Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 12 to Tuesday 18 October 2016

Summary: A return to wetter weather over the past week has increased river flows at all indicator sites across England, particularly in the north.

Rainfall

Rainfall totals during the past week were highest across north and south-west England, whilst central, east and south-east England have been slightly drier (Table 1 and Figure 1). Totals ranged from 17mm in central England to 28mm in north-east and north-west England. Cumulative rainfall totals for October to date range from 27% of the long term average (LTA) in north-west England to 79% in east England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have increased at all indicator sites across England since the previous week. The latest daily mean flows are normal or higher for the time of year at all but 4 indicator sites. Flows at these sites, located in south-east and south-west England, are below normal or lower for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Scattered heavy showers from the north are expected across England over the next few days. These may be heavy at times, particularly across east England. High pressure will then build from the west, bringing mainly dry conditions. Showers may affect the south-west at times on Sunday through to Tuesday.

Author: E&B Hydrology Team

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 12 to 18 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	28	33	27	107	96	348	117	622	120	1,687	145
north-east	28	37	50	57	83	208	101	411	108	1,122	137
central	17	26	44	55	92	148	84	373	108	844	118
east	19	40	79	49	100	121	79	331	111	672	112
south-east	19	28	39	48	76	106	63	319	97	787	108
south-west	26	30	30	84	102	176	81	389	95	1,113	110
England	22	32	43	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.

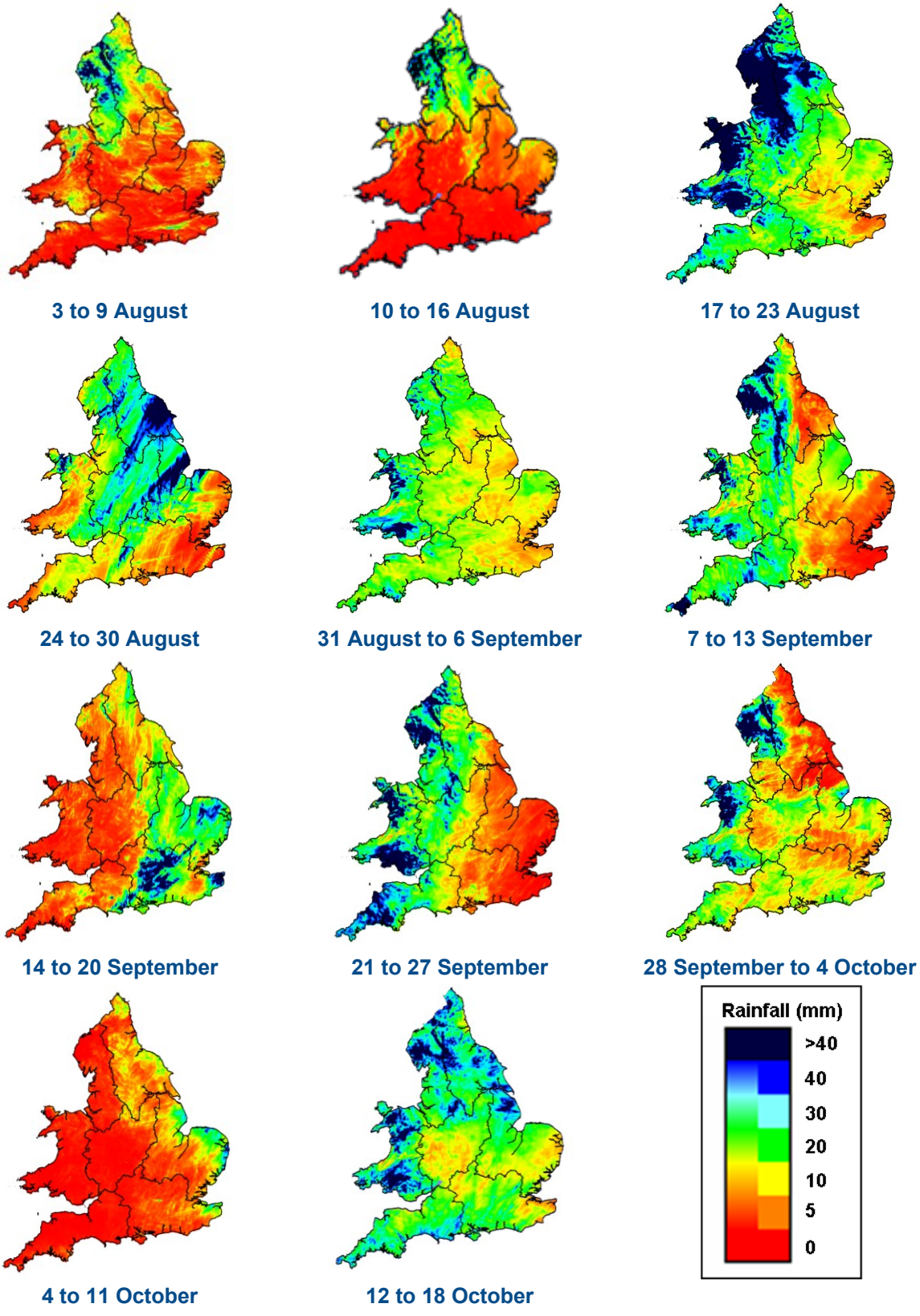
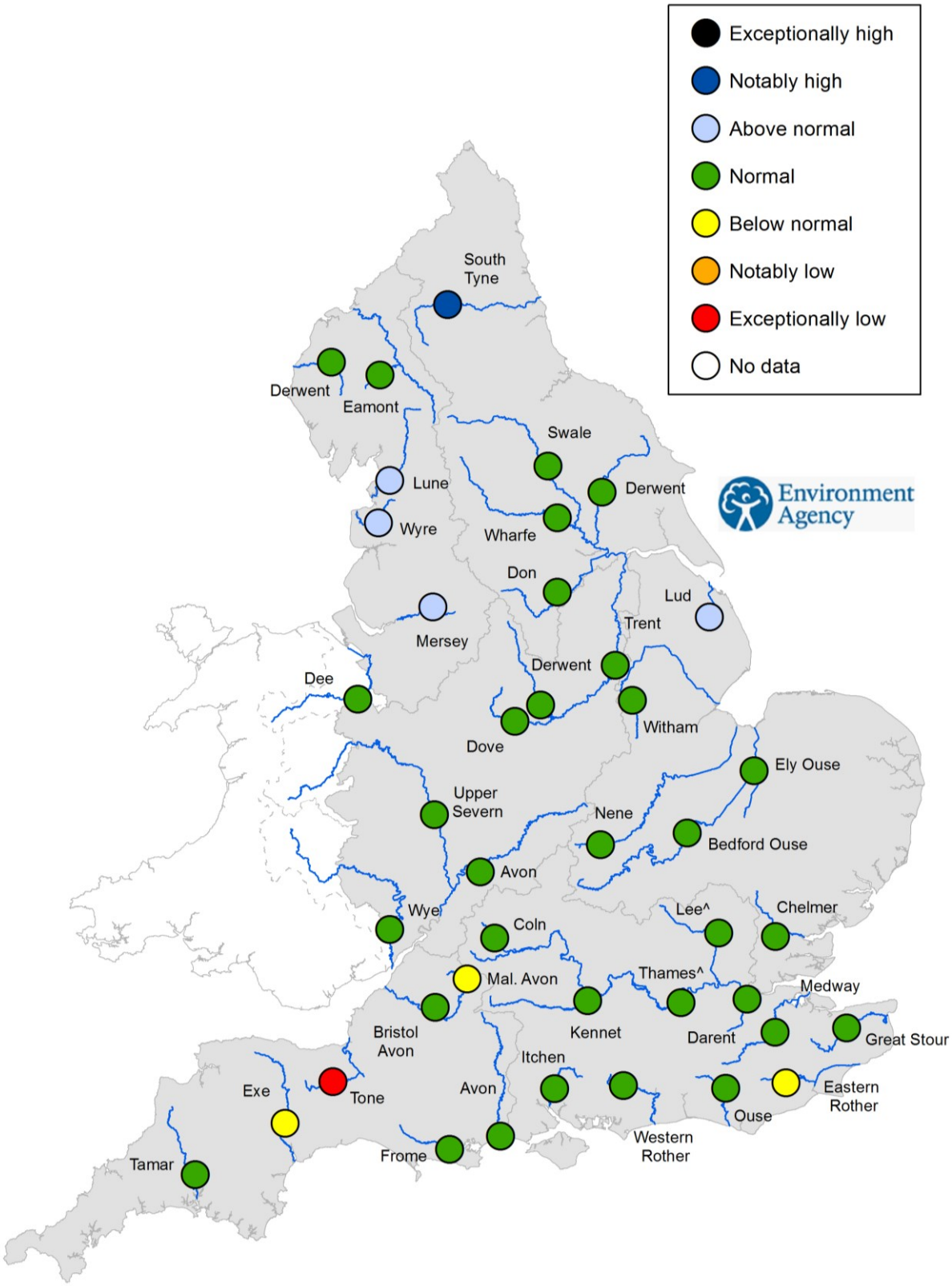


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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

Return to summary page