

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 15 to Tuesday 21 October 2014

Summary

Rain affected most parts of England over the previous week, particularly in northwest and southwest England. The cumulative rainfall totals to date are above the October long term average (LTA) rainfall in all areas. River flows have decreased compared to the previous week at almost two-thirds of our indicator sites, but are **normal** or higher for the time of year at all sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 16 mm in eastern England to 53 mm in the northwest (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- The cumulative rainfall totals for the first 3 weeks of October range from 114% of the October LTA in northeast England to 157% in the east (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at the majority of indicators sites across England, although sites in parts of northern England saw flows increase (Figure 2).
- The latest daily mean river flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at all of our indicator sites, with almost two thirds of our indicator sites being **normal** for the time of year. There are 2 sites that are **exceptionally high** for the time of year, located in northwest England (Figure 2).

Outlook

Light and patchy rain on Thursday may become heavier during the day on Friday. The rain is expected to clear on Saturday although isolated showers may affect western parts of England. Low pressure will bring rain on Sunday. Unsettled conditions will continue in the north and west on Monday and Tuesday, with the south and east expected to be generally dry.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 15 - 21 Oct '14	Latest month to date: Oct '14		Last month: Sep '14		Last 3 months: Jul '14 - Sep '14		Last 6 months: Apr '14 - Sep '14		Last 12 months: Oct '13 - Sep '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	53	143	116	15	14	233	78	424	82	1295	112
North East	31	83	114	19	28	186	90	387	101	958	117
Central	20	80	133	12	20	157	89	354	103	912	128
East	16	80	157	16	32	169	110	324	108	717	120
South East	19	99	140	13	21	158	94	340	103	1049	144
South West	35	116	118	15	18	182	84	434	107	1397	138
England	27	97	128	15	22	177	90	372	101	1026	127

Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright)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 is 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.

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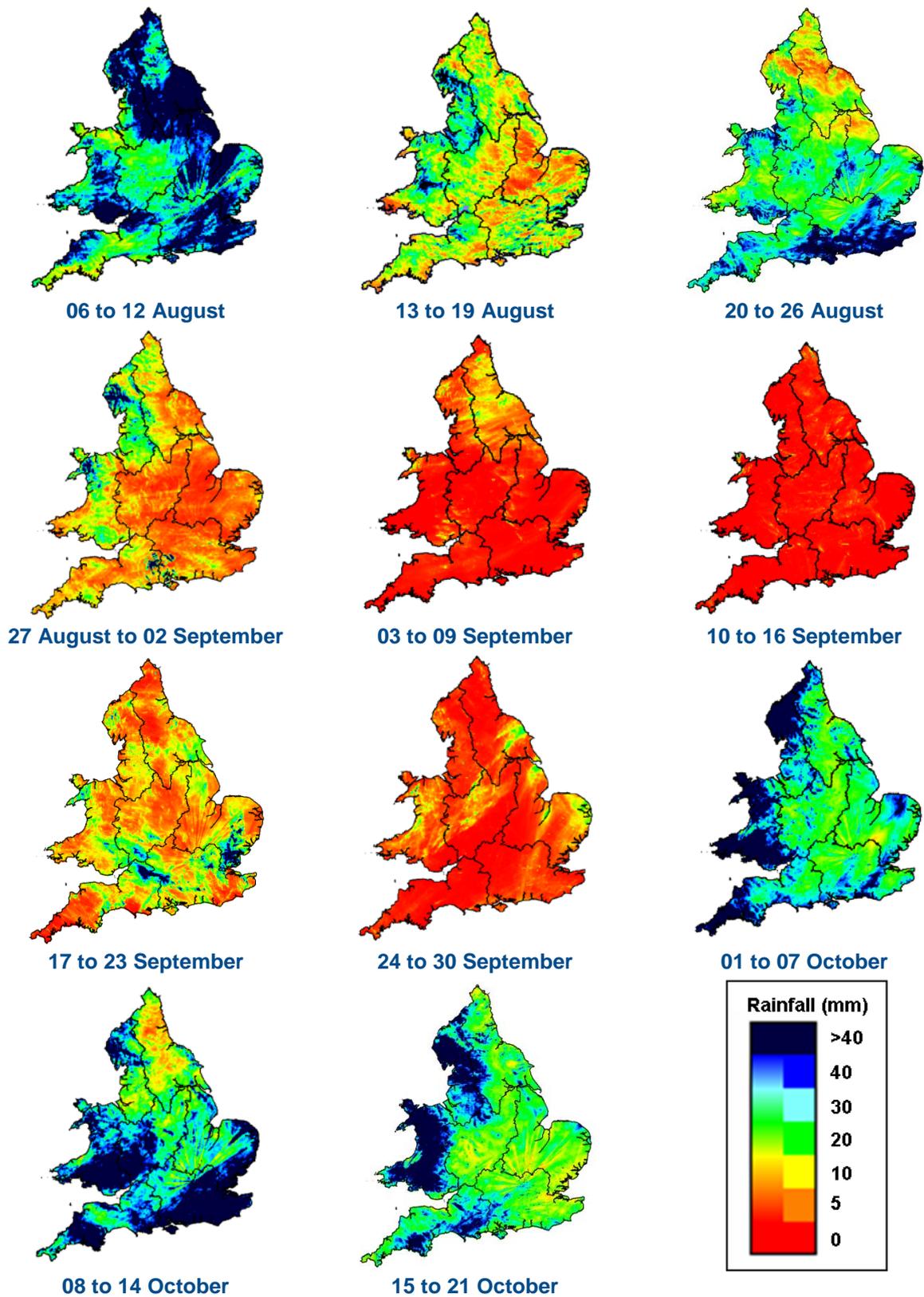
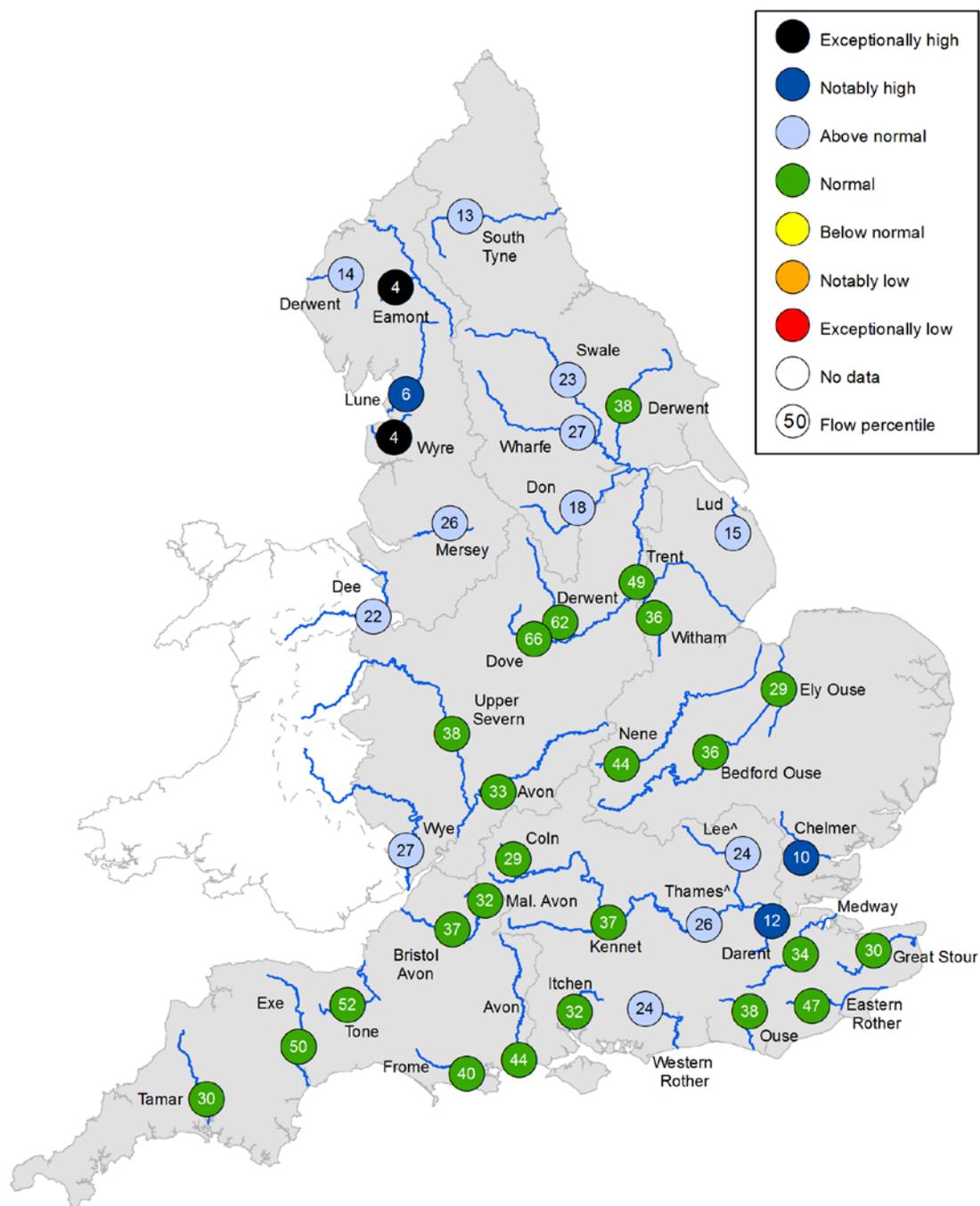


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

River Flow



^ – ‘Naturalised’ flows are provided for the Thames at Kingston and the Lee at Feildes Weir.

Figure 2: Latest daily mean river flow expressed as a percentile² and classed relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows for the same time of year (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

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. For example, a flow percentile of 5 indicates that the current flow has only been equalled or exceeded approximately 5% of the time within the historic record for that time of year – i.e. a very high flow. A flow percentile of 95 indicates that the current flow has been equalled or exceeded approximately 95% of the time – i.e. a low flow. Flow percentiles presented relate to an analysis for the time of year and not a whole year.