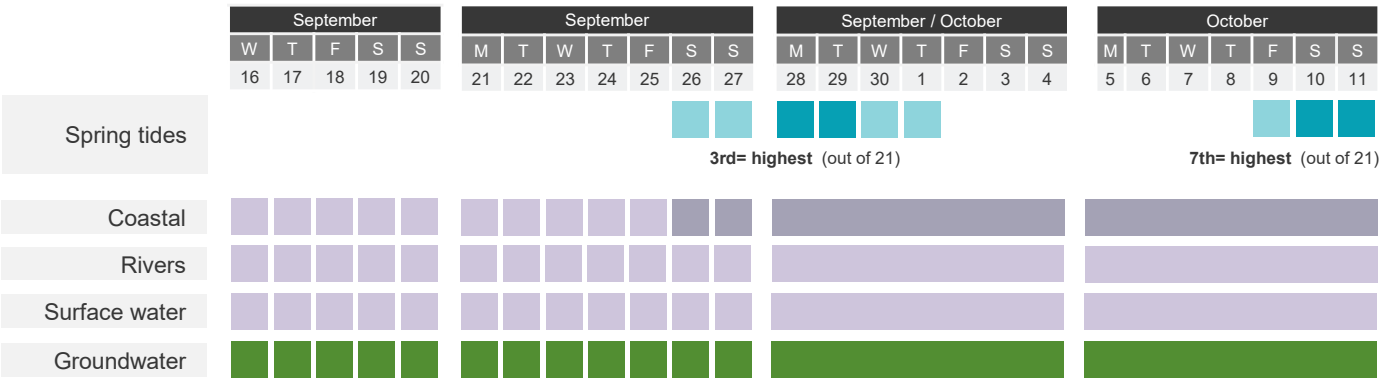
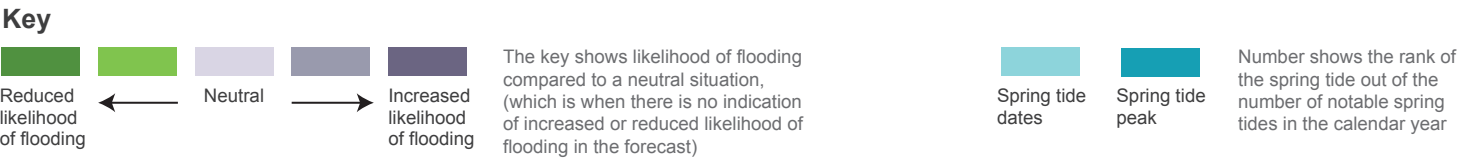


## Flood Forecast for England and Wales

There is no strong signal for significant or severe flooding in this period. Localised inland or coastal flooding remains possible at times.



The forecast is made at a national scale to provide an overview for England and Wales.



# Flood Outlook

16 September 2026 to 11 October 2026

Issued 11/09/2026

Next Issue 25/09/2026

**FLOOD  
FORECASTING  
CENTRE**

A working partnership between  
Environment  
Agency

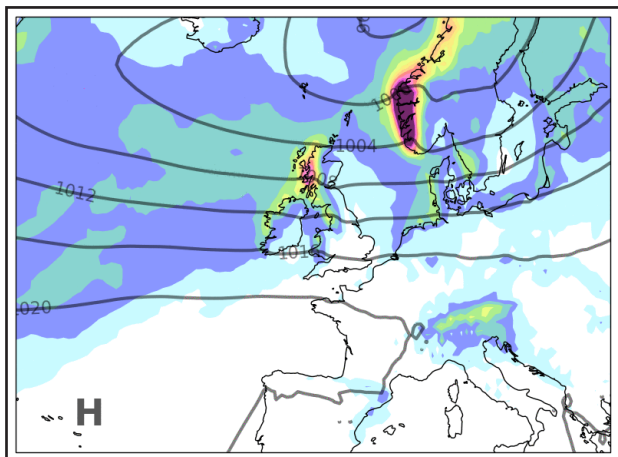
Met Office

Flood Forecast

Weather Assessment

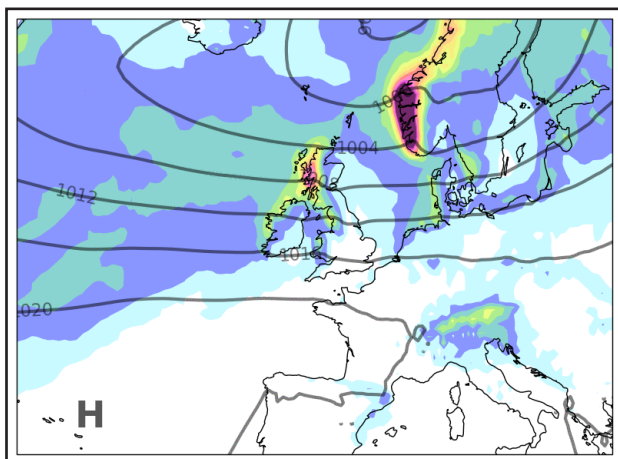
Hydrological Assessment

Q and A



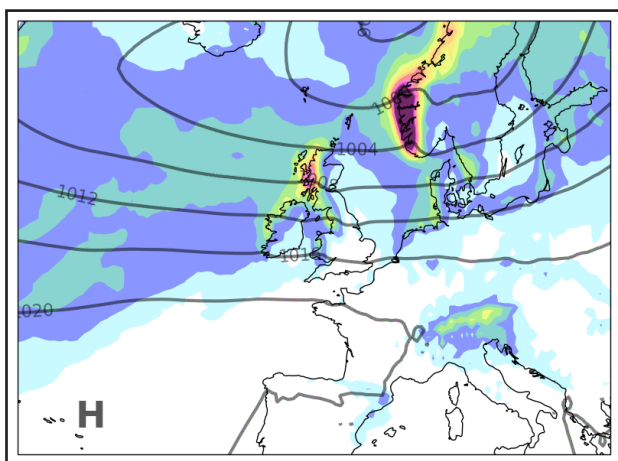
## Mid September

- It is expected to be unsettled at first with low pressure close to or to the north of the UK
- This would bring periods of persistent rain, mainly across the north and west, along with windy conditions



## Mid to Late September

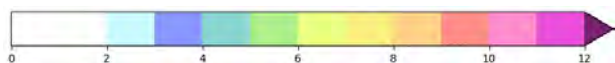
- It is expected to remain predominately changeable and unsettled, with low pressure systems passing to the north or north-west of the UK
- This would bring a continuation of wet and windy weather, with the heaviest rain and strongest winds most likely focused across the north and west of England and Wales, with the south and east remaining drier
- Some deeper low pressure systems are possible at times



## Early October

- Low confidence in the weather patterns for the start of October
- However, it is most likely that it will remain unsettled through this period, with further low pressure systems running to the north or north-west of the UK
- This will likely bring further periods of persistent rainfall, mainly across the north and west, along with spells of windy weather

### Key

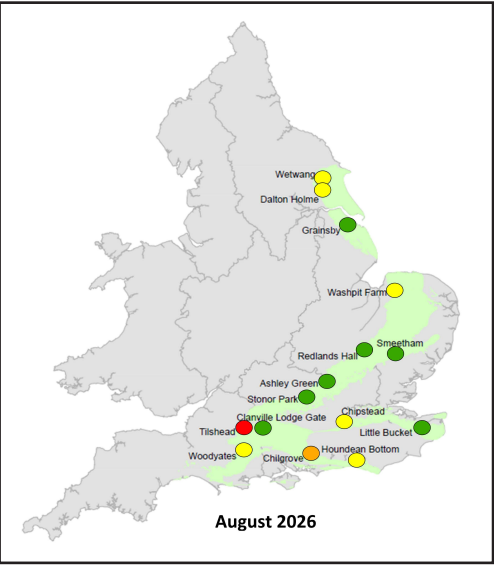


- Dominant pressure pattern shown by isolines
- Filled, coloured contours show typical daily precipitation distribution (mm/day)

## Met Office 3-month outlook September to November

- It's somewhat more likely to be wet than dry for the 3-month period as a whole
- 15% chance the season will be dry. This is x0.8 the normal chance
- 55% chance the season will be near average. This is x0.9 the normal chance
- 30% chance the season will be wet. This is x1.5 the normal chance

[View and download the full Met Office 3-month Outlook](#)



### Observed groundwater levels

The map shows groundwater levels at indicator locations relative to historic levels for the month, where groundwater presents a flooding risk. For areas not shown, groundwater flood risk is very low.

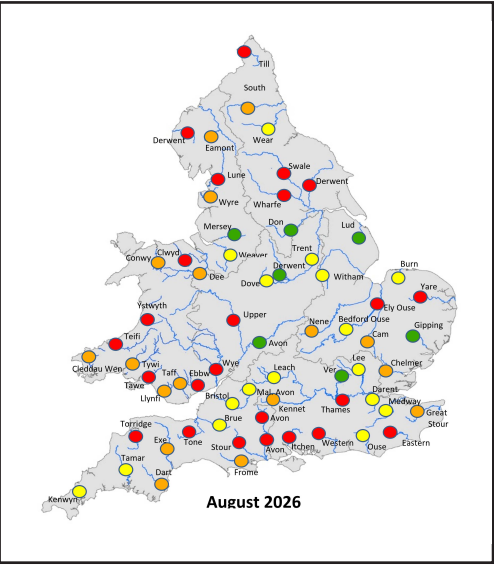
- Groundwater levels during August were mainly normal with some areas below normal
- Levels are expected to continue around normal or below, this is unlikely to be reversed by any spells of rain

#### Key

|                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Exceptionally high                                                                | Notably high                                                                      | Above normal                                                                      | Normal                                                                             | Below normal                                                                        | Notably low                                                                         | Exceptionally low                                                                   | No data                                                                             |

Geology of Aquifers

 Chalk



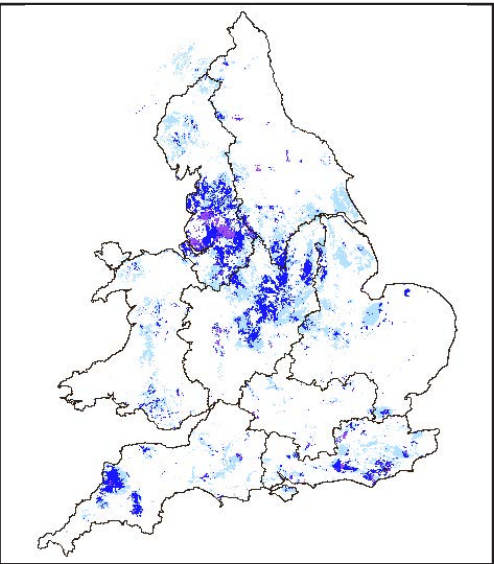
### River flows

For mid-month issues the map shows monthly mean river flows for England and Wales, relative to historic means for the month. For end of month issues the map shows daily mean river flows for England only, relative to historic daily mean flows for that time of year.

- River flows in August were mainly below normal to exceptionally low, with a small number of sites at normal
- River flows may increase at times during periods of wetter weather, and over time with successive bands of rain there may be a general increase in catchment sensitivity and river levels in places

#### Key

|                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Exceptionally high                                                                  | Notably high                                                                        | Above normal                                                                        | Normal                                                                               | Below normal                                                                          | Notably low                                                                           | Exceptionally low                                                                     | No data                                                                               |



### Sensitivity to rainfall

The map shows sensitivity to rainfall based on the subsurface water storage relative to the historic maximum of the 2007 to 2015 monthly mean values.

- Rainfall sensitivity was low for the majority of England and Wales on 11 September, though some increased sensitivity was present following the recent wet spell
- Sensitivity to rainfall is expected to remain mainly low, but may temporarily increase locally after spells of rain, with a general increase in sensitivity possible in areas affected by successive bands of rainfall

#### Key

|                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |
| High                                                                                | Medium                                                                              | Low                                                                                 |                                                                                      |

## Who is the Flood Outlook for?

The Flood Outlook is for planners who need to make decisions at a timescale of 6 to 30 days. These users are aware of the complexities of this type of outlook and will include those factors in the decision-making process.

## What does the Flood Outlook show?

The Flood Outlook provides decision-makers with an overview of when an increased or reduced likelihood of flooding is forecast. The assessment is made at a national scale to provide an overview for England and Wales.

## What is the difference between the Flood Outlook and the Flood Guidance Statement?

The assessments in the Flood Outlook and Flood Guidance Statement (FGS) are different. This is because at different lead times different information is available at different scales.

The Flood Outlook is a national overview product showing likelihood of flooding. It:

- gives a broad indication of coastal and inland flooding in the next 4 weeks over England and Wales, excluding the first 5 days
- uses a simpler likely/unlikely scale rather than the detailed FGS levels of likelihood
- gives an indication of possible flood impacts in the headline and summary text

The Flood Guidance Statement (FGS) is a five-day county risk-based product. It:

- shows the forecast level of flood risk for the coming 5 days for surface water, river, groundwater, and coastal flooding
- uses a detailed risk matrix approach, based on a combination of both likelihoods and impacts
- forecasts at a county and local authority scale

## When is the Flood Outlook issued?

The Flood Outlook is issued twice a month, on a Friday.

## What information is the Flood Outlook based on?

The Flood Outlook is based on a combination of weather and tidal forecasts, hydrological conditions and professional judgement. The confidence of the forecast is reflected in the flood likelihood given. For current river flow information please refer to the [Environment Agency](#) and [Natural Resources Wales](#)

We classify notable spring tides as when the astronomical tide level is predicted to reach 2.4m OD(N) or higher at North Shields.

## Does the Flood Outlook cover the whole of the UK?

The Flood Outlook covers England and Wales. It assesses the overall conditions over England and Wales as a whole.

## Can I access training on the Flood Outlook?

There are short [Flood Outlook training videos](#) available online. We can also provide webinar training to organisations on request.

## Can I ask for more information on the Flood Outlook?

Yes. Contact the Flood Forecasting Centre via [ffcenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:ffcenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk) or **0330 135 4400**

## How can I receive the Flood Outlook?

You can sign up to access the latest outlook by subscribing through your [Flood Forecasting Centre user profile](#), or by visiting the Met Office's [Hazard Manager tool](#).

## Acknowledgements

The images on the second and third pages have been provided courtesy of Met Office, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales and the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.