

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Wednesday 12 August to Tuesday 18 August 2026

1 Summary

Overall, there has been some rainfall across most parts of England this week with higher totals across northern areas. Rainfall totals for August to date though, remain well below average for the time of year. River flows increased at many sites but remained predominantly below normal, with exceptionally low flows continuing in parts of northeast, east, south-east and south-west England.

1.1 Rainfall

It has been wetter than recent weeks, particularly across northern England, although rainfall totals remained below average across all regions (Table 1 and Figure 2). Rainfall totals ranged from 3mm in south-east England to 20mm in north-west England. Rainfall totals for August to date ranged from only 5% of the LTA in south-east England to 33% in north-west England. For England as a whole, the rainfall total for August to date is 17% of the LTA (Table 1).

1.2 River flows

River flows increased at 60% of the sites we report on when compared to the previous week. A majority of sites remained classed as below normal or lower for the time of year. Seven sites (13% of the total) were classed as normal, and one site (2%) was above normal. Nineteen sites (35%) were classed as below normal and a further 14 sites (26%) were notably low. Thirteen sites (24%) located predominantly across eastern, south-eastern and south-western England were classed as exceptionally low for the time of year (Figure 3.1).

1.3 Outlook

Showery conditions are forecast across parts of England on Thursday, with locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms developing, particularly across central and southern regions. Further showers are expected on Friday, although these should gradually ease through the weekend as a ridge of high pressure builds, bringing drier conditions and increasing sunny spells. It is expected to be largely settled across England on Monday and Tuesday before turning unsettled later.

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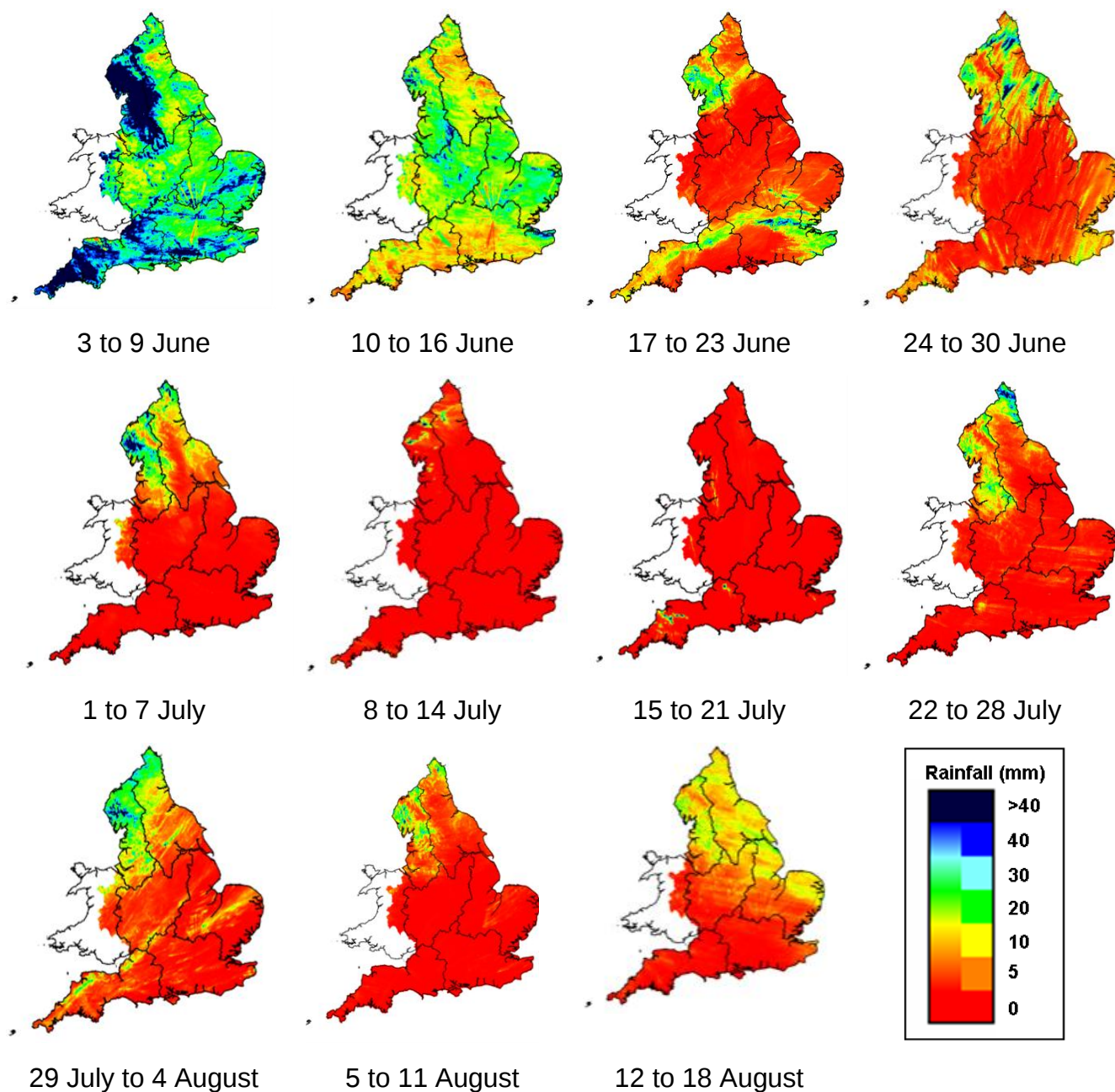
Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2026)

Geographic regions	12 to 18 Aug 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Aug 2026 to date total rainfall (mm)	Aug 2026 to date rainfall % of LTA	Jul 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Jul 2026 rainfall % of LTA	Last 3 months May to Jul 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Last 3 months May to Jul 2026 rainfall % of LTA	Last 6 months Feb to Jul 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Last 6 months Feb to Jul 2026 rainfall % of LTA	Last 12 months Aug 2025 to Jul 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Last 12 months Aug 2025 to Jul 2026 rainfall % of LTA
north-west	20	37	33	26	26	203	79	495	95	1,362	107
north-east	14	24	30	13	19	130	65	314	81	885	100
central	4	6	9	2	3	103	56	284	83	796	104
east	6	7	11	2	3	74	47	181	64	549	87
south-east	3	3	5	1	1	99	63	245	77	755	98
south-west	9	11	13	4	5	130	63	373	85	1,194	109
England	9	13	17	7	10	117	62	299	81	880	101

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.

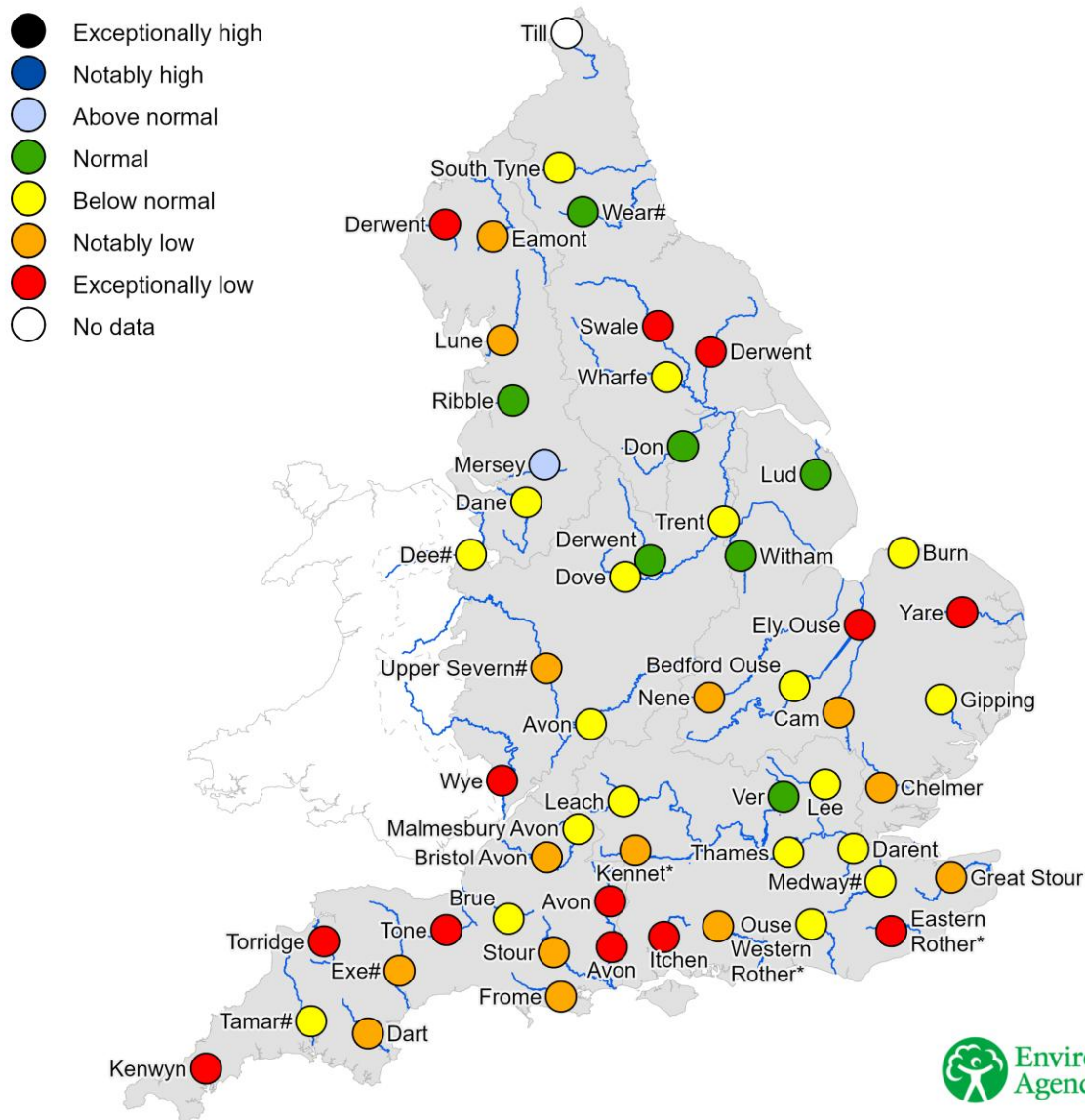


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3 River flows

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.



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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