

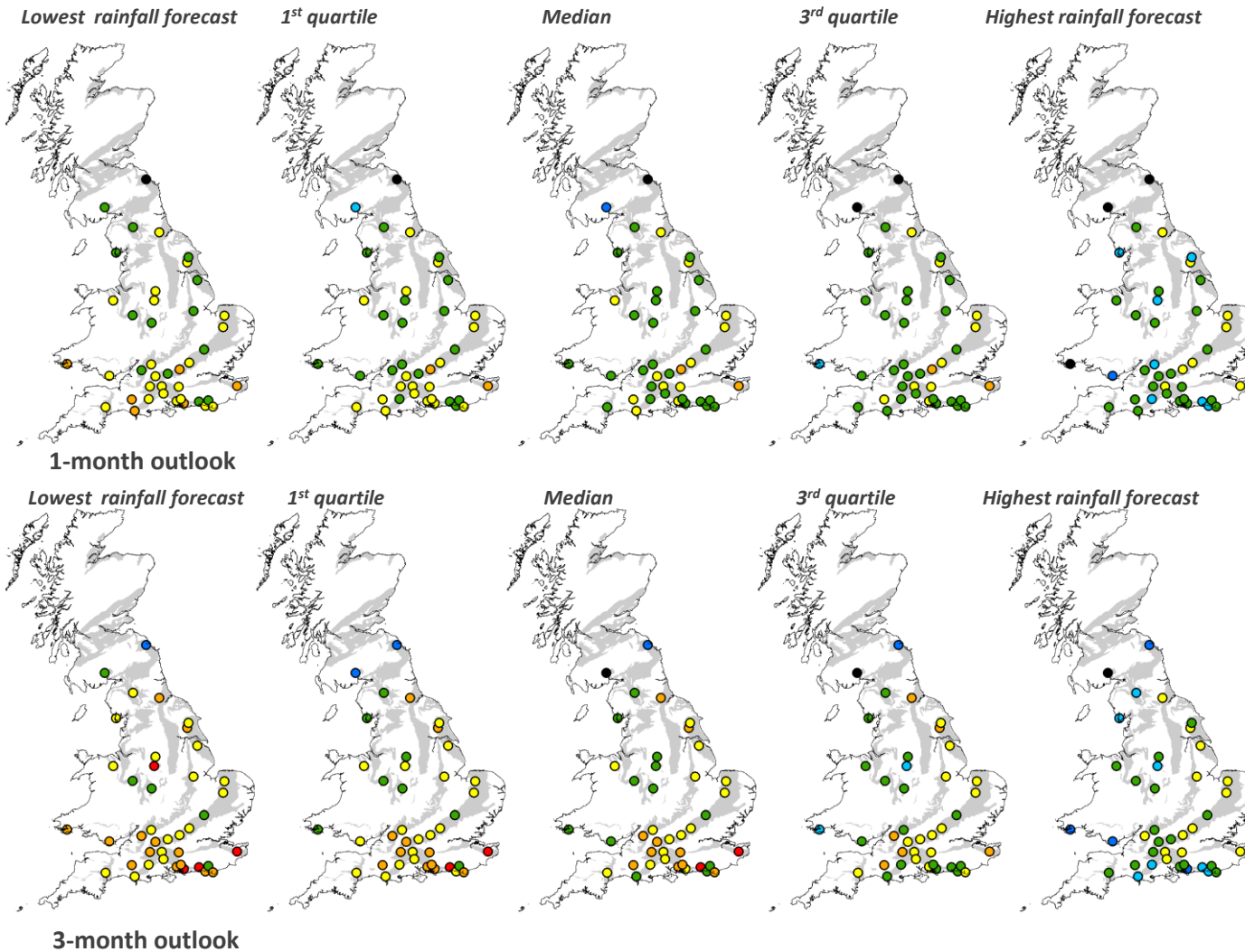
Period: March 2017 – May 2017

Issued on 08.03.2017 using data to the end of February

As the winter recharge season comes to an end recent rainfall in the South means that groundwater levels in the Chalk are likely to be normal, or below normal over the next month. The 3 month outlook suggests that some parts of the Chalk may have notably low levels later in the summer, while some northern Permo Trias boreholes may again be at above normal levels.

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

