Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 21 August to Tuesday 27 August 2024

Summary: It has been a wetter week across England. River flows have increased at almost two-thirds of reporting sites compared to the previous week, with all river flows now classed as normal or above for the time of year.

Rainfall

It has been wetter week across England compared to the previous week, with all part of the country reporting rainfall totals not observed since mid-July. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 11mm in central, to 57mm in north-west England (Table 1, Figure 1). Rainfall totals for August so far, range from 42% of the long term average (LTA) in east England to 108% of the LTA in north-west England (Table 1).

River flow

Rivers have responded to recent rainfall with flow increasing at almost two-thirds (63%) of reporting sites when compared to the previous week. Flows at all reporting sites were classed as normal or above for the time of year, with the highest flows observed in the north-west and south of England. Flow at 31 sites (56%) were considered normal, while 16 sites (29%) were above normal for the time of year. Four sites (7%) were classed as exceptionally high, with a further 4 as notably high (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday is expected to see a return to dry and sunny conditions for much of the country with a slight chance of light rainfall across the north and west of England. The drier weather is expected to continue throughout Friday and the weekend. Wet conditions are likely to return on Monday, with an increased chance of heavy thundery showers across the south and central areas of England.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 21 to 27 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	57	117	108	91	106	283	117	683	141	1,647	138
north-east	25	48	62	81	131	214	116	477	129	1,165	139
central	11	29	44	68	130	177	105	462	140	1,006	139
east	13	23	42	72	144	169	113	379	135	828	138
south-east	21	38	66	74	152	163	103	473	149	1,052	144
south-west	23	45	59	95	155	214	111	662	156	1,447	142
England	23	45	64	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

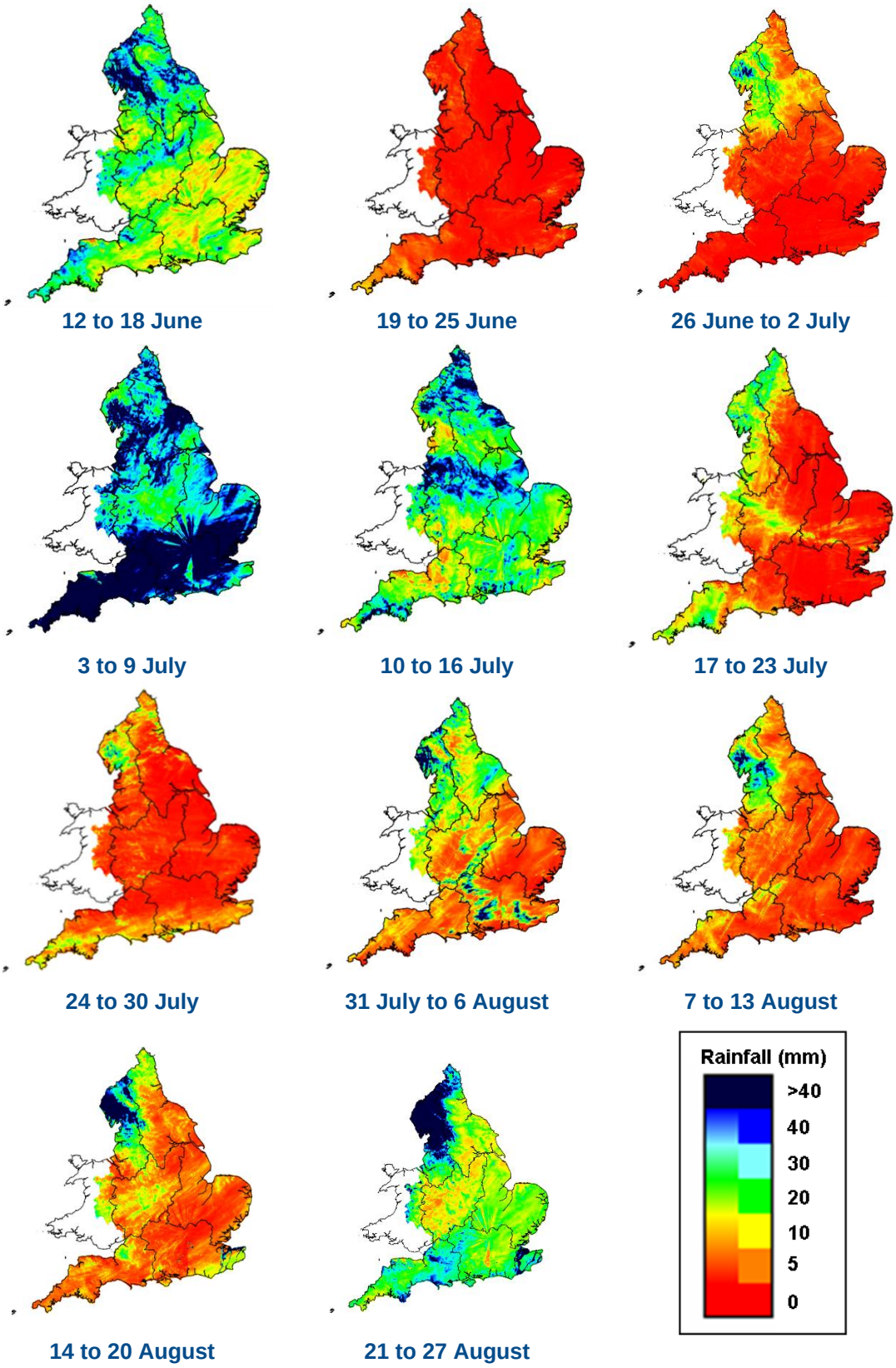
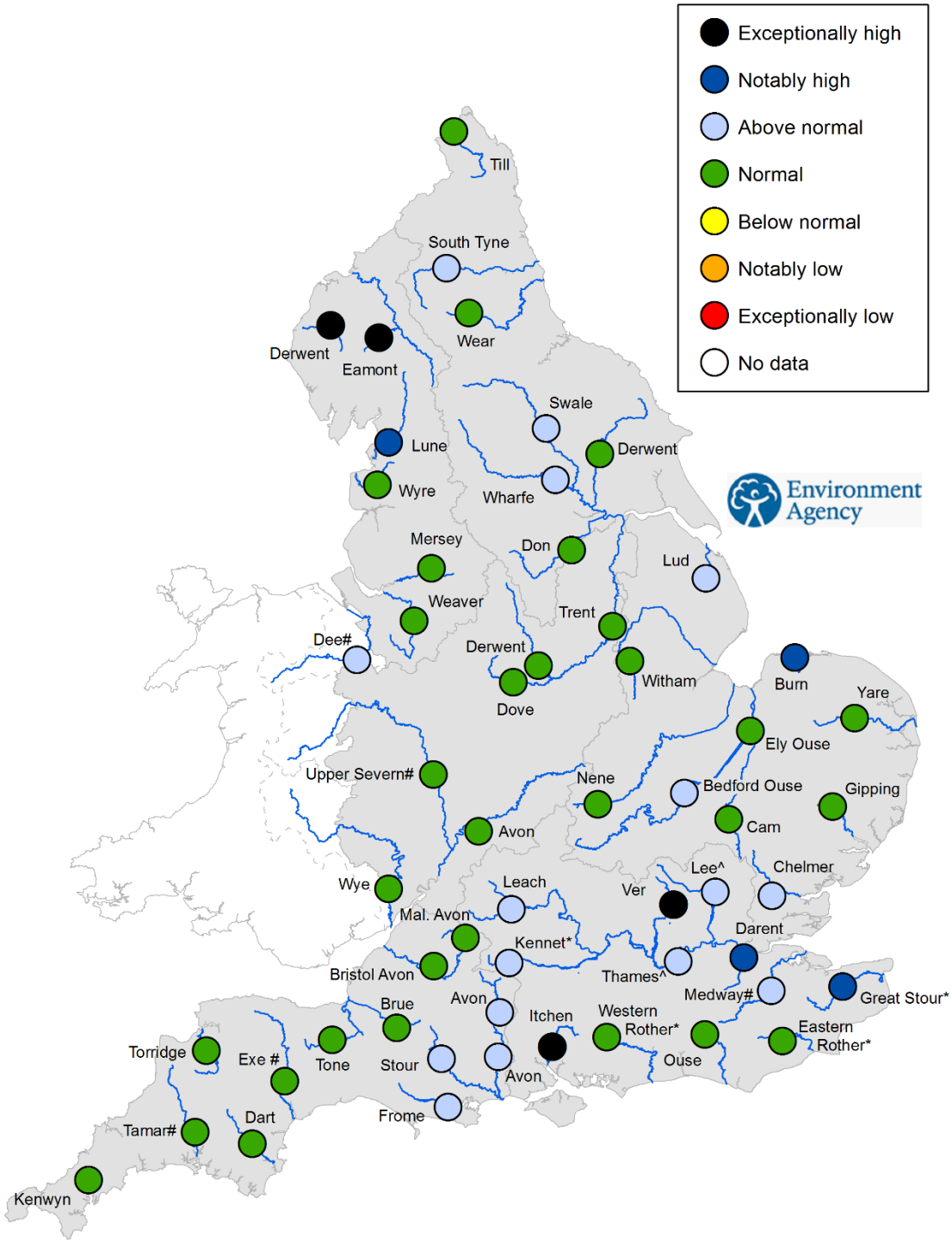


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation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

Return to summary page