Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Outlook based on Modelled Flow from Rainfall Forecasts 1- and 3-month variability

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The maps illustrating the regional river flows for five members of the Met Office ensemble of rainfall forecasts give some indication of the range of possible river flows in the coming months. As noted previously, the actual flows could be more extreme than the flows generated by either the lowest or highest members of the rainfall ensemble.

The tables below give further insight into the range of river flow forecasts by considering all members of the forecast rainfall ensemble. The numbers in the tables are the percentage of ensemble forecasts falling in each of the flow categories as generated by the monthly-resolution water-balance model. As before results are averaged by region then ranked in terms of 49 years of historical regional flow estimates (1962 – 2010).

SUMMARY: It is likely that February river flows will be in the *Normal range* or below for eastern Britain and in the *Normal range* or above for western Britain.
Over the next 3 months it is likely that this pattern persists.

SCOTLAND
HR Highlands Region
NER North East Region
TR Tay Region
FR Forth Region
CR Clyde Region
TWR Tweed Region
SR Solway Region
ENGLAND
N Northumbria
NW North West
Y Yorkshire
ST Severn Trent
A Anglian
T Thames
S Southern
W Wessex
SW South West
WALES
WEL Welsh

NORTHERN IRELAND
This method cannot currently be used in Northern Ireland

1-month ahead	A	NW	N	ST	SW	S	T	Welsh	W	Y	CR	FR	HR	NER	SR	TR	TWR
Exceptionally high flow	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	0	0
Notably high flow	5	5	2	10	5	5	5	7	7	7	7	7	2	5	19	5	5
Above normal	5	26	12	17	14	17	17	19	17	19	33	21	36	2	7	10	10
Normal range	57	45	57	60	67	50	52	60	64	48	43	45	33	50	55	60	50
Below normal	17	17	14	7	5	21	24	7	10	14	7	17	14	14	12	14	19
Notably low flow	14	2	5	2	7	5	2	2	2	5	5	5	2	10	2	5	10
Exceptionally low flow	2	2	7	2	0	2	0	2	0	7	2	5	10	17	2	7	7

3-months ahead	A	NW	N	ST	SW	S	T	Welsh	W	Y	CR	FR	HR	NER	SR	TR	TWR
Exceptionally high flow	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notably high flow	0	2	5	0	5	0	5	5	5	5	10	5	0	0	7	5	5
Above normal	5	21	17	26	14	5	14	21	21	17	19	21	26	7	26	2	14
Normal range	81	60	36	60	67	67	62	55	64	62	57	45	60	38	38	64	26
Below normal	7	7	29	10	7	21	17	14	5	7	7	21	7	26	21	14	26
Notably low flow	7	2	10	2	5	5	2	2	5	5	5	2	5	19	2	7	19
Exceptionally low flow	0	5	5	2	2	2	0	2	0	5	2	5	2	10	5	7	10

The Hydrological Outlook UK provides an outlook for the water situation for the UK over the next three months and beyond. For guidance on how to interpret the outlook, a wider range of information, and a full description of underpinning methods, please visit the website: www.hydoutuk.net