

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Wednesday 16 September to Tuesday 22 September 2026

1 Summary

Most of England had a second week of drier weather, with rainfall totals below 5mm in east, central and south-east England, while conditions remained wettest in the north-west. River flows decreased at almost all of the sites we report on, and all sites were classed as normal or lower for the time of year.

1.1 Rainfall

It has been another drier week for much of England, with all regions except north-west England receiving less than 10mm of rainfall. Rainfall totals ranged from 1mm in east England to 23mm in the north-west (Table 1, Figure 2). For September so far, east and south-east England have received around half of the long term average (LTA) rainfall expected for the month as a whole. In north-west England conditions have been much wetter during September, and 84% of LTA rainfall has been received. For England as a whole, 58% of the September LTA has been received (Table 1).

1.2 River flows

River flows decreased at the majority of sites we report on when compared to the previous week, with all sites classed as normal or lower for the time of year. Nineteen sites (35% of the total), mostly found in north-west and central England, were classed as normal. Twenty-one (38%) were classed as below normal and 10 sites (18%) were classed as notably low. Five sites (9%) were classed as exceptionally low: the River Derwent in the north-east, the Rivers Ouse and Yare in east England, and the Upper Hampshire Avon and River Tone in the south-west.

1.3 Outlook

Thursday will be dry and settled for many, with cloudier conditions moving in from the west later in the day. Friday will see a weakening band of rain moving east through the day, however many areas will remain dry. The weekend is expected to be settled with plenty of sunshine, with a chance of rain in the far north-west late on Sunday. Conditions will remain changeable on Monday and Tuesday, with a chance of rain and strong winds, particularly in western areas, while southern and eastern areas remain more settled and dry.

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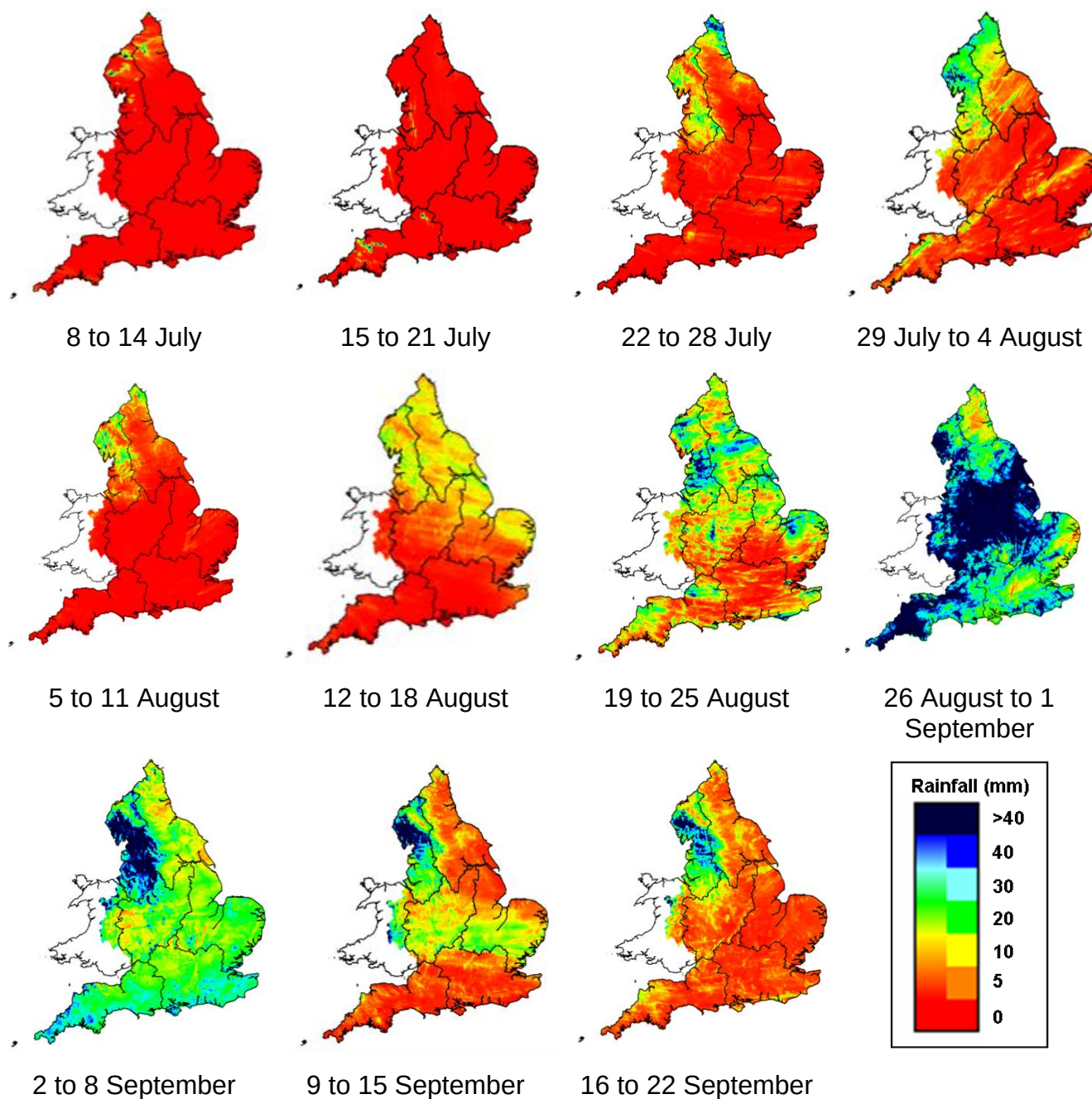
Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2026)

Geographic regions	16 to 22 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	23	90	84	92	84	225	77	472	89	1,394	110
north-east	9	37	52	67	84	136	61	284	71	928	105
central	4	35	58	65	98	124	63	227	64	841	110
east	1	26	49	53	87	106	62	156	52	583	92
south-east	3	30	50	34	54	105	62	170	53	758	98
south-west	7	43	55	55	65	141	63	260	60	1,200	110
England	7	40	58	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.

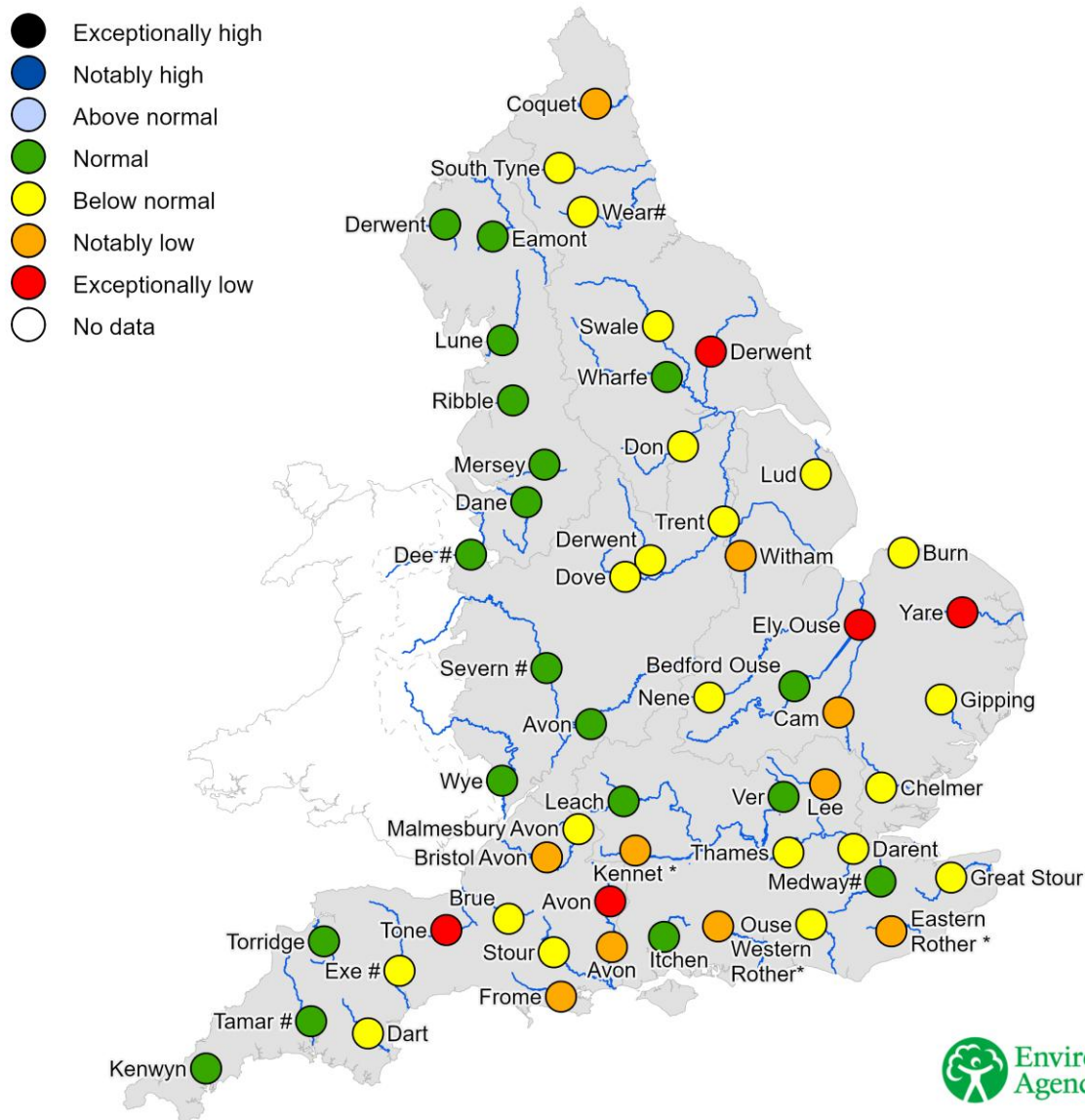


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3 River flows

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