

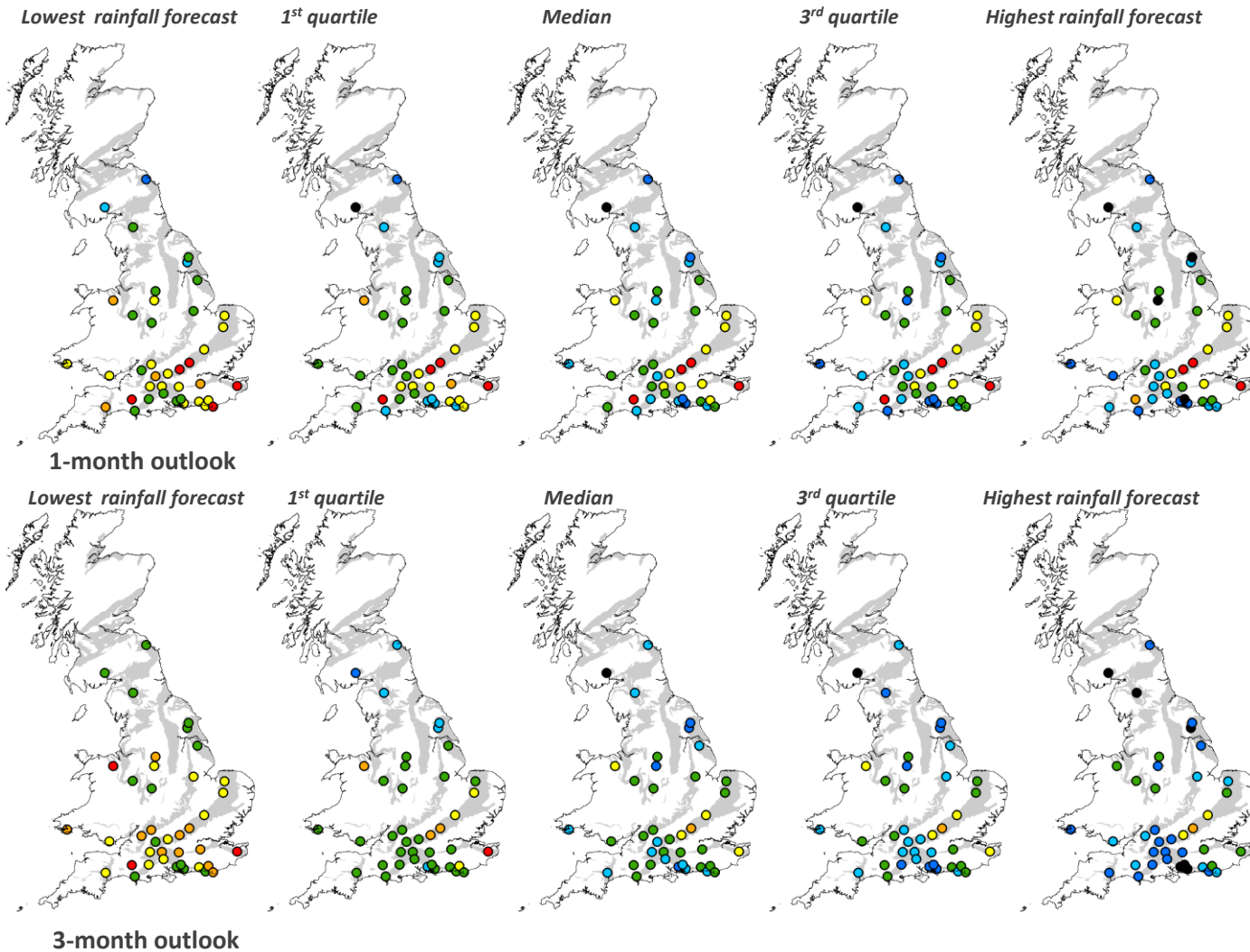
Period: October 2017 – December 2017

Issued on 06.10.2017 using data to the end of September

Over the next month a continuation of mixed levels in the Chalk aquifer is likely. Responsive parts of the aquifer, especially in the south and west will trend towards normal, or even above normal levels in some locations, but slower responding parts of the aquifer will continue to exhibit low levels in Kent and north of London. In the Yorkshire Chalk and midland aquifers levels will be normal, with higher levels further north. Over 3 months the outlook is for normal to above normal levels in most aquifers, apart from the slowly responding Chalk.

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
Black	Exceptionally high levels > 95
Dark Blue	Notably high levels 87-95
Light Blue	Above normal 72-87
Green	Normal 28-72
Yellow	Below normal 13-28
Orange	Notably low levels 5-13
Red	Exceptionally low levels < 5

