

SUMMARY

The one month ahead outlook is mainly based on persistence and suggests flows will generally be in the normal range, although there are some sites at which higher or lower flows are forecast with high confidence. The three month ahead outlook is similar but confidence is lower as would be expected for the time of year.

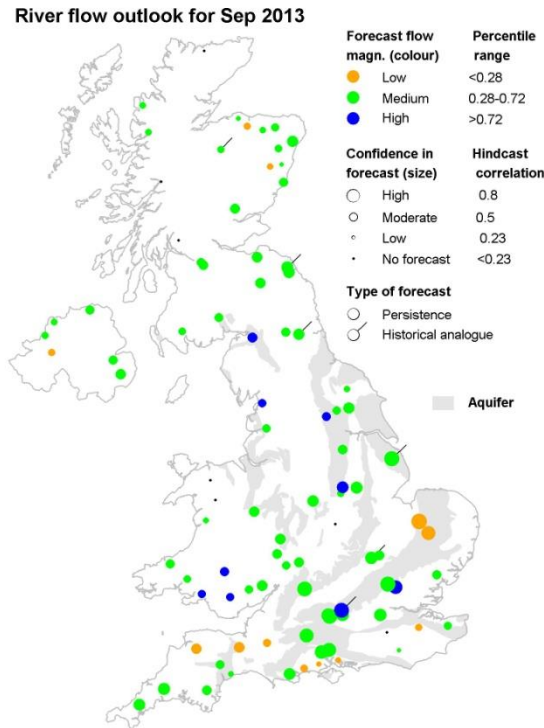


Figure 1 1-month flow outlook

Outlooks from hydrological analogues are based on a comparison of river flow during recent months with flows during the same months in previous years at a set of approximately 100 sites from across the UK. These sites are depicted on the two maps. Years with observed flows that most closely resemble current conditions are identified as the best analogues and the outlook is based on extrapolating from current conditions based on these analogues.

It is, however, often the case that a simpler forecast based on the persistence of river flow provides a better forecast

than provided by analogy. This is particularly true for slowly responding catchments associated with aquifer outcrops.

Both methods are considered at each site and the forecast from the method with the higher confidence is presented. A simple classification of flows is used (high, medium and low) as indicated by the colours of the dots, with the confidence of the forecast being represented by the size of the dot. A tag on the dot indicates which method has been used in each instance.

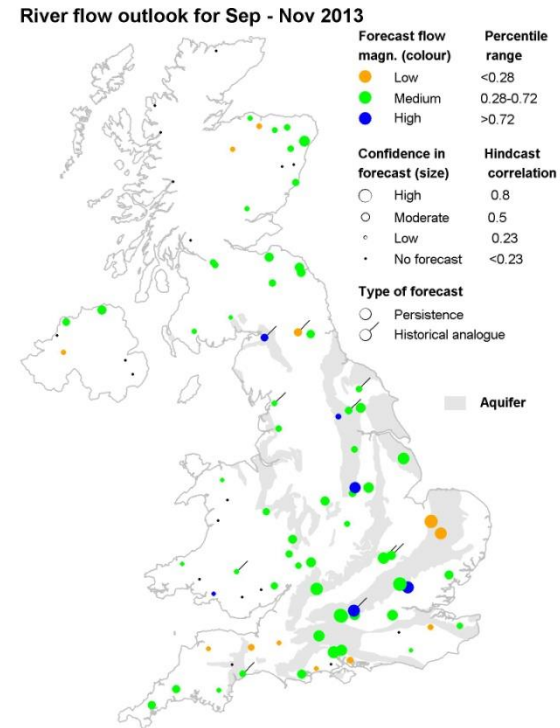


Figure 2 3-month flow outlook

More information on the methods used to produce the Hydrological Outlook UK can be found at – www.hydoutuk.net

Site-based information for example river flow sites is available at – www.hydoutuk.net/methods/