

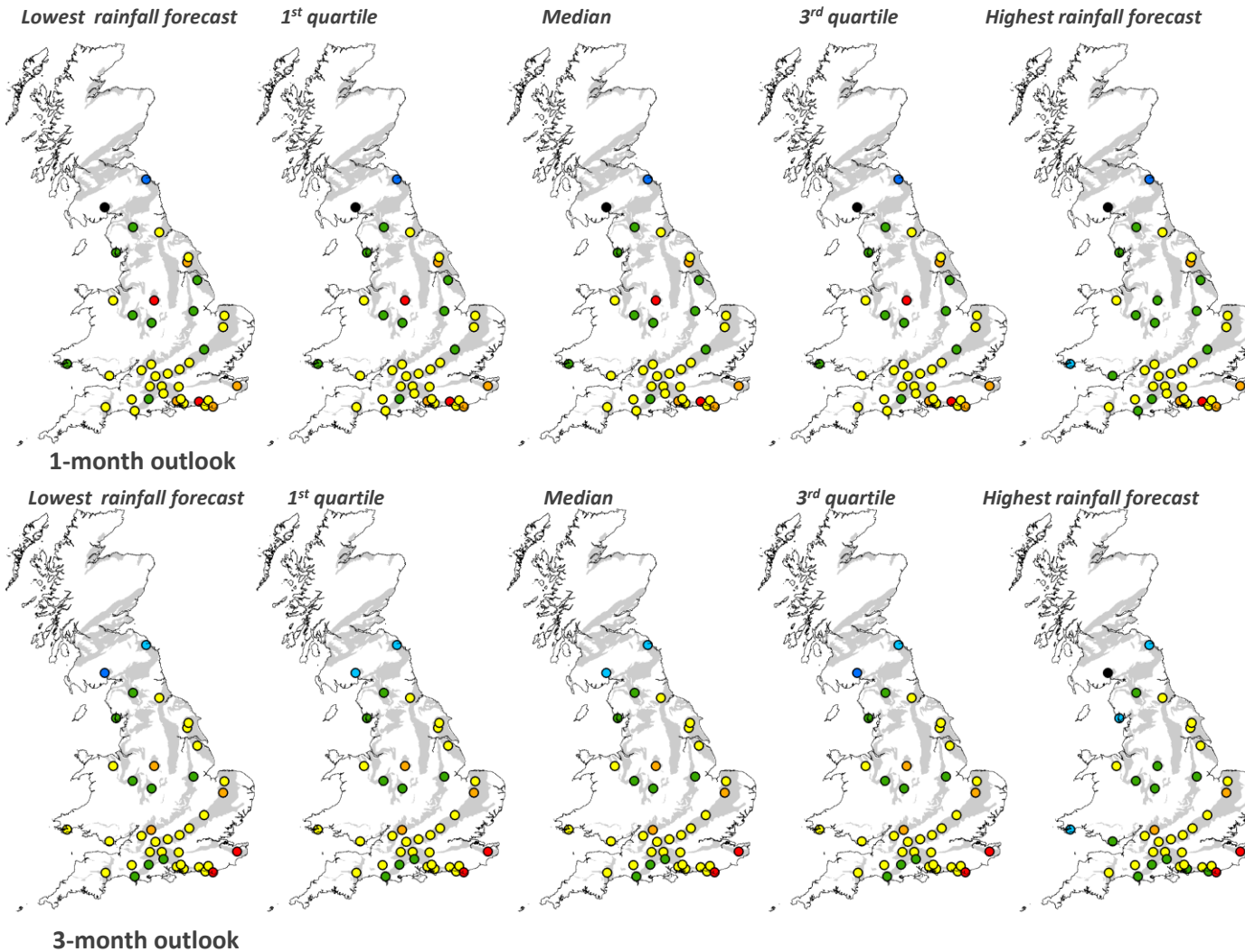
Period: May 2017 – July 2017

Issued on 05.05.2017 using data to the end of April

Over the next month the outlook for the majority of the chalk aquifer is for below normal levels. In other aquifers the outlook is mixed, reflecting regional variations in spring rainfall and aquifer storage capacity. Permo Trias aquifers in northern Britain will remain notably high, while Carboniferous aquifers in the midlands will be low. Over the three months to July it is likely that below normal levels in the Chalk will persist., with notably low levels in some parts of the south east, but more normal levels in the south west .

These forecasts are produced by running five members of the Met Office ensemble climate forecast through groundwater models of observation borehole hydrographs at 42 sites across the country. The sites are distributed across the principal aquifers.

Based on the distribution of observed historical groundwater levels in a given month, seven categories have been derived for each site: very low, low, below normal, normal, above normal, high, and very high. The forecast groundwater level is assigned to one of these seven categories depending on where it falls within the distribution of the historically observed values.



Key	Percentile range of historic observed values for relevant month
Exceptionally high levels	> 95
Notably high levels	87-95
Above normal	72-87
Normal	28-72
Below normal	13-28
Notably low levels	5-13
Exceptionally low levels	< 5

