

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Wednesday 26 August to Tuesday 1 September 2026

1 Summary

Overall, there has been heavier rainfall across most parts of England this week with higher totals across northern areas. Rainfall totals for August are below average for the time of year. River flows increased at many sites but remained largely normal, with notably low flows continuing in parts of east and south-west England.

1.1 Rainfall

It was much wetter than recent weeks across England, and has been the wettest week since early February for England. Rainfall totals ranged from 26mm in south-east England to 48mm in central England (Table 1 and Figure 2). Rainfall totals for August ranged from 54% of the LTA in south-east England to 98% in central England. For England as a whole, the rainfall total for August was 78% of the LTA (Table 1).

1.2 River flows

River flows increased at almost all of the sites we report on when compared to the previous week. Despite this, the majority of sites remained classed as normal or lower for the time of year. One site (2% of the total) was classed as notably high, and three sites (5%) were above normal. Twenty-five sites (45%) were classed as normal and a further 14 sites (25%) were below normal. Eleven sites (20%) were classed as notably low and one site (2%) was 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, which may become heavy, particularly across central and southern regions as we move into Friday. Further showers are expected on Friday, although these should gradually ease through the weekend, bringing drier conditions and increasing sunny spells. It is expected to be largely settled across England on Monday before heavier showers arrive across England on Tuesday.

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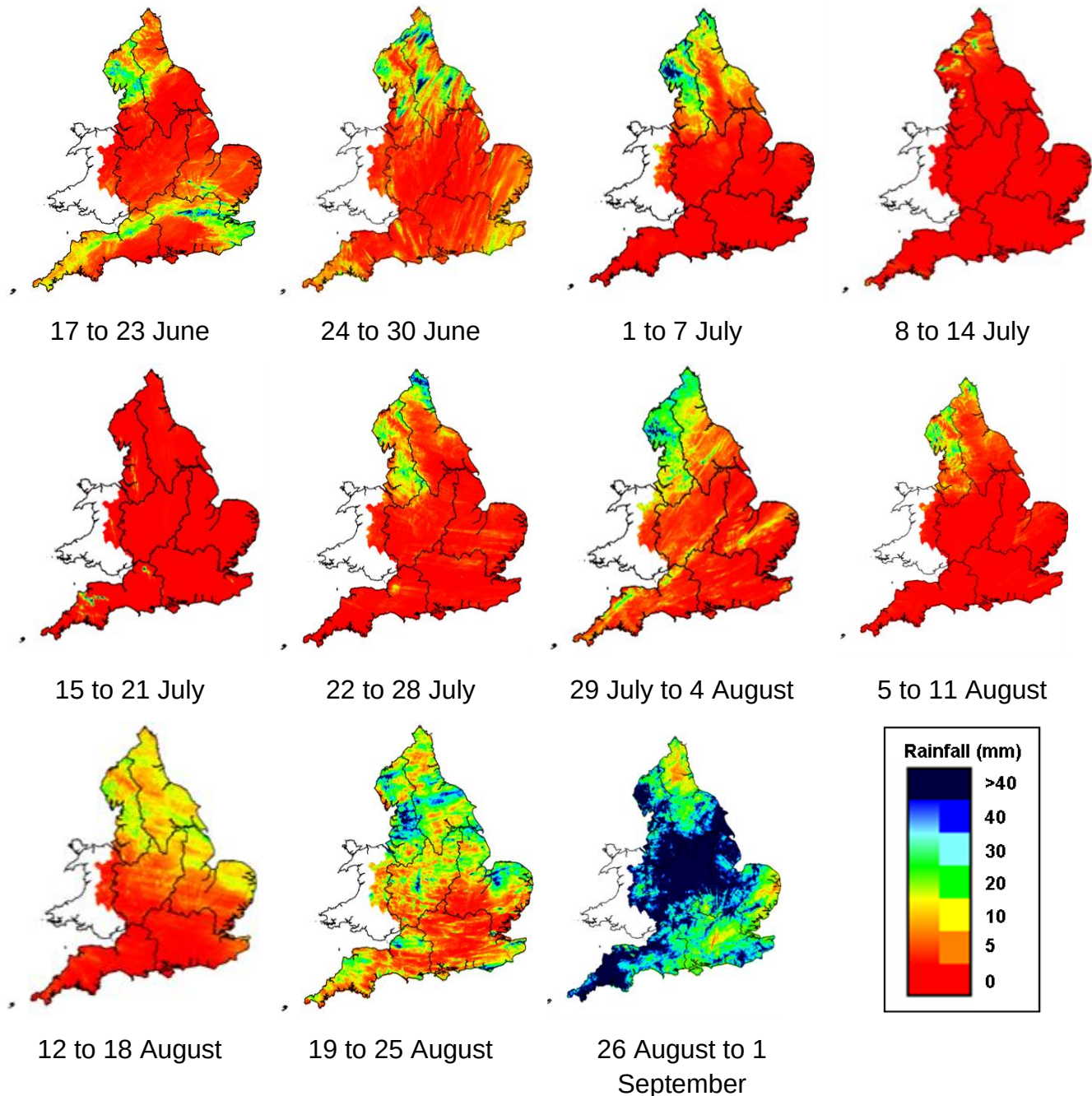
Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2026)

Geographic regions	26 Aug to 1 Sep 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Sep 2026 to date total rainfall (mm)	Sep 2026 to date rainfall % of LTA	Aug 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Aug 2026 rainfall % of LTA	Last 3 months Jun to Aug 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Last 3 months Jun to Aug 2026 rainfall % of LTA	Last 6 months Mar to Aug 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Last 6 months Mar to Aug 2026 rainfall % of LTA	Last 12 months Sep 2025 to Aug 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Last 12 months Sep 2025 to Aug 2026 rainfall % of LTA
north-west	42	3	2	92	84	225	77	472	89	1,394	110
north-east	31	1	2	67	84	136	61	284	71	928	105
central	48	1	2	65	98	124	63	227	64	841	110
east	37	<1	0	53	87	106	62	156	52	583	92
south-east	26	<1	0	34	54	105	62	170	53	758	98
south-west	35	1	1	55	65	141	63	260	60	1,200	110
England	36	<1	1	59	78	133	64	245	65	907	104

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.

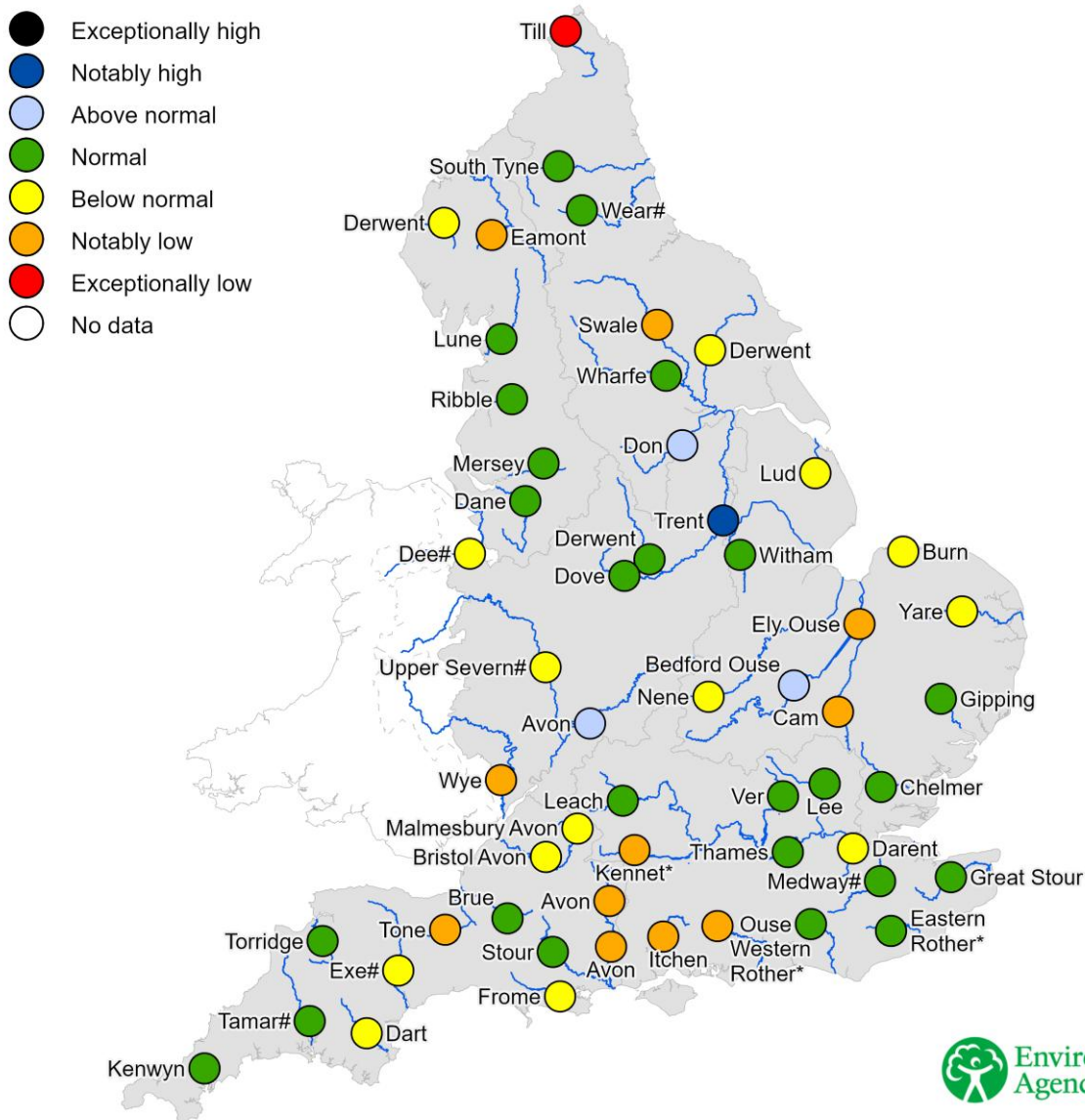


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3 River flows

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