

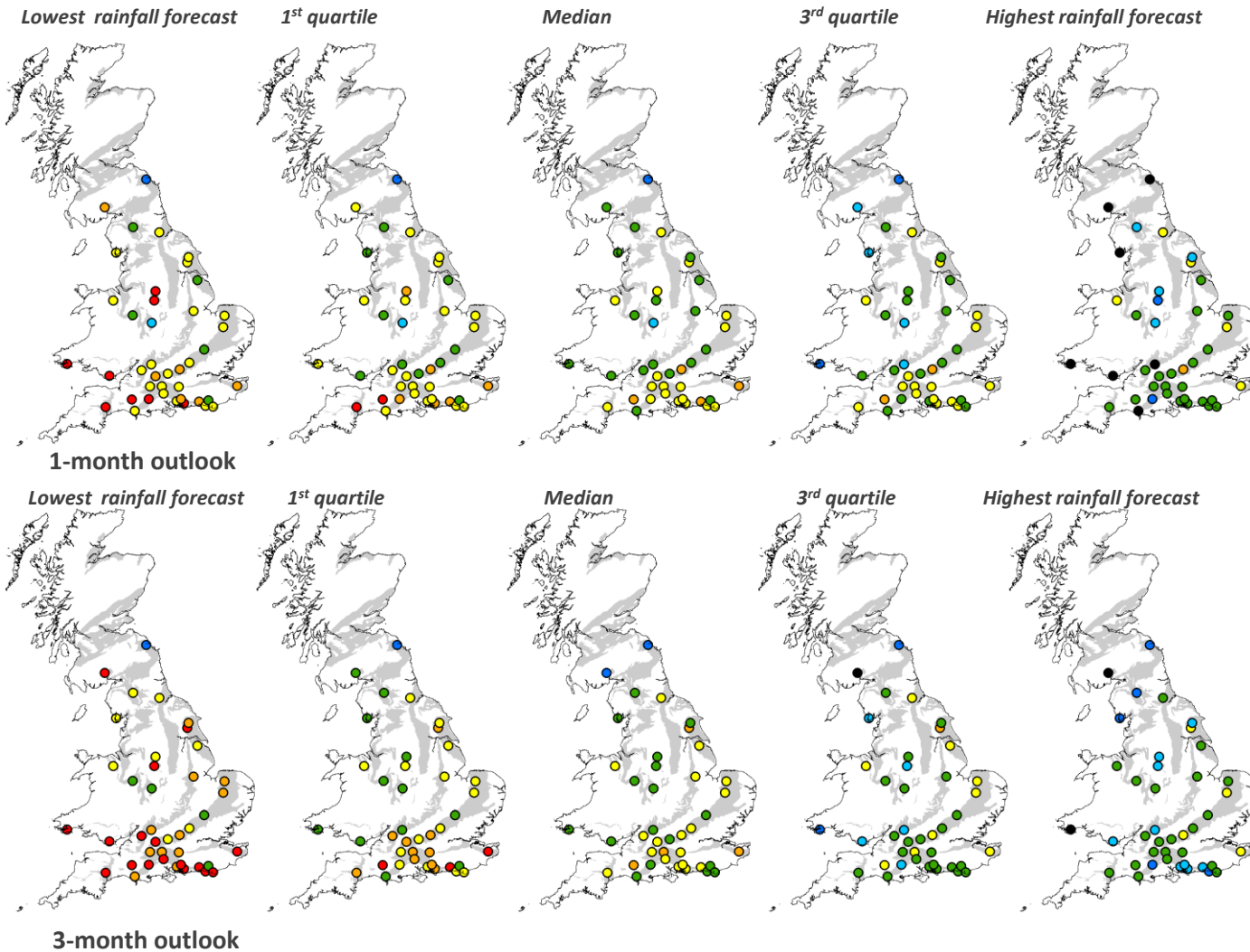
Period: February 2017 – April 2017

Issued on 06.02.2017 using data to the end of January

Accumulated rainfall deficits now make below normal, occasionally notably low, levels likely over the next month in many Chalk aquifers and in some Permo Triassic sandstones and limestones in England and Wales. The three month outlook is less certain, but even with above average rainfall Chalk water levels are likely to remain below normal in some areas.

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	> 95
Dark Blue	87-95
Light Blue	72-87
Green	28-72
Yellow	13-28
Orange	5-13
Red	< 5

