Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Wednesday 17 September to Tuesday 23 September 2025

1 Summary

There was a clear north-south divide in rainfall totals this week, with continuing heavy rainfall in the north and very little in the south and east. River flows fell at the majority of sites we report on, although over three-quarters remained in the normal or higher categories for the time of year.

1.1 Rainfall

Rainfall this week was concentrated in northern England and declined progressively towards the south of the country. Weekly accumulations ranged from just 3mm in south-east England to 62mm in the north-west (Table 1 and Figure 2), with most southern and eastern regions receiving less than 10mm. By contrast, both northern regions saw notable rainfall, with the north-east and north-west recording 50mm and 62mm respectively.

Rainfall totals for September to date are well above the long-term averages across England, ranging from 100% of LTA in east England to 166% of LTA in the north-east (Table 1). Overall, England has received 96mm this month, representing 140% of the LTA.

1.2 River flows

River flows decreased at the majority of sites this week, with 47 (87%) showing a fall compared to last week. Despite this, more than three-quarters of sites (42, 78%) remained in the normal or higher flow categories. In total, 28 sites (51%) were classed as normal, while 14 sites (25%) recorded above normal or higher flows, including the Derwent in the north-west and the Upper Severn in central England, which both reached exceptionally high flows for the time of year. At the other end of the scale, 13 sites (23%) were below normal or lower, including three sites in the east that were notably low and one, the Ely Ouse, that was exceptionally low (Figure 3.1).

1.3 Outlook

Thursday will be largely settled with sunny spells, though cloudier in the north-west and south-east where occasional showers are possible. Friday is expected to stay settled and dry before a band of rain moves east on Saturday, with breezier but brighter conditions returning on Sunday. Early next week is likely to be drier and more settled again, with sunshine and temperatures close to average.

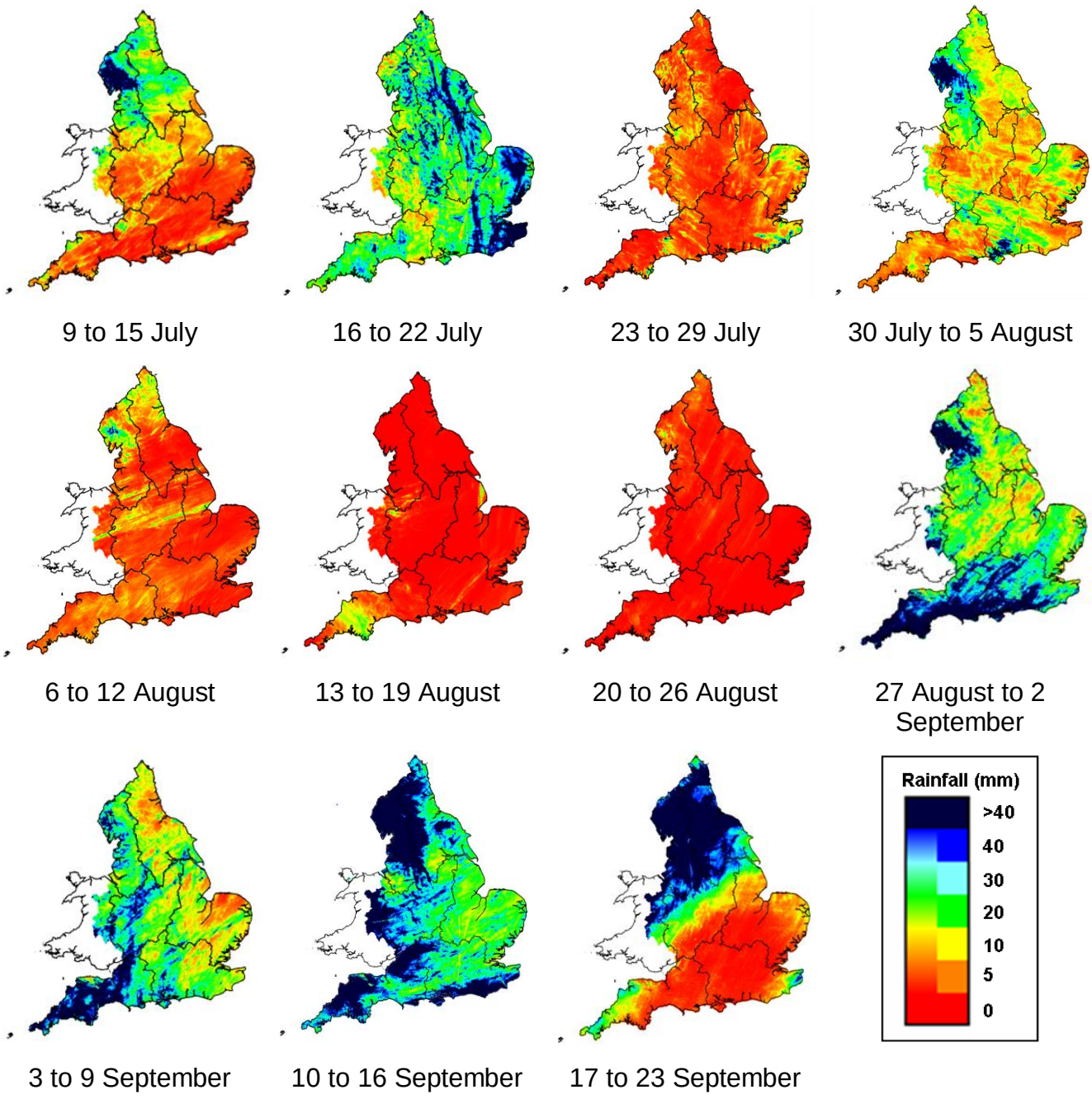
Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2025)

Geographic regions	17 to 23 Sep 2025 total rainfall (mm)	Sep 2025 to date total rainfall (mm)	Sep 2025 to date rainfall % of LTA	Aug 2025 total rainfall (mm)	Aug 2025 rainfall % of LTA	Last 3 months Jun to Aug 2025 total rainfall (mm)	Last 3 months Jun to Aug 2025 rainfall % of LTA	Last 6 months Mar to Aug 2025 total rainfall (mm)	Last 6 months Mar to Aug 2025 rainfall % of LTA	Last 12 months Sep 2024 to Aug 2025 total rainfall (mm)	Last 12 months Sep 2024 to Aug 2025 rainfall % of LTA
north-west	62	175	163	60	55	295	101	418	79	1,090	86
north-east	50	119	166	24	30	142	64	215	54	664	75
central	18	85	139	20	30	100	51	164	46	675	89
east	6	53	100	18	30	99	58	150	50	507	80
south-east	3	77	131	30	48	122	72	173	54	710	92
south-west	9	103	133	49	59	156	70	275	63	1,009	92
England	22	96	140	31	42	142	69	218	58	745	86

Notes: Long term average (LTA) rainfall for 1991 to 2020. 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.

2 Rainfall

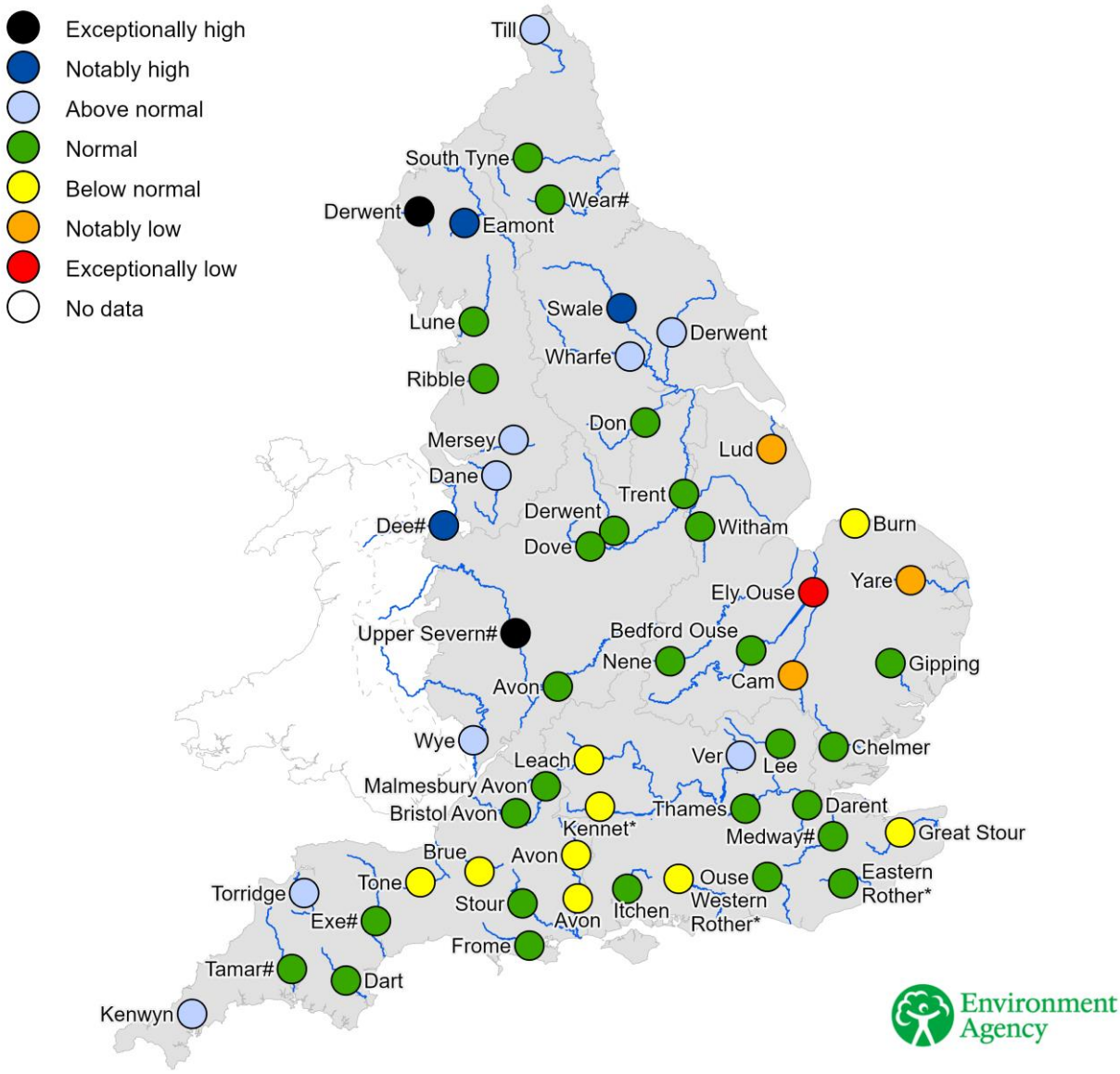
Figure 2: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar. Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation affecting its performance. This does not reflect actual conditions on the ground.



3 River flows

3.1 River flows map

Figure 3.1: Latest daily mean river flow, relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows, classed by flow percentile for the same time of year. River flows for the River Thames at Kingston and the River Lee at Feildes Weir are naturalised. * Flows may be overestimated and data should be treated with caution. # Flows may be impacted by upstream reservoir releases.



3.2 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