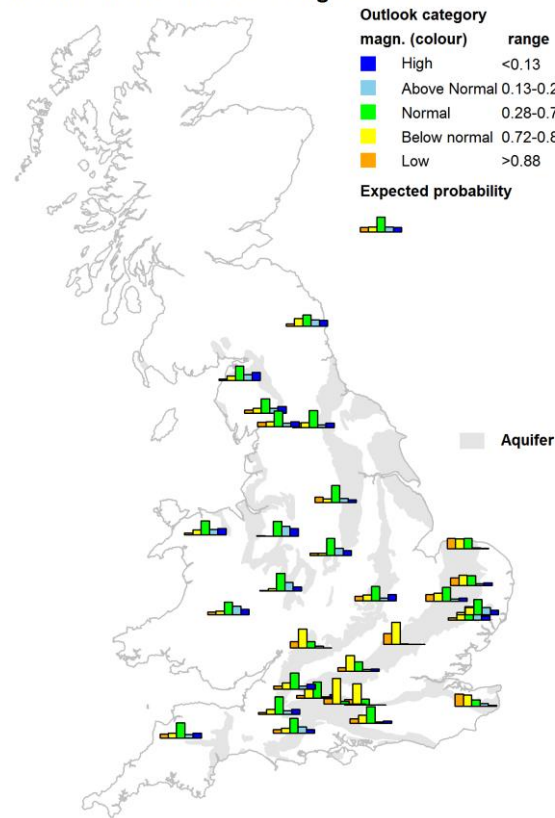


Period: March 2017 – February 2018

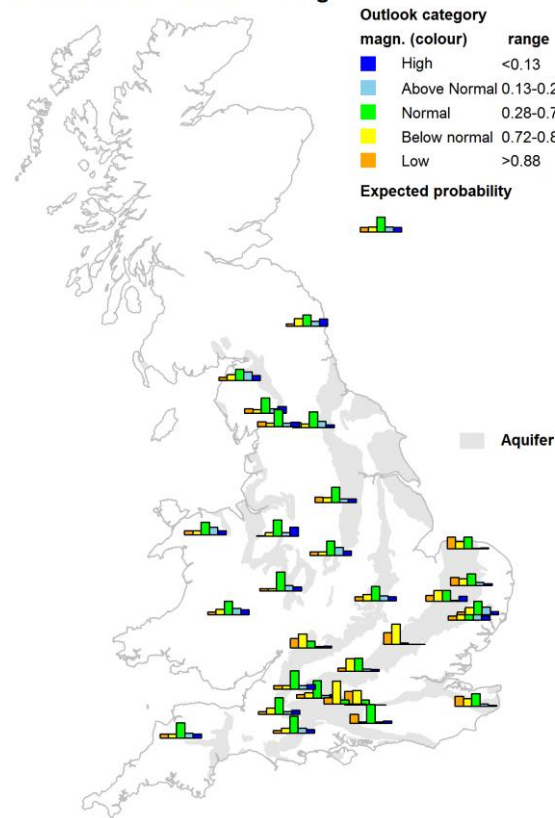
Issued on 08.03.2017 using data to the end of February

River flows in the Midlands and Wales are likely to be normal to above normal over the next three months, with a decreased likelihood of below normal flows. In the south-east of England, flows over the next three to six months are likely to be normal to below normal, with some catchments showing a stronger below normal signal.

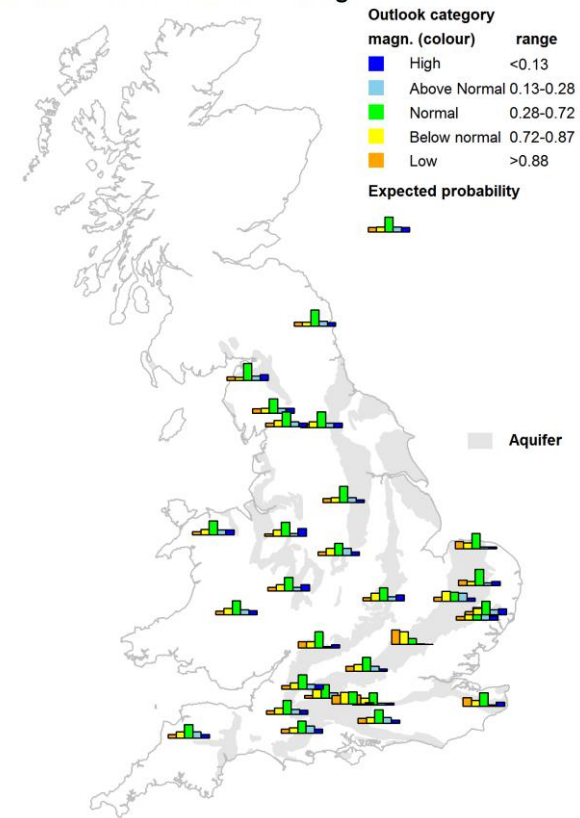
3-month river flow outlook starting Mar 2017



6-month river flow outlook starting Mar 2017



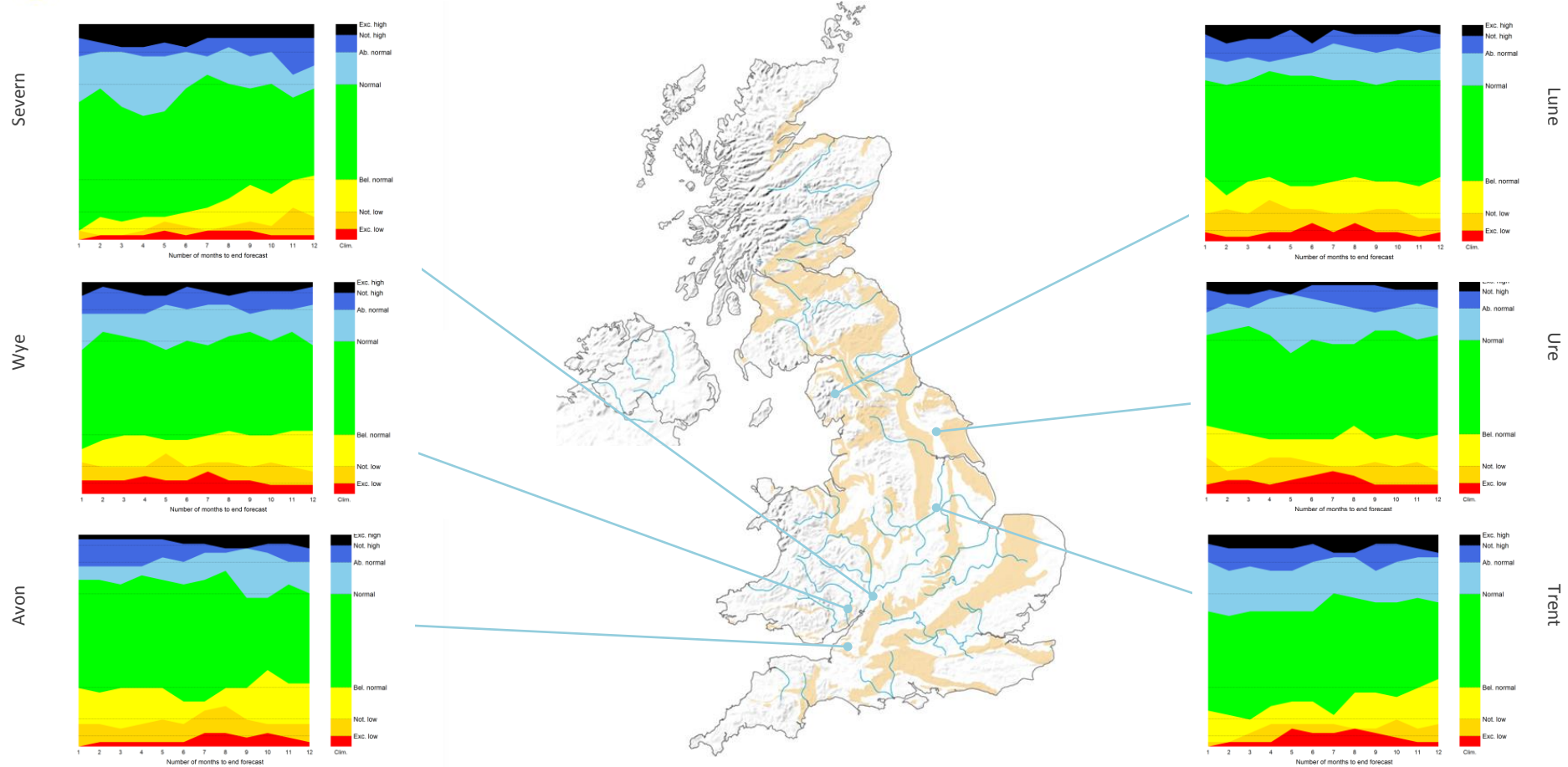
12-month river flow outlook starting Mar 2017



This outlook is based on monthly ensembles of historical sequences of observed climate (rainfall and potential evapotranspiration) that form input to hydrological models. The outputs are probabilistic simulations of the average river flow over the forecast period (1 to 12 months ahead), at each location. The simulations are generated by conceptual rainfall-runoff models from CEH (PDM and CLASSIC) and the EA (CATCHMOD) calibrated on observed or naturalised flows.

The bar plot maps show the outlook distribution for 3, 6 and 12-month period for 28 catchments across England and Wales. Each bar plot represents the probabilistic distribution of the simulated river flow compared to the historical river flow, for the same n-month period. The probabilities fall within five categories, classified as: low, below normal, normal, above normal and high.

This outlook is based entirely on historical sequences and is therefore not a forecast. It does not contain any knowledge of the state of the atmosphere and ocean. It is hence possible that some of the historical sequences used might be inconsistent with current large-scale atmospheric conditions and would therefore be unlikely to occur in the next few months.



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The stack diagrams show the variation over time of the outlook distribution for a number of individual catchments. Each graph represents variation over time of the number of simulated river flows, in each month ensemble, that fall within each of seven categories: exceptionally low, notably low, below normal, normal, above normal, notably high and exceptionally high. The categories represent cumulative flow conditions, e.g. For 3-month, the simulated total 3-month flow compared to the historical 3-month flow distribution. The monthly variations can be compared to the long-term average distribution of river flows (shown as columns

on the right of each timeline graph).

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