

Flood Forecast

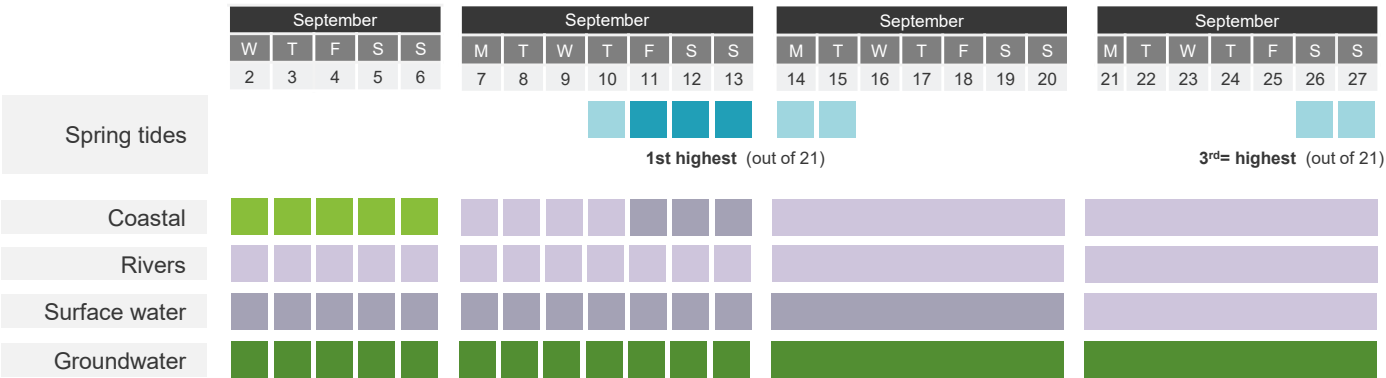
Weather Assessment

Hydrological Assessment

Q and A

Flood Forecast for England and Wales

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

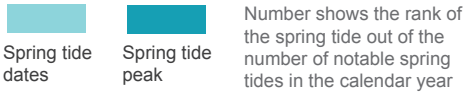


The forecast is made at a national scale to provide an overview for England and Wales.

Key



The key shows likelihood of flooding compared to a neutral situation, (which is when there is no indication of increased or reduced likelihood of flooding in the forecast)



Headlines

- With two high sets of spring tides in this period and the chance of this coinciding with unsettled weather, there is an increased likelihood of coastal flood impacts
- There remains an increased likelihood of further surface water flooding through much of September

Weather and Hydrological Assessment

- There is a signal for more unsettled weather for much of September, with low pressure bringing rain and the chance of strong winds at times
- River flows and groundwater levels are at or below normal and this is expected to broadly continue despite the unsettled signal

Coastal

- Spring tides in mid September are the highest of the year. With a chance of unsettled weather, there is an increased likelihood of flooding
- Another set of high spring tides at the end of the month coincides with a period of uncertainty in weather type. Should it be unsettled, flooding could be possible

Rivers and Surface Water

- Surface water impacts are the most likely form of flooding, either from periods of sustained rainfall or heavy showers
- Rivers are expected to remain at levels which are at or below normal throughout the period. Short lived increases in river levels are locally possible in any prolonged wet weather

Groundwater

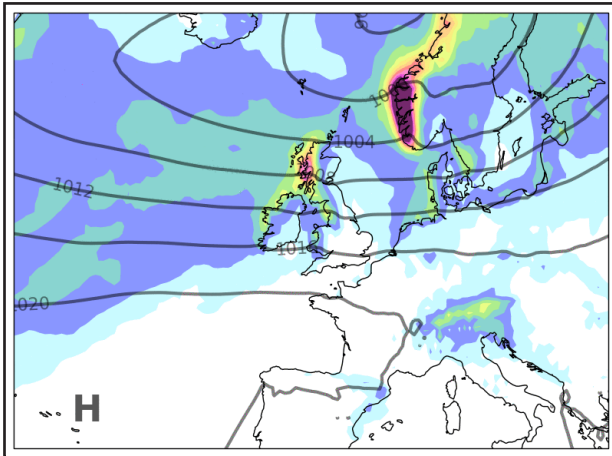
- Groundwater levels are expected to continue to be normal or below normal
- Groundwater flooding impacts are not expected

Flood Forecast

Weather Assessment

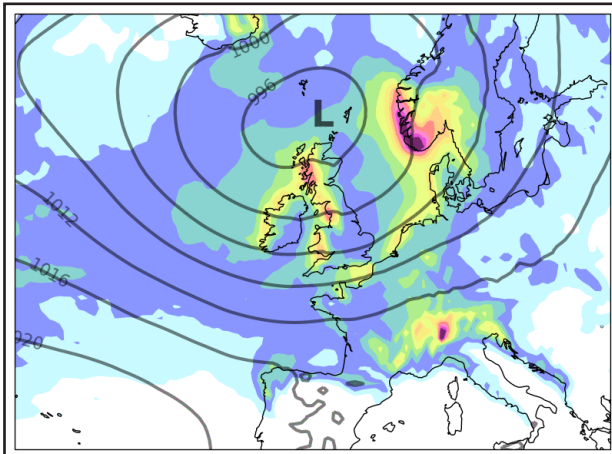
Hydrological Assessment

Q and A



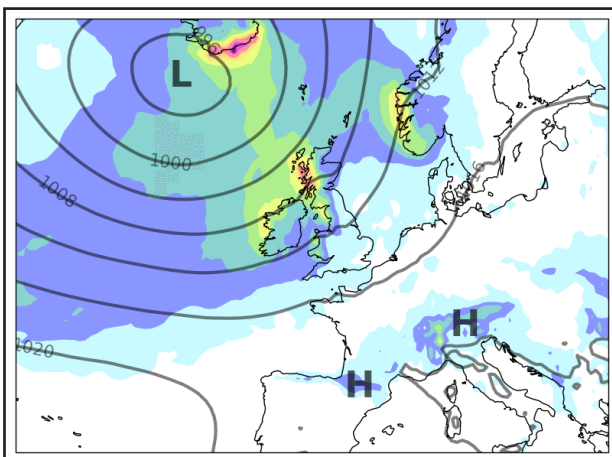
## Early to Mid September

- Continuation of a mostly westerly flow and generally unsettled conditions
- Transient periods of more settled weather at times
- Deeper Atlantic lows are possible at times in this period, as shown below



## Early to Mid September

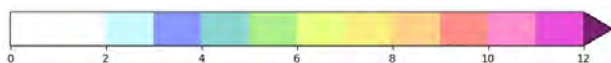
- Also some signal for some deeper Atlantic lows moving close to the UK
- This would bring periods of strong winds and heavier rain, these most likely focused towards western areas



## Late September

- Very low confidence at this lead time of the weather being different from typical late September weather
- Therefore weather similar to the seasonal average is a good base for any predictions
- Wetter conditions are most likely towards the north and west, with the south and east the most likely to see drier conditions

### Key

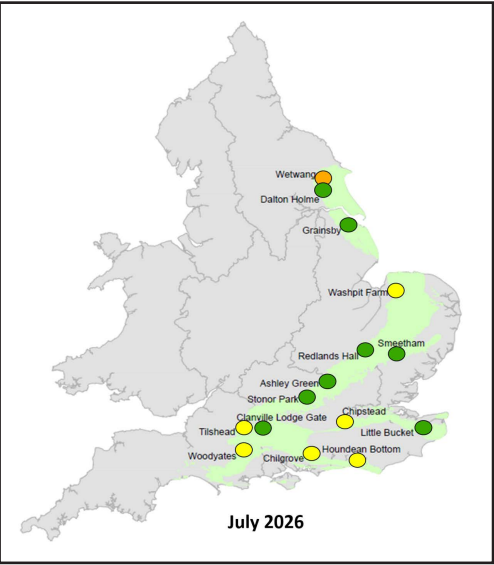


- Dominant pressure pattern shown by isolines
- Filled, coloured contours show typical daily precipitation distribution (mm/day)

## Met Office 3-month outlook September to November

- Its 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

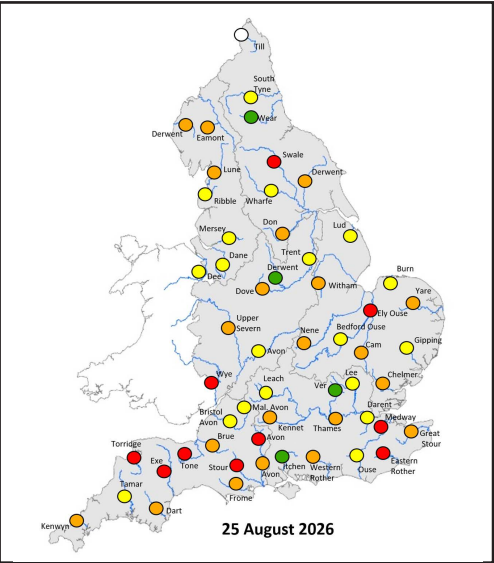
[View and download the full Met Office 3-month Outlook](#)



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.

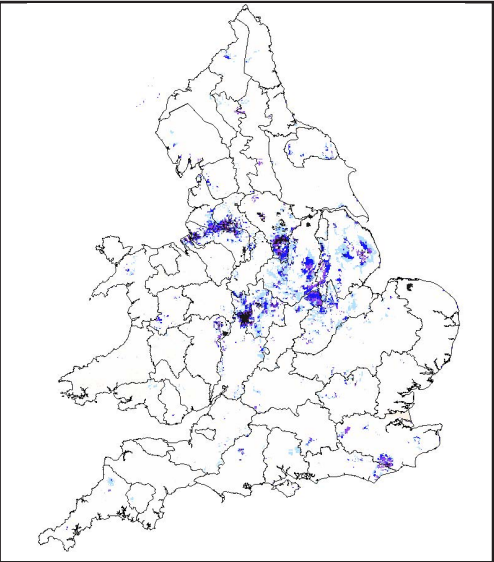
- Groundwater levels during July were either normal or below normal
- Levels are expected to continue to be normal or below, this is unlikely to be reversed by any spells of rain



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.

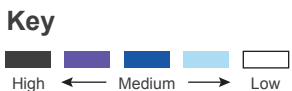
- Most river flows were below normal at the end of August, with many areas seeing notably or exceptionally low flows
- River flows may increase for a time in some areas given the expected wetter weather, but given the starting conditions, any increase is likely to be short-lived and overall, they are expected to remain largely below normal in this period



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 is low for the vast majority of England and Wales on the 28th of August, though some short-lived increased sensitivity is present following heavy rainfall yesterday
- Sensitivity to rainfall is expected to remain mainly low, enhancing the resilience of catchments, but may temporarily increase locally after spells of rain



## 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.