Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 14 August to Tuesday 20 August 2024

Summary: It has been a dry week across most of England. River flows have decreased at two-thirds of reporting sites compared to the previous week, with the majority river flows still classed as normal or above for the time of year.

Rainfall

It has been a dry week across most of the country, with many areas receiving less than 10mm of rainfall. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 4mm in east, to 23mm in north-west England (Table 1, Figure 1). Rainfall totals for August so far range from 17% of the long term average (LTA) in east England to 56% of the LTA in north-west England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at two-thirds (66%) of reporting sites when compared to the previous week. Flows at most reporting sites (91%) were classed as normal or above for the time of year, with only 5 sites (9%) classed as below normal. Flows at 37 sites (67%) were normal, and 9 sites (16%) were above normal for the time of year. Two sites (4%) were classed as exceptionally high, with a further 2 classed as notably high (Figure 2).

Outlook

Rain is forecast for Thursday with showers expected across northern England with dry, cool conditions expected elsewhere. Unsettled conditions are expected to continue throughout Friday and into the weekend with many parts the country likely to experience showers. Wet conditions are likely to persist into Monday and Tuesday, with a chance of drier, warmer, conditions later.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 14 to 20 Aug 2024	Latest month to date: Aug 2024		Last month: Jul 2024		Last 3 months: May to Jul 2024		Last 6 months: Feb to Jul 2024		Last 12 months: Aug 2023 to Jul 2024	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	23	60	56	91	106	283	117	683	141	1,647	138
north-east	9	23	29	81	131	214	116	477	129	1,165	139
central	6	18	27	68	130	177	105	462	140	1,006	139
east	4	10	17	72	144	169	113	379	135	828	138
south-east	5	18	30	74	152	163	103	473	149	1,052	144
south-west	7	22	29	95	155	214	111	662	156	1,447	142
England	8	22	32	79	136	197	111	506	142	1,148	140

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

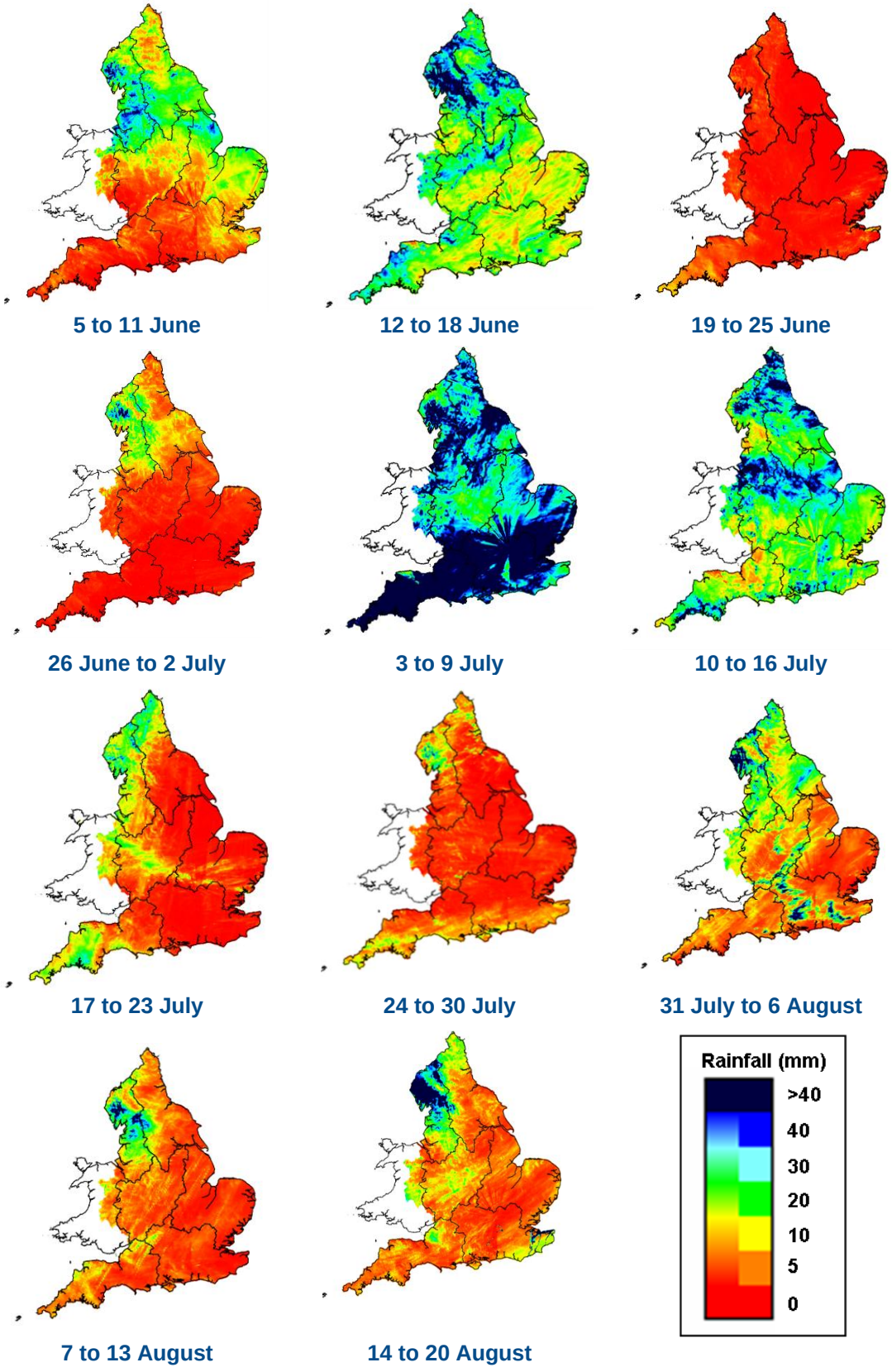
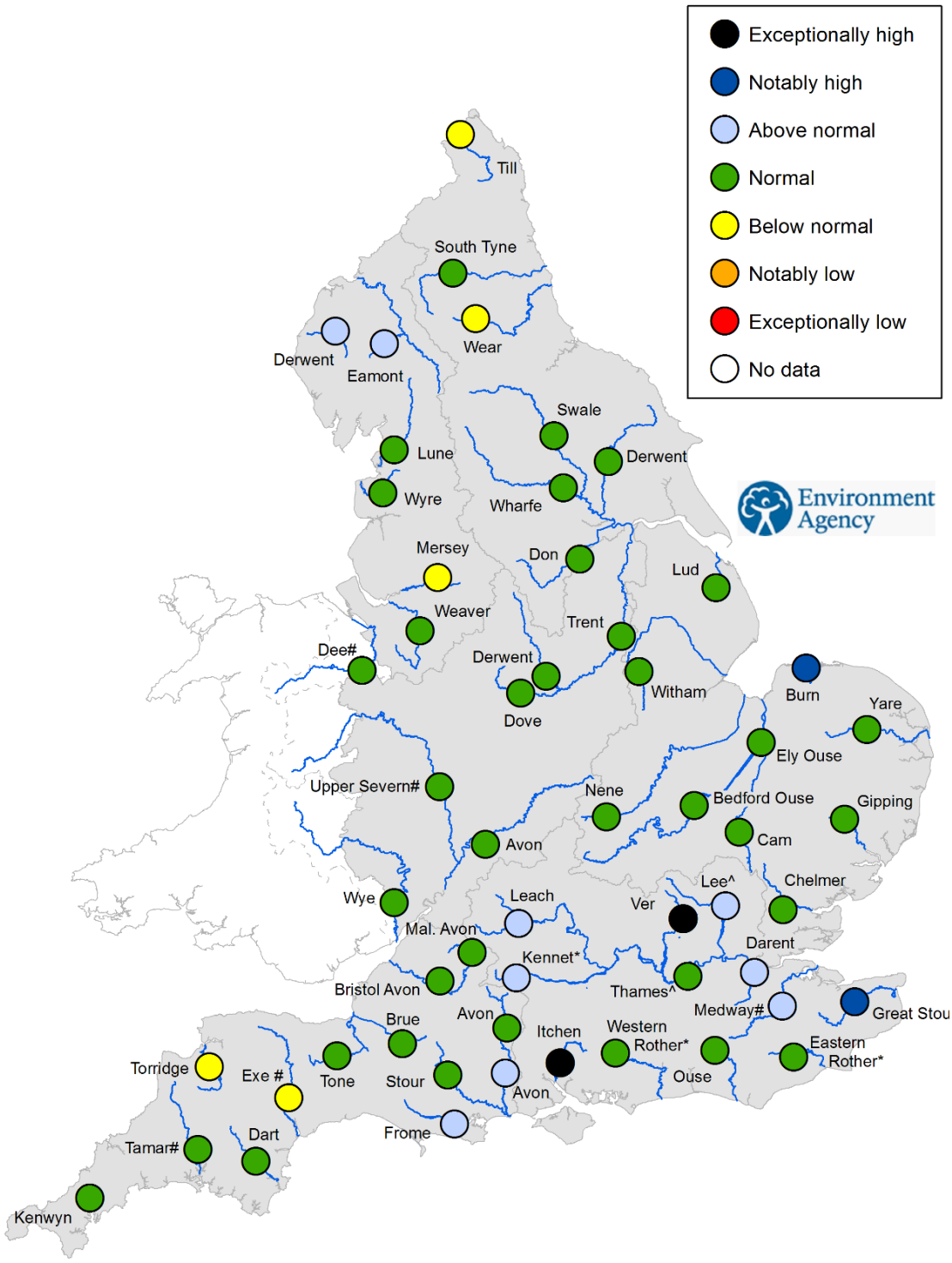


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation 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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