Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 10 July to Tuesday 16 July 2024

Summary: It has been a drier week across England, although most of the country has already received more rain than we would expect for July as a whole. River flows decreased across most of the country, although flows at all reporting sites remained classed as normal or above for the time of year.

Rainfall

It has been a drier week across England compared to the previous week. Rainfall totals ranged from 15mm in south-west England to 28mm in the north-east (Figure 1). After the first half of July, all regions except the north-west have already received more than the long term average rainfall for the whole month (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at over half (60%) of reporting sites compared to the previous week, with river flows at all sites classed as normal or above for the time of year. Four sites (7% of the total) were classed as normal and fifteen sites (28%) were classed above normal for the time of year. Just over a quarter of sites (14 sites) had notably high river flows, and 39% (21 sites) were classed as exceptionally high for the time of year. (Figure 2)

Outlook

Thursday is forecast to bring dry and sunny spells, with high temperatures in the sunshine. Conditions will be dry and very warm or hot on Friday. Warm weather will persist on Saturday, particularly in the east and south-east, although thundery showers are likely to form. Cooler, cloudy conditions are likely later in the weekend, with some rain too. Rain is expected to spread in from the west on Monday with higher totals in the north but lower totals in the south.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 10 to 16 Jul 2024	Latest month to date: Jul 2024		Last month: Jun 2024		Last 3 months: Apr to Jun 2024		Last 6 months: Jan to Jun 2024		Last 12 months: Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	25	72	84	70	86	330	146	753	146	1,763	147
north-east	28	75	120	45	73	231	129	495	128	1,217	145
central	26	68	129	32	55	183	108	454	132	1,045	145
east	24	78	156	26	51	155	106	358	127	842	140
south-east	22	72	148	19	34	165	102	473	138	1,064	145
south-west	15	71	115	27	43	212	110	667	140	1,494	146
England	23	73	125	34	57	203	116	512	135	1,189	145

Table 1 Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024)[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 are 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

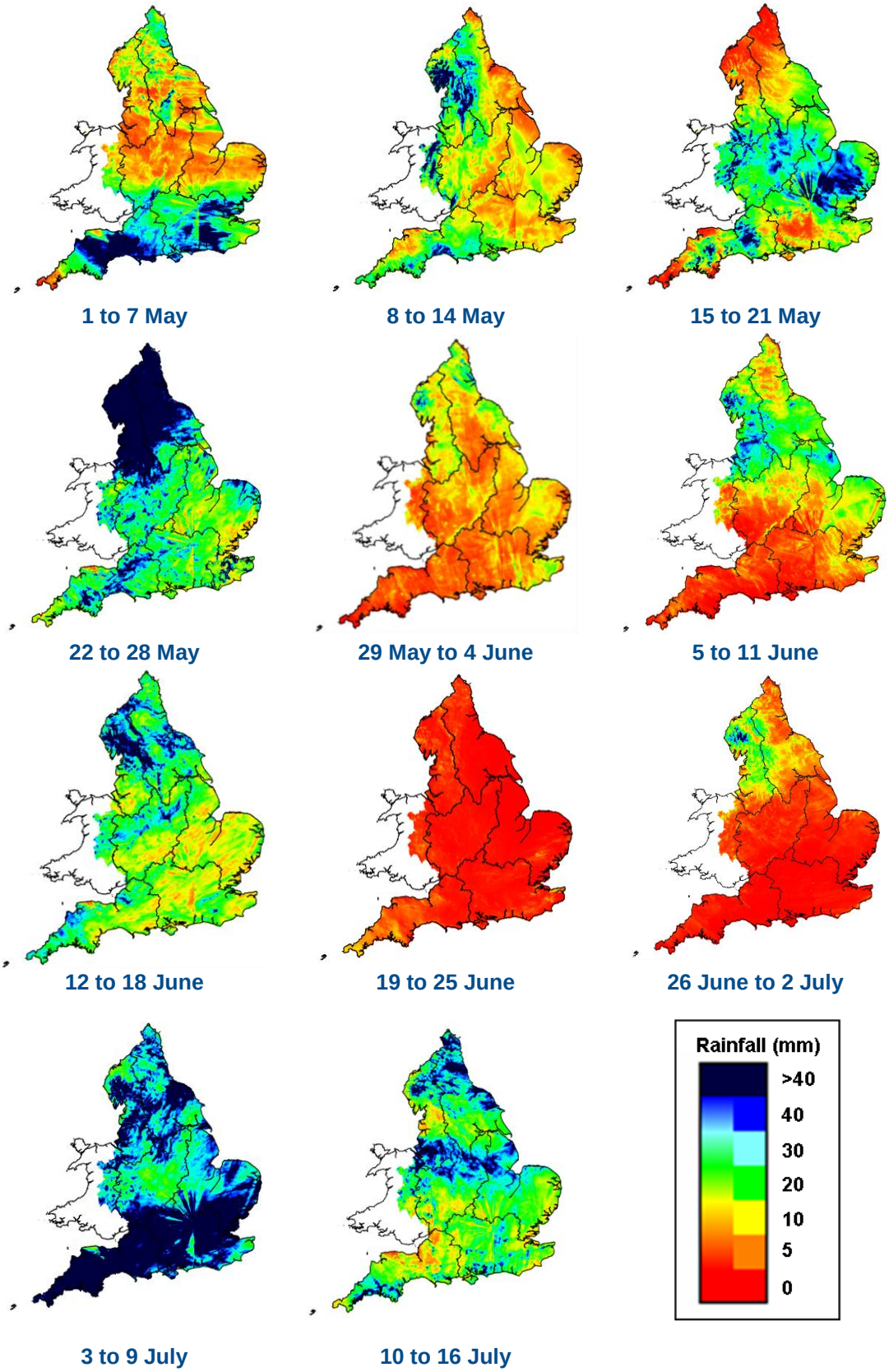
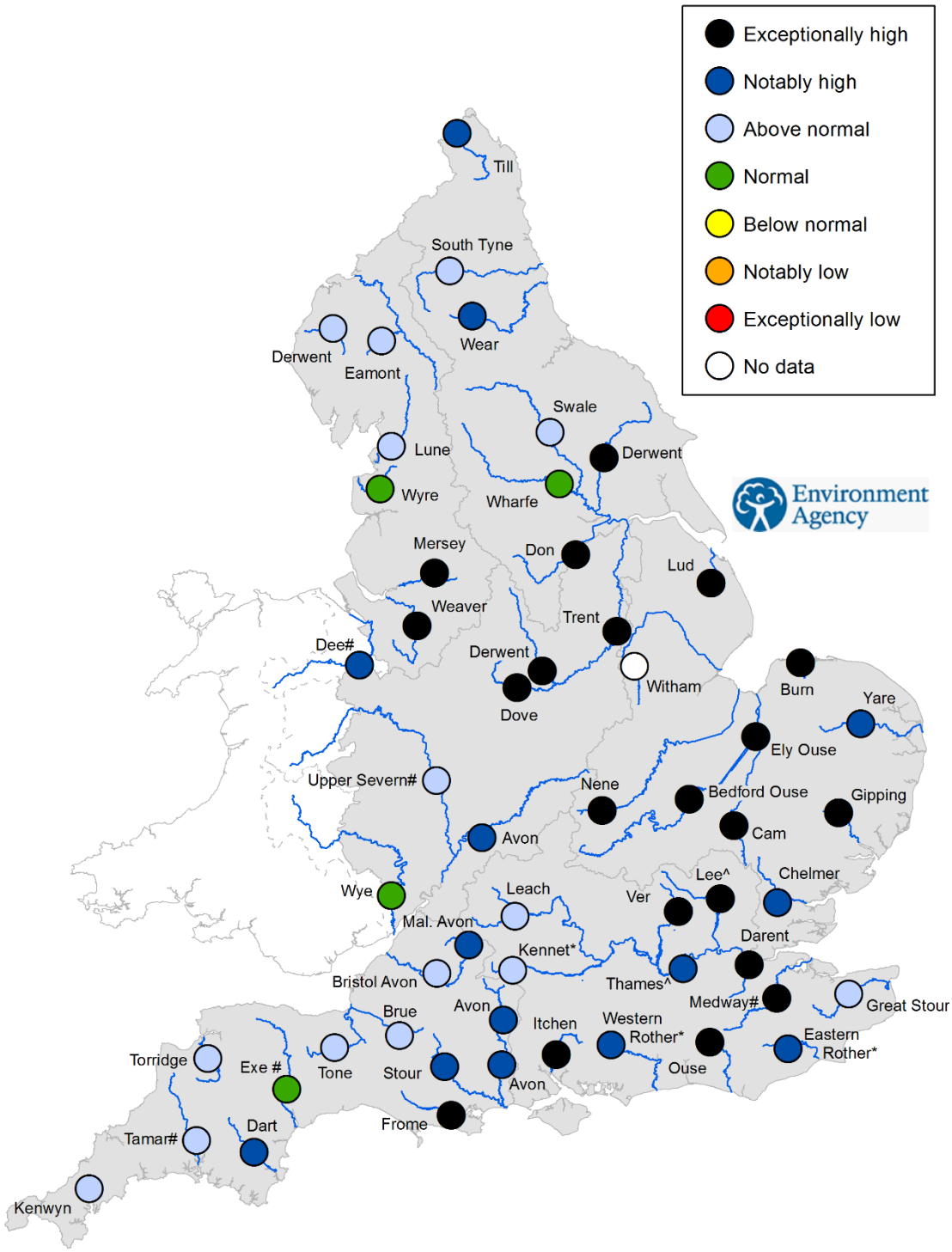


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation affecting its performance. This does not reflect actual conditions on the ground. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2024.

River flow



^'Naturalised' flows are provided for the River Thames at Kingston and the River Lee at Feildes Weir.
* Flows may be currently overestimated at these sites so the data should be treated with caution
# Flows may be impacted at these sites by water releases from upstream reservoirs.

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, 100024198, 2024[3].

[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.
[3]The flow sites in this report are indicator sites providing a National overview and a subset of a wider flow monitoring network.

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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