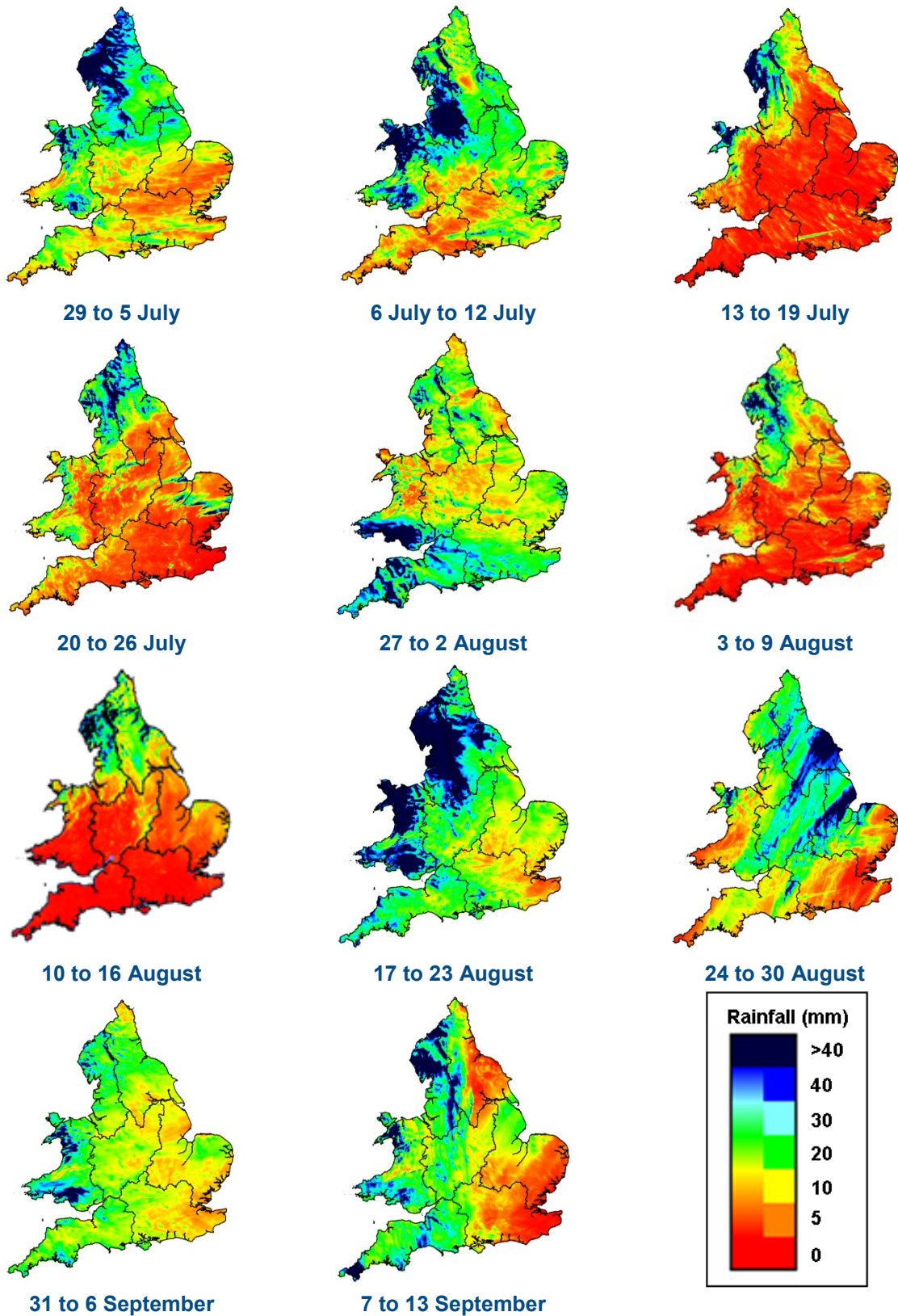
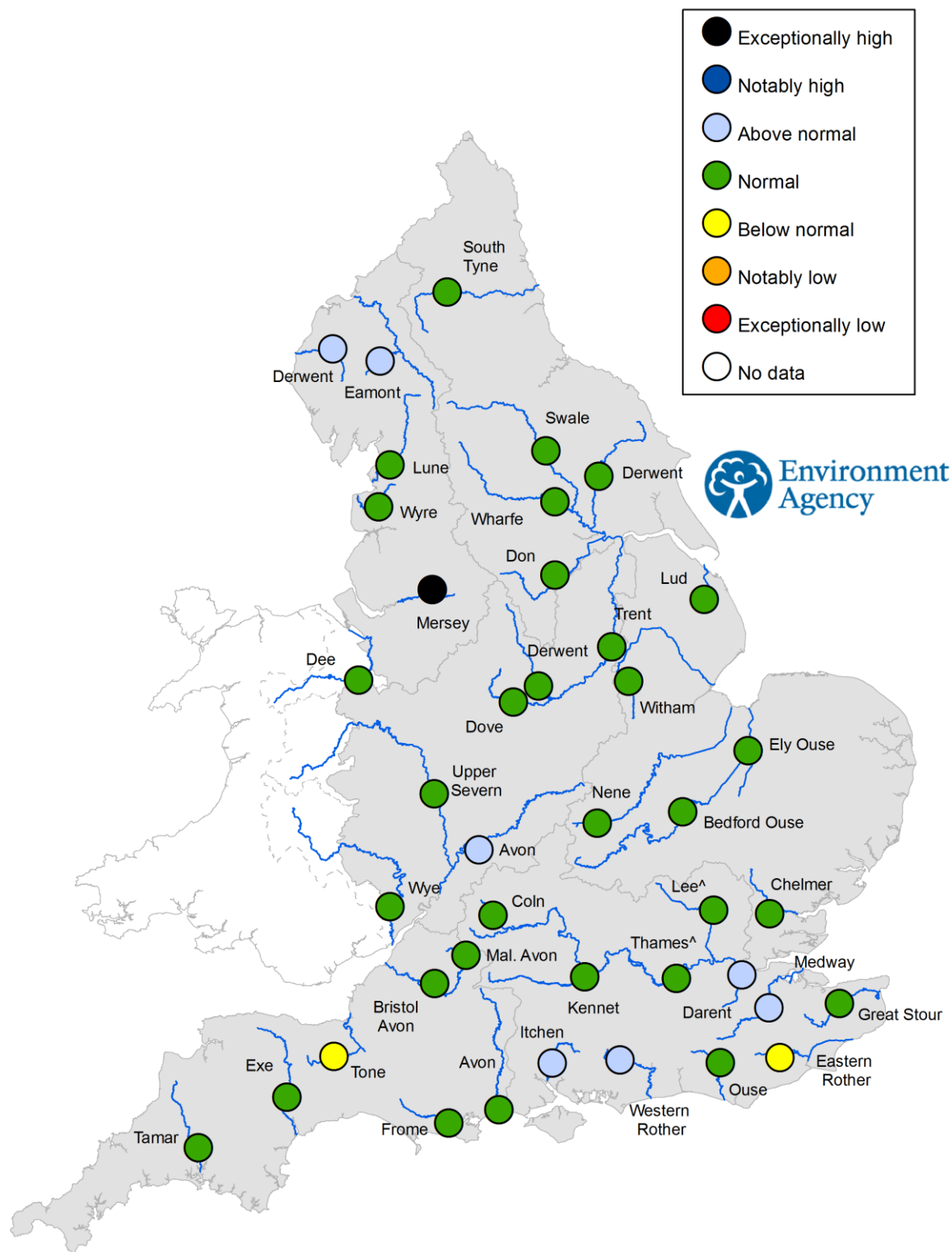


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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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