

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 22 to Tuesday 28 July 2015

Summary

The past week has been very wet across the whole of England, with totals over eastern and southern England being higher than for the whole of the previous three weeks. Cumulative rainfall totals are now above the long term average for July. River flows have increased at the majority of our indicator sites, and are currently **above normal** or higher for the time of year at almost half of sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 27mm in central England to 56mm in south-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from 122% of the July long term average (LTA) in north-west England to 159% in east England (Table 1).
- River flows have increased at four-fifths of our indicator sites over the past week. The latest daily mean flows are currently **normal** or higher for the time of year at almost all of our indicator sites and **above normal** or higher at almost half of sites (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday will be mostly dry across much of England although localised showers may affect parts of east England. Isolated showers, some of them locally heavy, may affect parts of the north and west on Friday and into Saturday, but most areas will be fine and dry. An area of low pressure developing to the west may bring rain late on Sunday and into Monday. The band of rain is expected to move east on Monday and Tuesday.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 22 - 28 Jul '15	Latest month to date: 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	35	101	122	45	58	228	104	567	113	1218	105
north-east	34	90	148	34	57	160	91	344	91	777	95
central	27	64	124	39	67	133	79	285	84	683	96
east	43	78	159	25	49	100	69	213	76	591	99
south-east	46	67	138	27	50	108	68	283	83	724	99
south-west	56	91	150	43	69	148	78	410	87	936	93
England	40	81	141	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.

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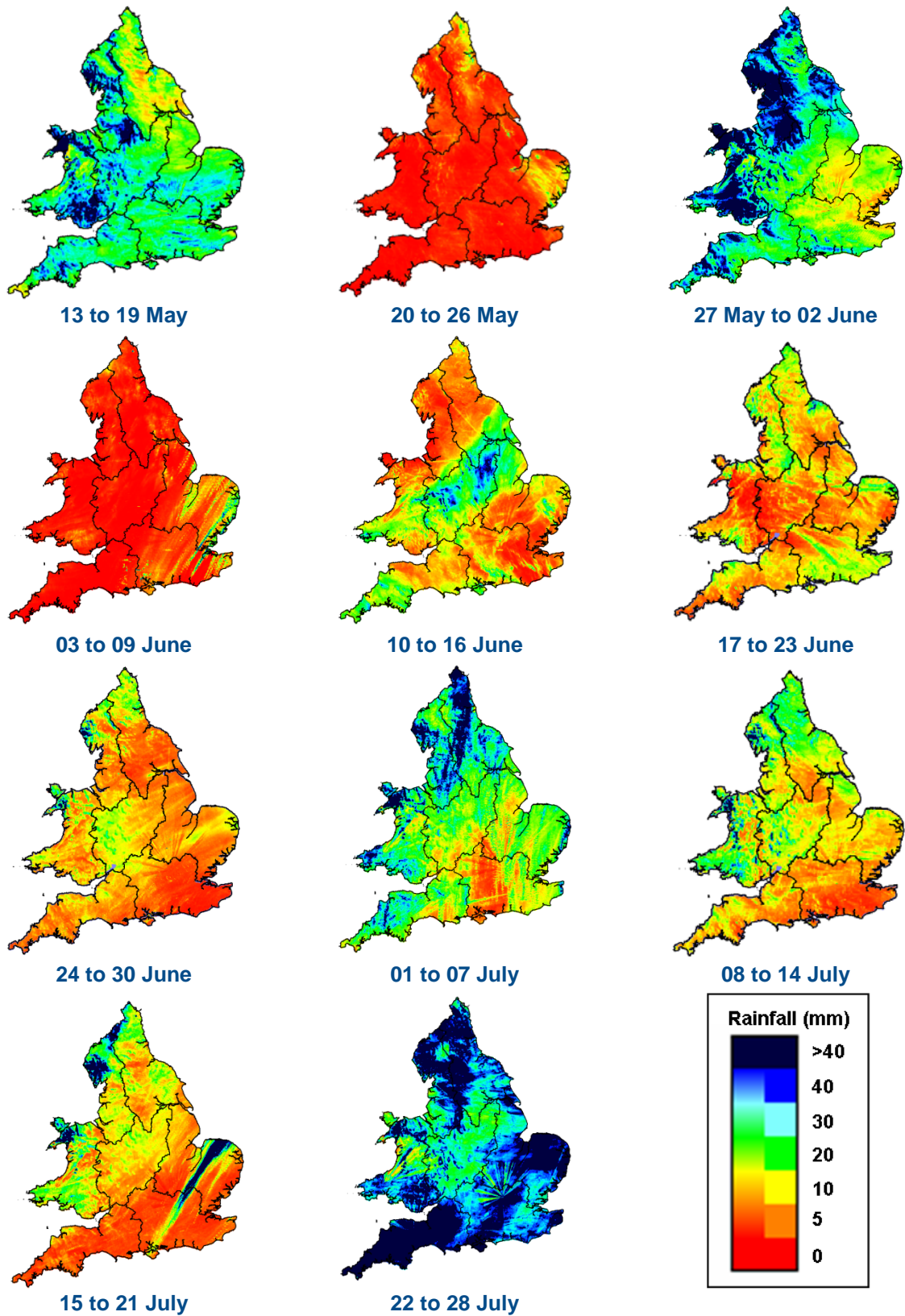
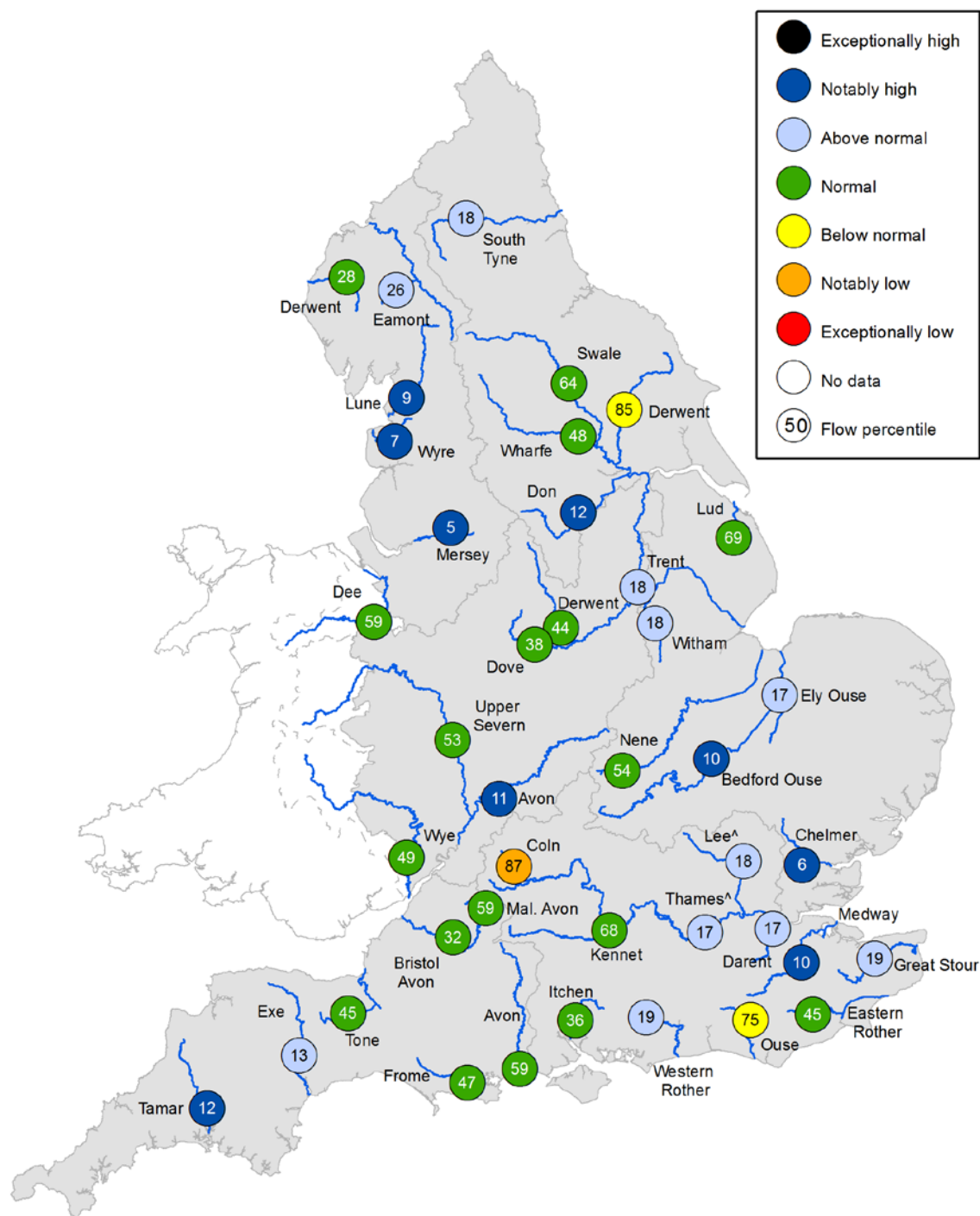


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

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 percentile² (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.