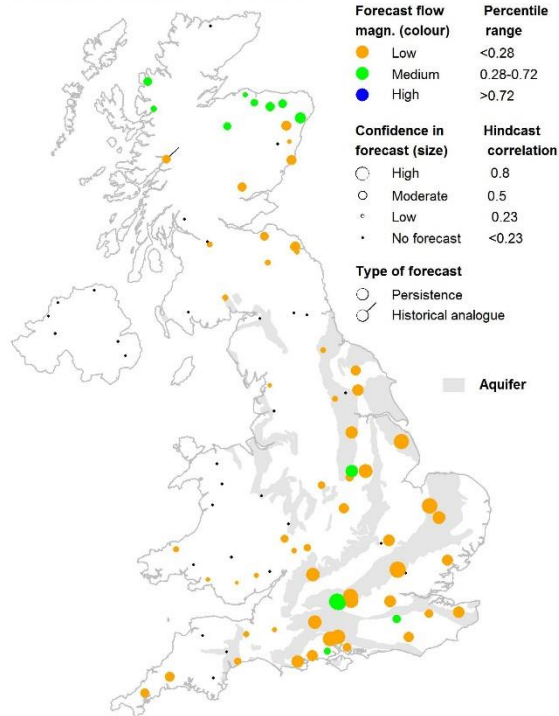


SUMMARY

The outlook for February and for February to April is for predominantly below normal river flows across the UK and normal flows in northern Scotland. Please note there are very few forecasts available for the west.

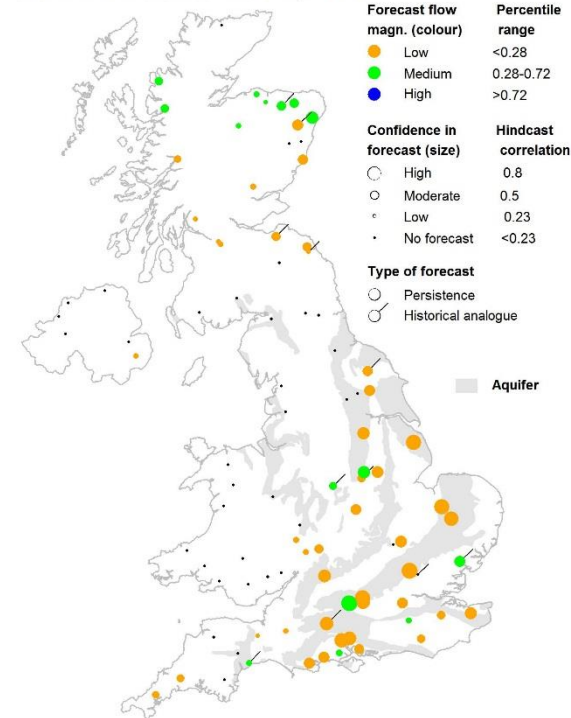
River flow outlook for Feb 2017



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 90 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.

River flow outlook for Feb - Apr 2017



3-month flow outlook

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.