Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 28 September to Tuesday 4 October 2016

Summary: Following a week of moderate rainfall totals across most of England, river flows generally remain within the normal range for the time of year.

Rainfall

The past week has seen moderate rainfall totals across most of England, ranging from 8mm in north-east England to 20mm in north-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for September ranged from 76% of the long term average (LTA) in south-east England to 102% in south-west England. October rainfall totals to date range from 2% of the LTA in north-east and north-west England to 22% in east England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at nearly two-thirds of indicator sites in England compared to the previous week. The latest daily mean flows remain normal for the time of year at the majority of indicator sites. Flows are below normal or lower at 6 sites across north-east, south-east and south-west England (Figure 2).

Outlook

The weather is expected to remain dry on Thursday before becoming showery on Friday and over the weekend, particularly in east England. The showers may become locally heavy on Sunday along coastal areas in the east. The unsettled weather is likely to continue on Monday and Tuesday, with a low risk of rain moving in from the west on Monday.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 28 Sep to 04 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	20	2	2	107	96	348	117	622	120	1,687	145
north-east	8	2	2	57	83	208	101	411	108	1,122	137
central	12	7	12	55	92	148	84	373	108	844	118
east	13	11	22	49	100	121	79	331	111	672	112
south-east	12	6	9	48	76	106	63	319	97	787	108
south-west	14	3	3	84	102	176	81	389	95	1,113	110
England	13	5	7	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.

Rainfall

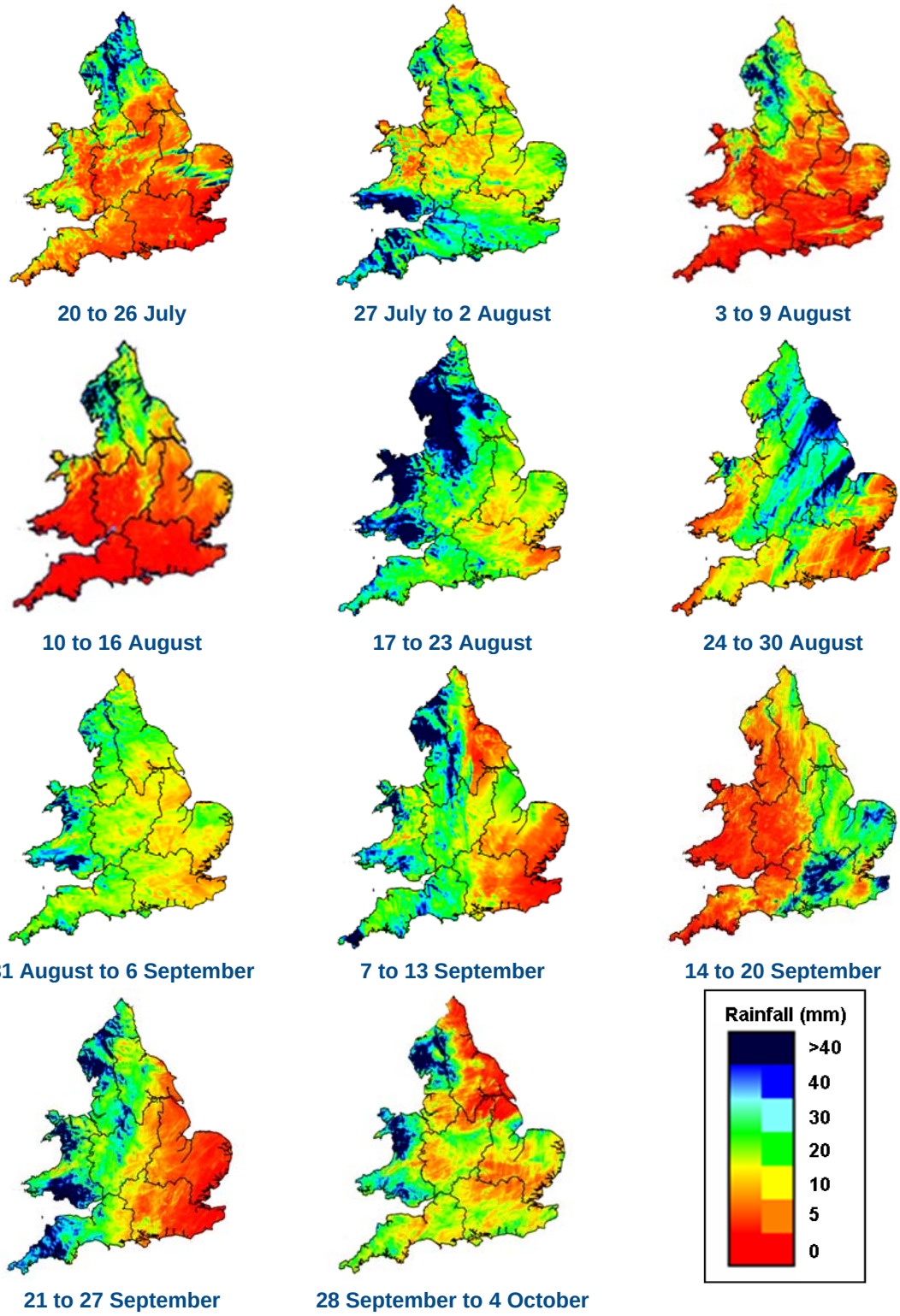
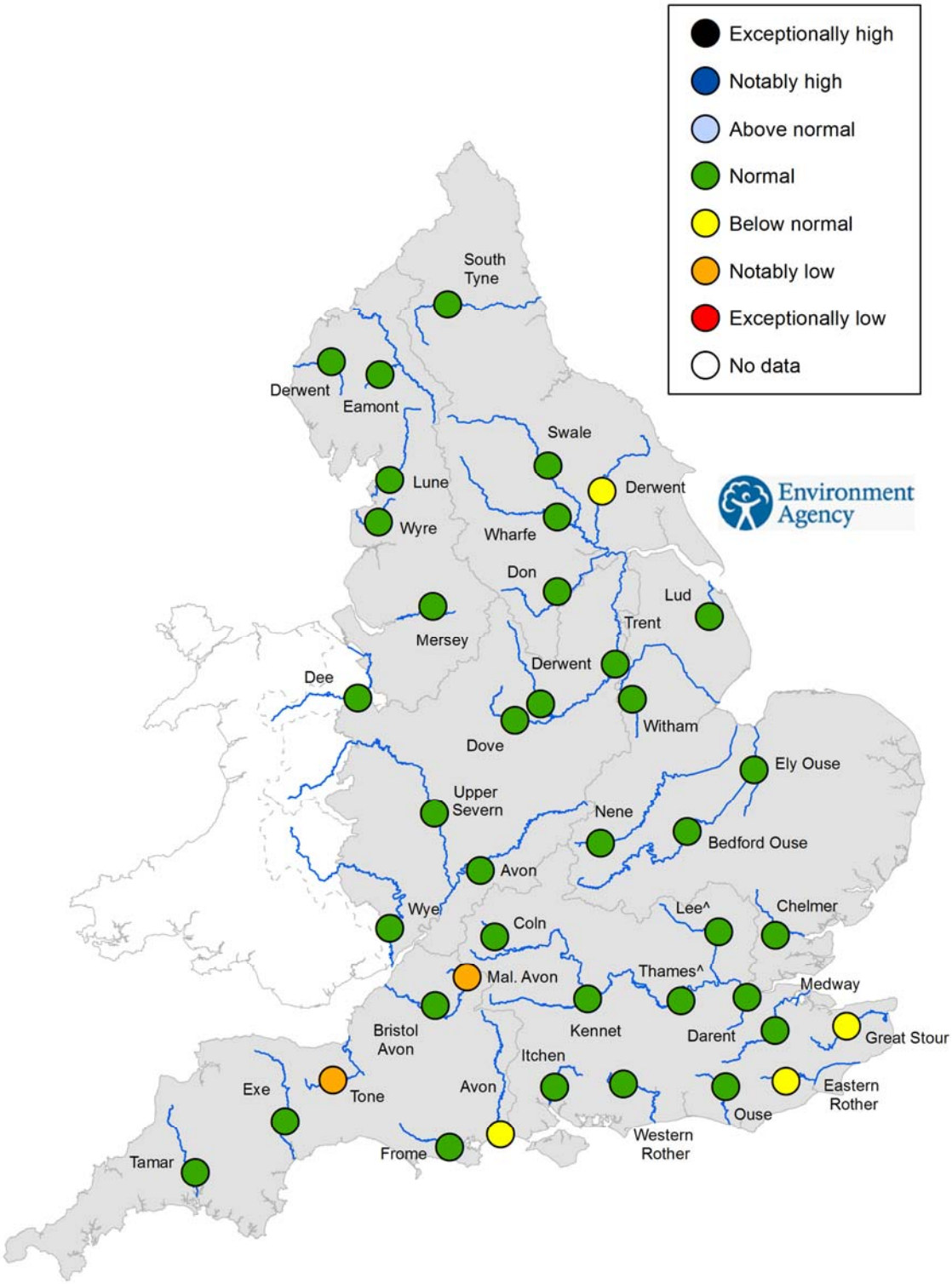


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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 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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