

SUMMARY The outlook for June indicates below normal river flows in central and southern England, with flows in eastern Scotland likely to be normal to below normal. Flows in north-west Britain are likely to be normal. Below normal river flows in central and southern England are likely to persist through June-August, while for the rest of the UK, river flows are likely to be normal. Groundwater levels are likely to remain normal to above normal in most areas.

Rainfall:

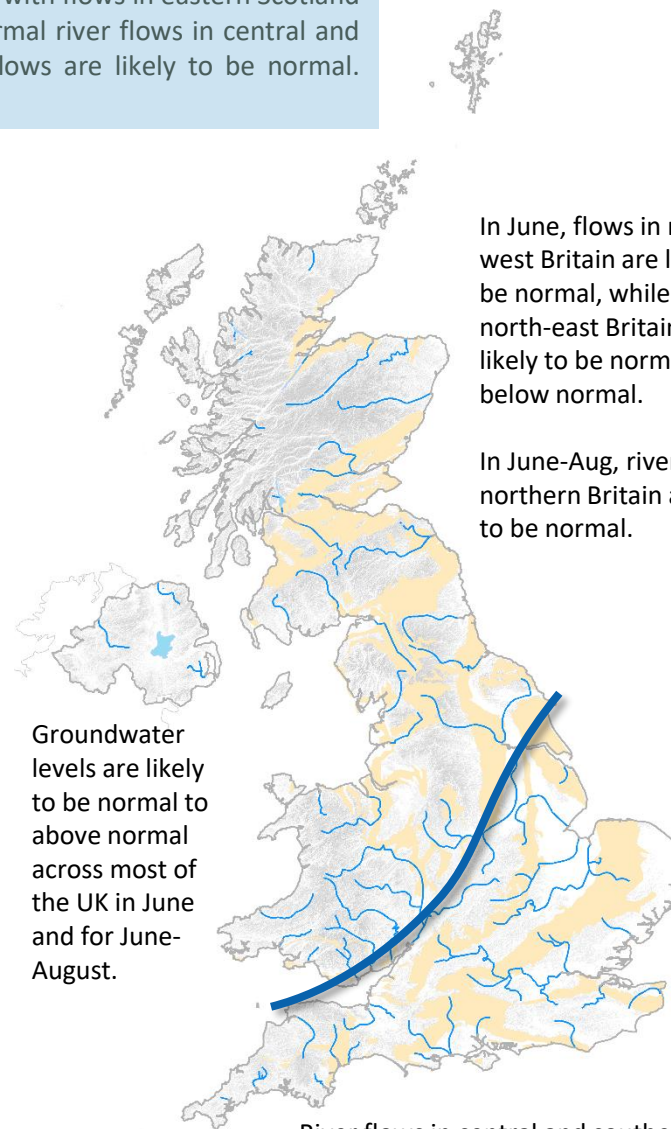
May rainfall was below average for the UK (78%), with dry conditions across Scotland, Wales and central and southern England. Large parts of south-east England received less than half of the average monthly rainfall. In contrast, rainfall was average or above average in northern England, with particularly high rainfall in Northumberland. The one-month forecast for June (issued by the Met Office on 29.05.2026) indicates the chances of a wet or dry month are balanced. Over the next three months, the forecast indicates that near-average rainfall is most likely, although a wet three-month period is more probable than a dry one.

River flows:

River flows in May were widely below normal across the UK, with notably and exceptionally low flows prevalent in East Anglia and eastern Scotland. Flows in Wales, north-west England and western Scotland were in the normal range. Following a dry May and depleted catchment storage in some areas, the outlook is for below normal flows across central and southern England and eastern Scotland, although flows may be bolstered to the normal range in groundwater-dominated catchments of the south-east. Elsewhere, flows in north-west England and western Scotland are likely to be in the normal range. The outlook for the next three months (June-August) is for below normal flows to persist in central and southern England, while flows in northern Britain are likely to be normal.

Groundwater:

Groundwater levels at the end of May were mostly normal to above normal in most principal aquifers, except for eastern Britain, Northern Ireland and south Wales, where some boreholes recorded notably or exceptionally low levels. The outlook for June is for groundwater levels to remain normal to above normal across much of the UK. Above normal levels are likely for some boreholes in the southern, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Chalk, while levels in south Wales are expected to be below normal to exceptionally low. Over the next three months, groundwater levels are likely to remain normal to above normal.



In June, flows in north-west Britain are likely to be normal, while those in north-east Britain are likely to be normal to below normal.

In June-Aug, river flows in northern Britain are likely to be normal.

Groundwater levels are likely to be normal to above normal across most of the UK in June and for June-August.

River flows in central and southern England are likely to be below normal in June and over June-August.

Shaded areas show principal aquifers

The UK Hydrological Outlook provides an outlook for the water situation for the United Kingdom 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

About the UK Hydrological Outlook:

This document presents an outlook for the UK water situation for the next 1-3 months and beyond, using observational datasets, meteorological forecasts and a suite of hydrological modelling tools. The outlook is produced in a collaboration between the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH), British Geological Survey (BGS), the Met Office, the Environment Agency (EA), Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), and for Northern Ireland, the Department for Infrastructure – Rivers (DfIR).

Data and Models:

The UK Hydrological Outlook depends on the active cooperation of many data suppliers. This cooperation is gratefully acknowledged. Historic river flow and groundwater data are sourced from the [UK National River Flow Archive](#) and the [National Groundwater Level Archive](#). Contemporary data are provided by the EA, SEPA, NRW and DfIR. These data are used to initialise hydrological models, and to provide outlook information based on statistical analysis of historical analogues.

Climate forecasts are produced by the Met Office. Hydrological modelling is undertaken by UKCEH using the Grid-to-Grid and GR6J hydrological models. Hydrogeological modelling uses the AqMod model run by BGS. Supporting documentation is available from the Outlooks website: <https://hydoutuk.net/about/methods>

Presentation:

The language used in the summary presented overleaf generally places flows and groundwater levels into just three classes, i.e. below normal, normal, and above normal. However, the underpinning methods use as many as seven classes as defined in the graphic to the right, i.e. the summary uses a simpler classification than some of the methods. On those occasions when it is appropriate to provide greater discrimination at the extremes the terminology and definitions of the seven class scheme will be adopted.

	Percentile range of historic values for relevant month
Exceptionally high flow	> 95
Notably high flow	87-95
Above normal	72-87
Normal range	28-72
Below normal	13-28
Notably low flow	5-13
Exceptionally low flow	< 5

Disclaimer and liability:

The UK Hydrological Outlook partnership aims to ensure that all Content provided is accurate and consistent with its current scientific understanding. However, the science which underlies hydrological and hydrogeological forecasts and climate projections is constantly evolving. Therefore any element of the Content which involves a forecast or a prediction should not be relied upon as though it were a statement of fact. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, the UK Hydrological Outlook Partnership excludes all warranties or representations (express or implied) in respect of the Content.

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Further information:

For more detailed information about the UK Hydrological Outlook, and the derivation of the maps, plots and interpretation provided in this outlook, please visit the UK Hydrological Outlook website. The website features a host of other background information, including a wider range of sources of information which are used in the preparation of this Outlook. Dynamic access to many of the outputs of the UK Hydrological Portal are available on the [UK Hydrological Outlooks Portal](#).

Contact:

UK Hydrological Outlooks, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8BB
t: 01491 838800 e: <https://hydoutuk.net/contact>

Reference for the UK Hydrological Outlook:

UK Hydrological Outlook, 08 June 2026, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Oxfordshire UK, Online, <https://www.hydoutuk.net/latest-outlook/>

Other Sources of Information:

The UK Hydrological Outlook should be used alongside other sources of up-to-date information on the current water resources status and flood risk.

Environment Agency Water Situation Reports: provides summary of water resources status on a monthly and weekly basis for England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-situation-reports-for-england>

Flood warnings are continually updated, and should be consulted for an up-to-date and localised assessment of flood risk:

- Environment Agency: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/map>
- Natural Resources Wales: <https://flood-warning.naturalresources.wales/>
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding.aspx>

Hydrological Summary for the UK: provides summary of current water resources status for the UK: <https://nra.ceh.ac.uk/monthly-hydrological-summary-uk>

UK Met Office forecasts for the UK: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>

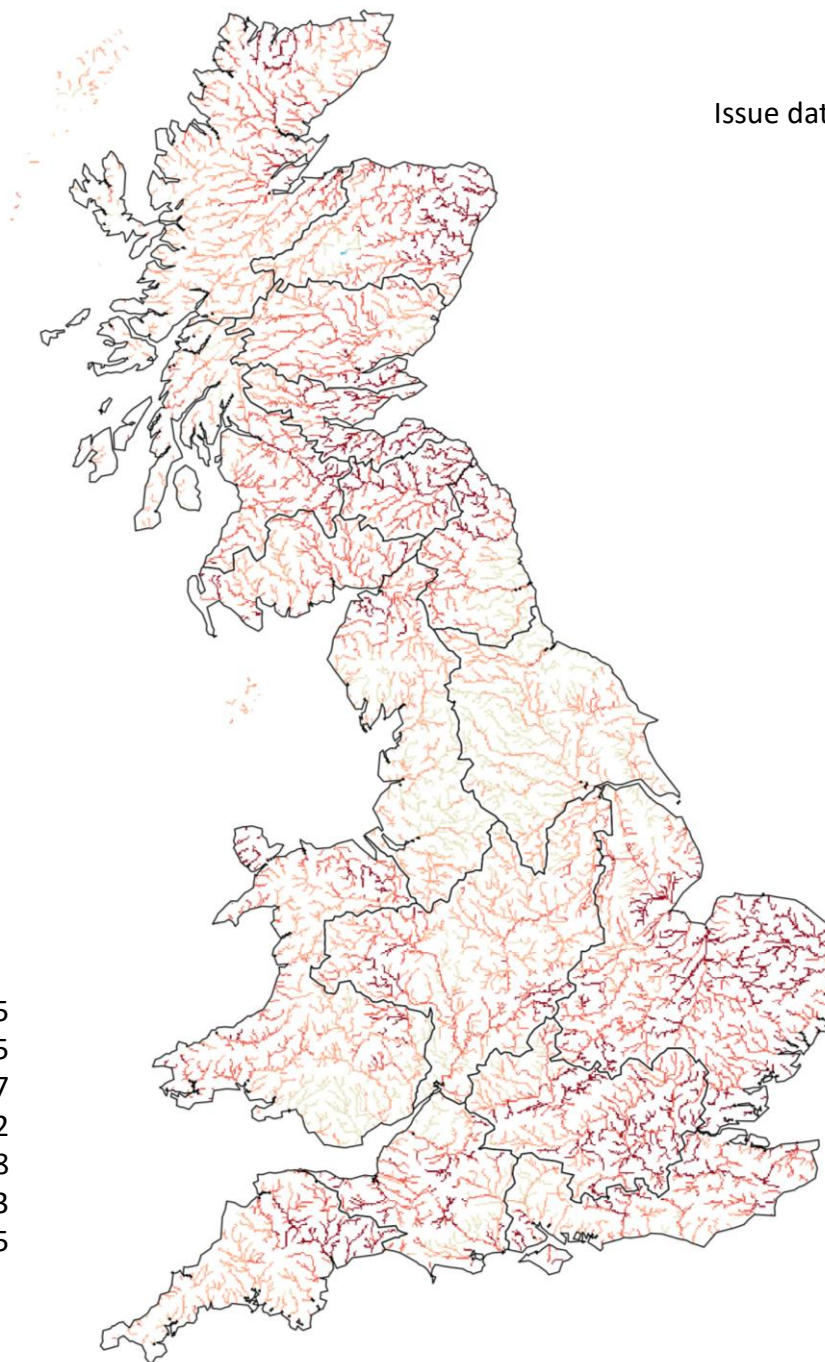
UK Water Resources Portal: monitor the UK hydrological situation in near real-time including rainfall, river flow, groundwater and soil moisture from COSMOS-UK: <https://eip.ceh.ac.uk/hydrology/water-resources/>

Issue date: 04.06.2026








This map shows the simulated monthly mean flow across Great Britain for last month, ranked in terms of 54 years of historical flow estimates (1963 – 2016).

These flows are produced by the 1km resolution Grid-to-Grid (G2G) hydrological model, which is run up to the end of each calendar month using observed rainfall and MORECS potential evaporation as input.

Note that the G2G model provides estimates of natural flows.

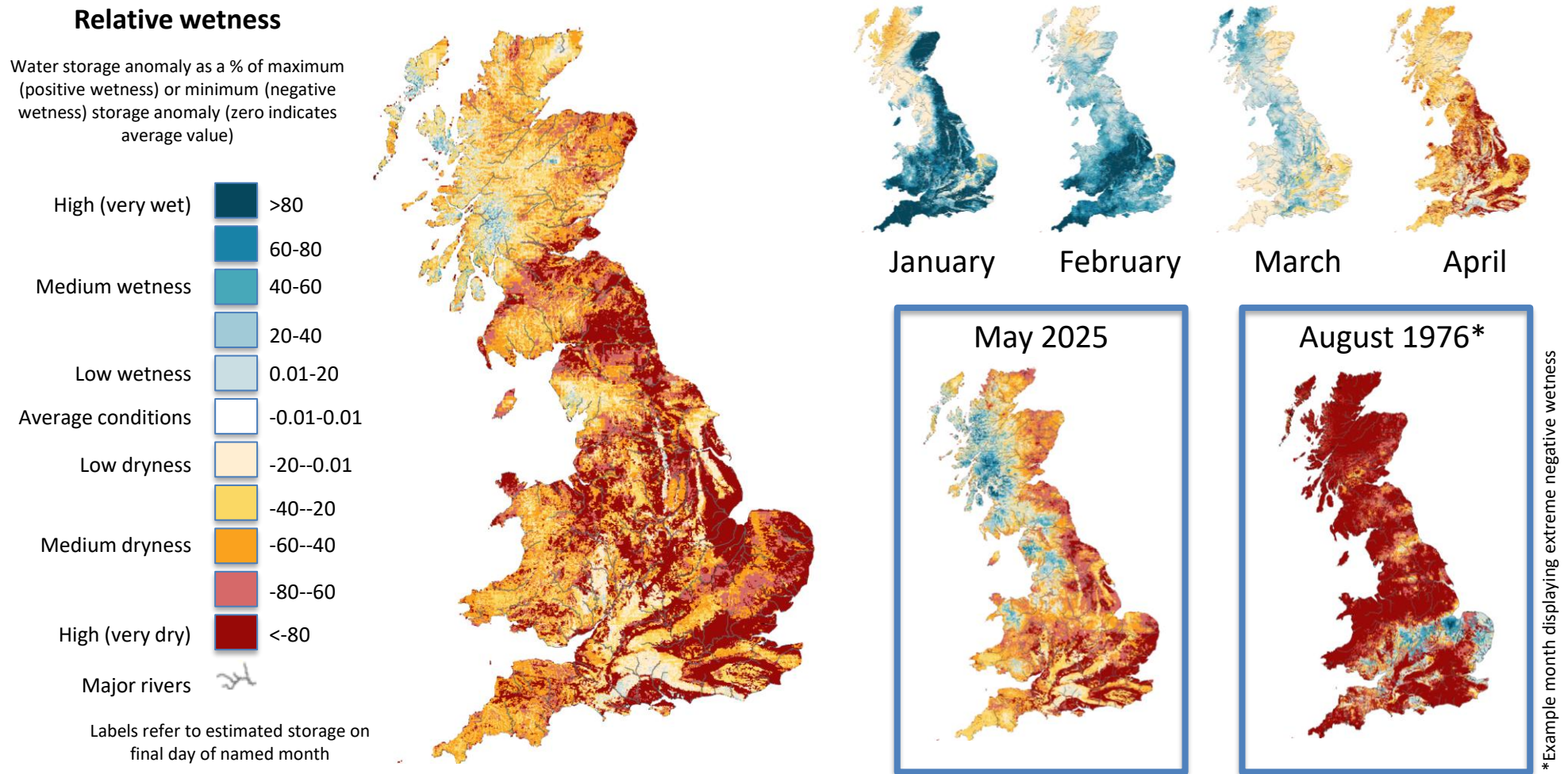


Flow estimate for each river pixel ranked in terms of historic % flow estimates (1963-2016)

Exceptionally high flow		> 95
Notably high flow		87-95
Above normal		72-87
Normal range		28-72
Below normal		13-28
Notably low flow		5-13
Exceptionally low flow		< 5

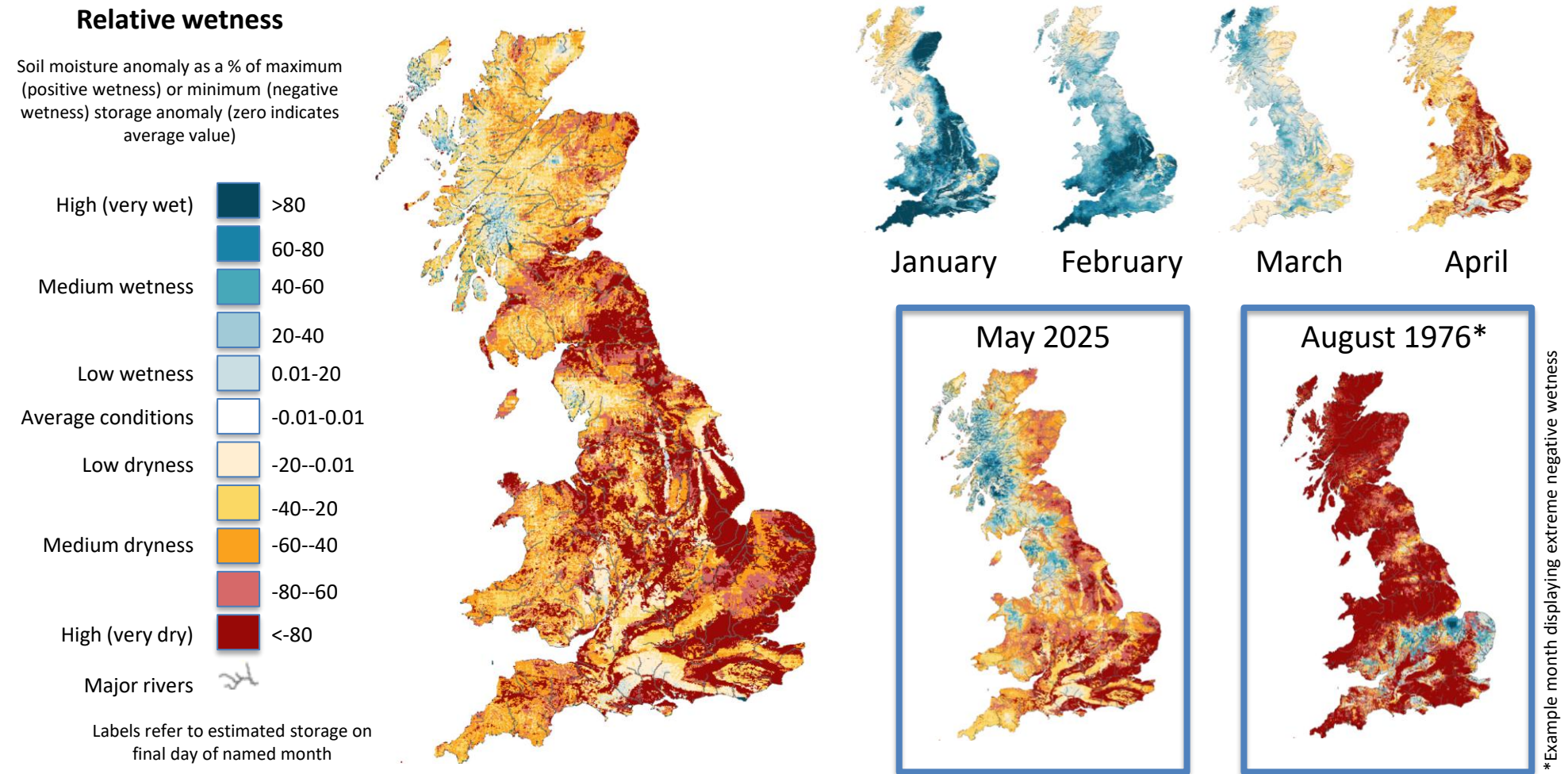
These maps are based on Grid-to-Grid (G2G) hydrological model simulated subsurface water storage (water in the soil and groundwater), expressed as an anomaly from the historical monthly mean. To highlight areas that are particularly wet or dry, the storage anomaly is presented relative to historical extremes. Rainfall in WET areas with high positive relative wetness could result in flooding in the coming days/weeks. Areas of negative relative wetness indicate locations which are particularly DRY, and little or no rain in these areas could potentially lead to (or prolong) a drought. Maps of soil moisture only are available on the next page.

SUMMARY: Subsurface water stores have declined across Great Britain and are now very low (dry to very dry) in almost all areas.



These maps are based on Grid-to-Grid (G2G) hydrological model simulated soil moisture, expressed as an anomaly from the historical monthly mean. To highlight areas that are particularly wet or dry, the soil moisture anomaly is presented relative to historical extremes. These maps are not a forecast; rather an indication of current conditions. Soil moisture will often look similar to total storage (shown on the previous slide), since total storage comprises both soil moisture and storage in the saturated zone.

SUMMARY: Soil Moisture stores have declined across Great Britain and are now very low (dry to very dry) in almost all areas.



These maps show the Grid-to-Grid (G2G) hydrological model simulated subsurface water storage, expressed as an anomaly from the historical monthly mean (1981-2010), presented on a 1km grid and as regional means. Subsurface storage deficits, i.e. where the subsurface water storage anomaly is less than zero, are highlighted in red/pink.

The subsurface storage deficit (mm) can be interpreted as an estimate of additional rainfall that would be required in future months to overcome dry conditions (i.e. rainfall in addition to what is expected on average). Regional mean values of additional rainfall required are provided in the table below.

Regional estimate of additional rainfall required (mm)

SCOTLAND

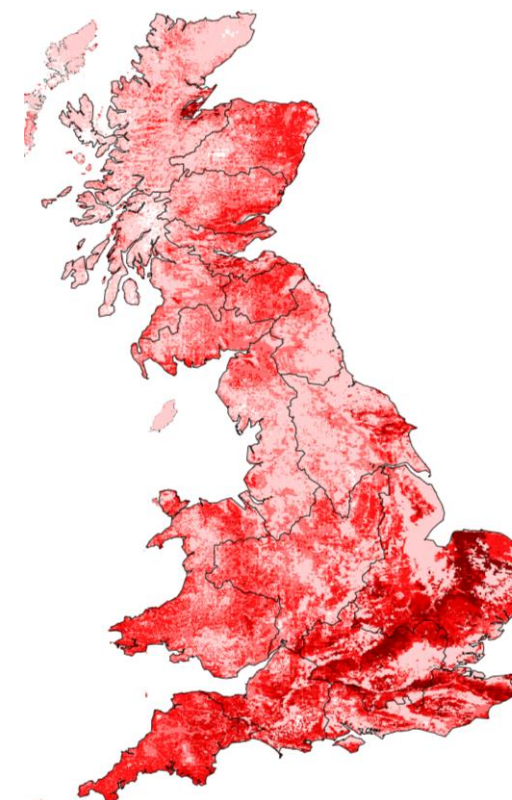
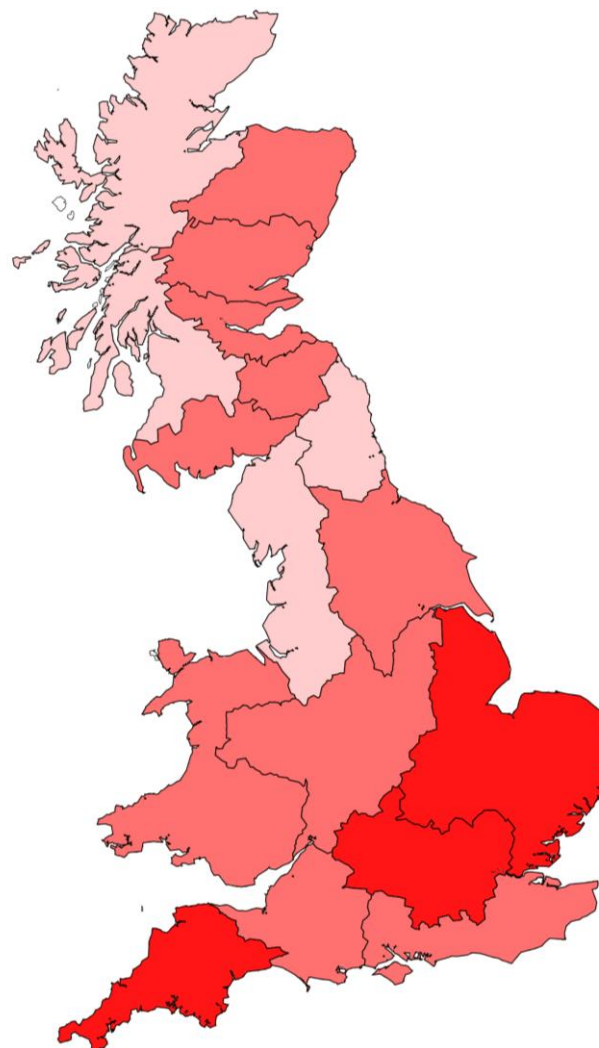
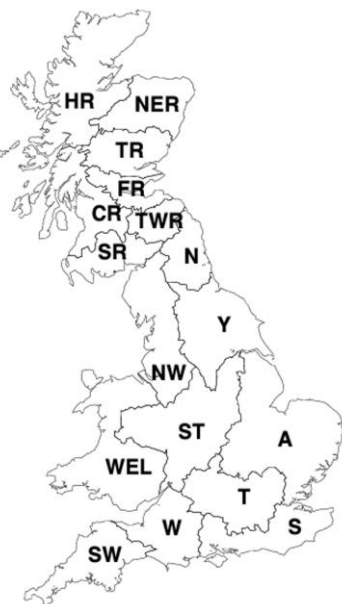
- 20 HR Highlands Region
- 38 NER North East Region
- 35 TR Tay Region
- 39 FR Forth Region
- 20 CR Clyde Region
- 43 TWR Tweed Region
- 30 SR Solway Region

ENGLAND

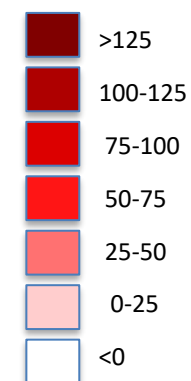
- 24 N Northumbria
- 23 NW North West
- 26 Y Yorkshire
- 36 ST Severn Trent
- 59 A Anglian
- 63 T Thames
- 50 W Wessex
- 50 S Southern
- 59 SW South West

WALES

- 39 WEL Welsh



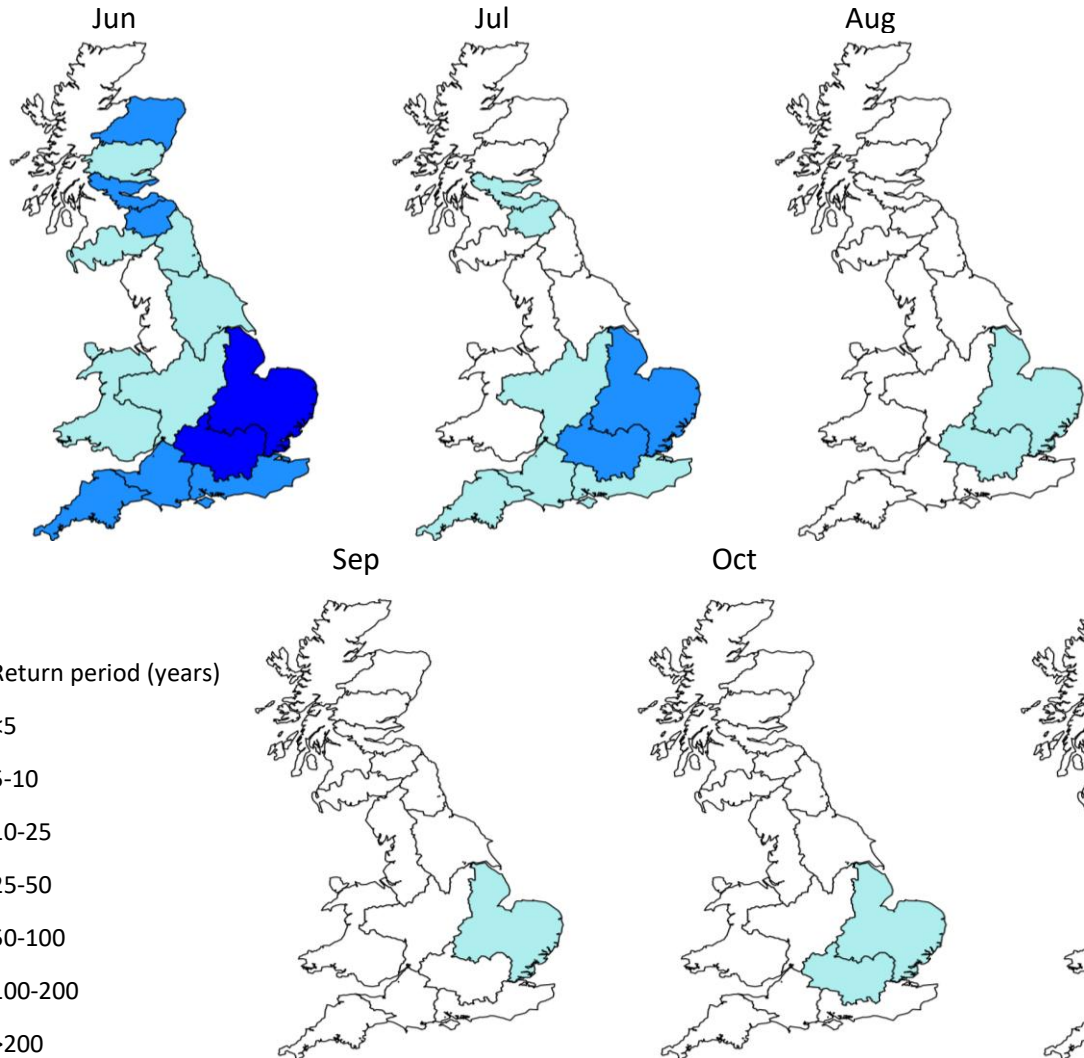
Water storage deficit (anomaly; mm)



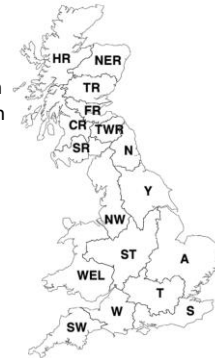
These maps show the return period of the rainfall required to overcome dry conditions simulated using the Grid-to-Grid (G2G) hydrological model. The maps are coloured according to the return period of accumulated rainfall required to overcome the estimated current subsurface water storage deficit over the next one to six months (areas with no storage deficit will always be white). These maps do not provide a drought forecast; instead they indicate whether particularly heavy rainfall would be required to return to normal conditions for the time of year.

SUMMARY:

Water storage deficits are now present in all regions. In Wales and central and southern England these require unusually high (>5-year return period) to recover within the next month. Deficits in eastern England are likely to persist across the summer.



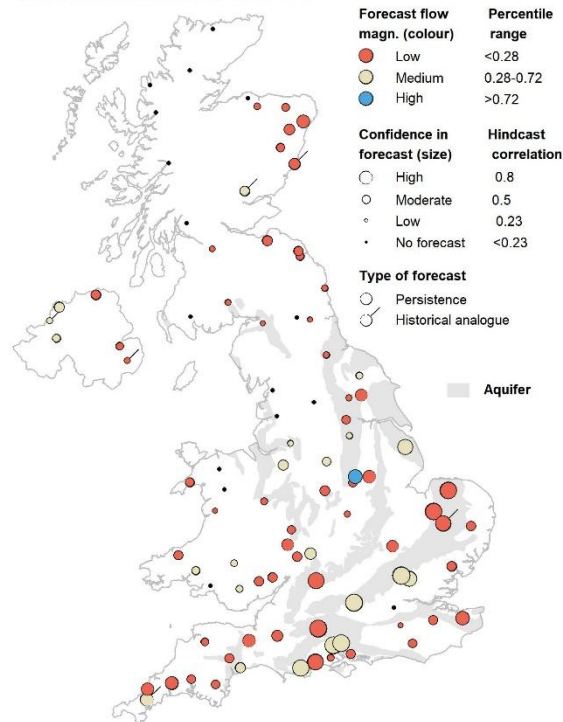
- SCOTLAND**
 HR Highlands Region
 NER North East Region
 TR Tay Region
 FR Forth Region
 CR Clyde Region
 TWR Tweed Region
 SR Solway Region
- ENGLAND**
 N Northumbria
 NW North West
 Y Yorkshire
 ST Severn Trent
 A Anglian
 T Thames
 S Southern
 W Wessex
 SW South West
- WALES**
 WEL Welsh



Rainfall amount (Probability)	Return period (years)
Low (Likely) >20%	<5
<20%	5-10
<10%	10-25
< 4%	25-50
High (Less likely) < 2%	50-100
< 1%	100-200
Extreme (Unlikely) <0.5%	>200

SUMMARY: The outlook for June and the June-August period indicates that river flows across much of the UK are expected to be normal to below normal. Normal flows are more likely in groundwater-dominated catchments in south-east England. Forecast availability is limited across parts of northern and western Britain.

River flow outlook for Jun 2026



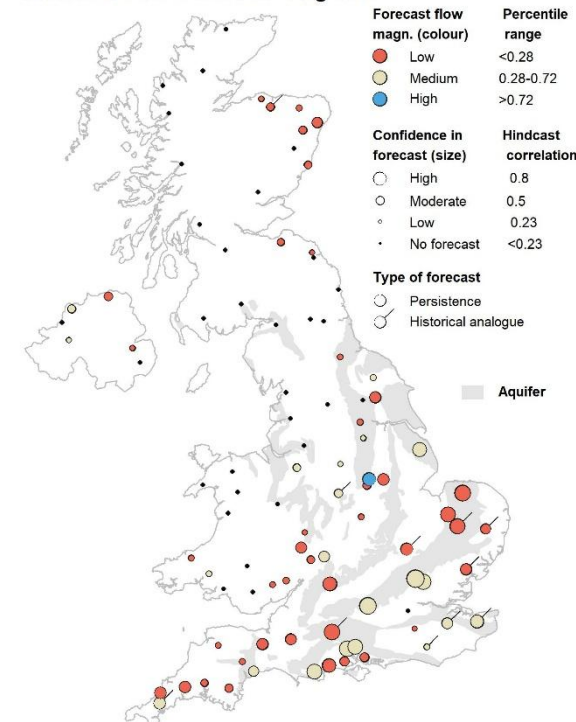
1-month flow outlook

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.

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

River flow outlook for Jun - Aug 2026



3-month flow outlook

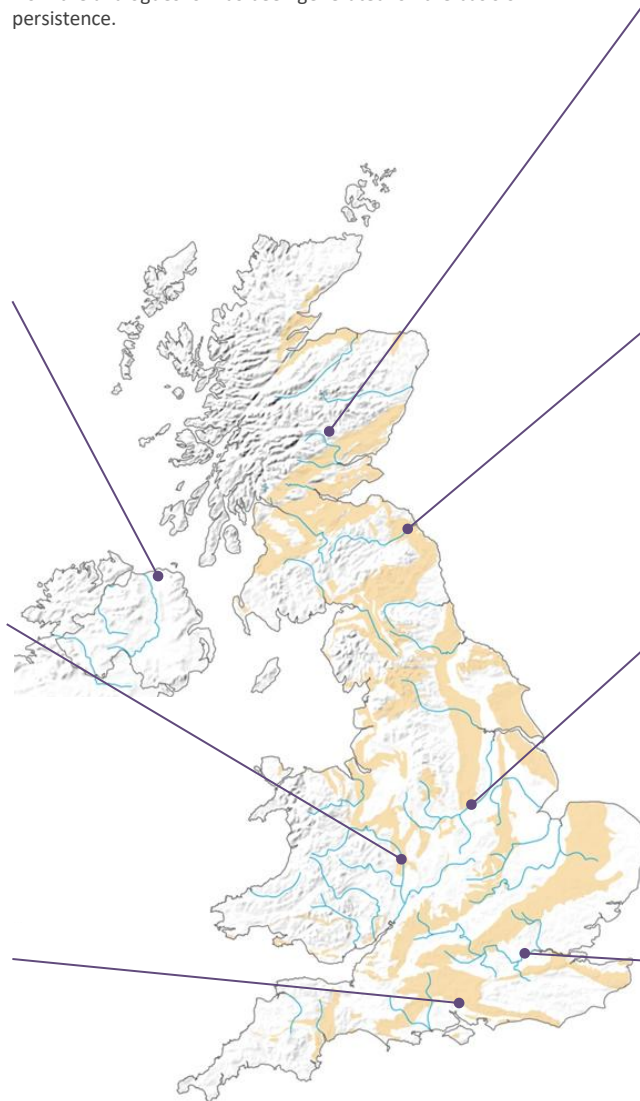
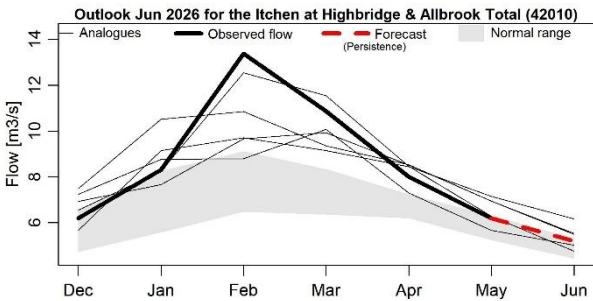
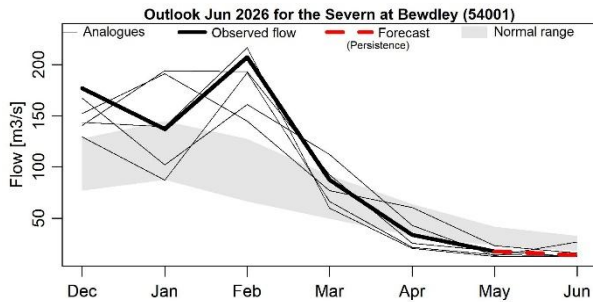
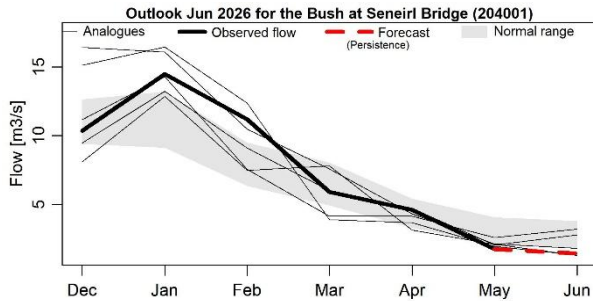
of the forecast being represented by the size of the dot. A tag on the dot indicates which method has been used in each instance.

Period: June 2026

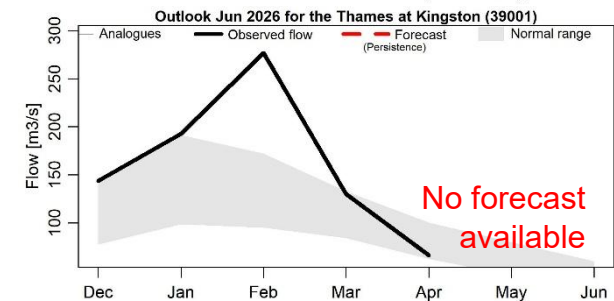
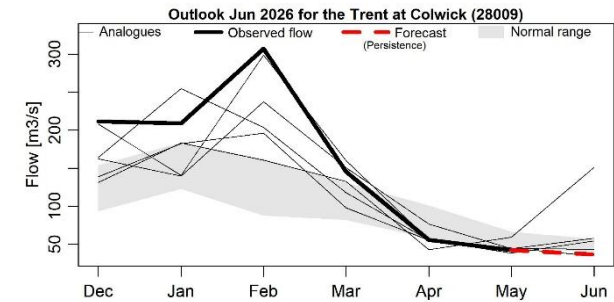
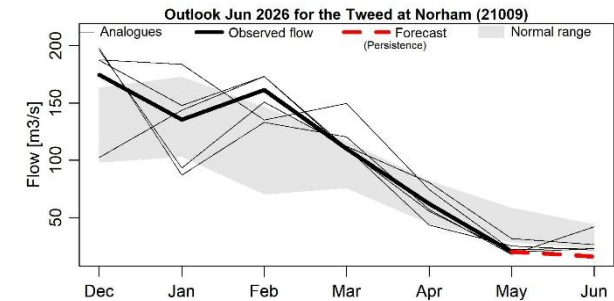
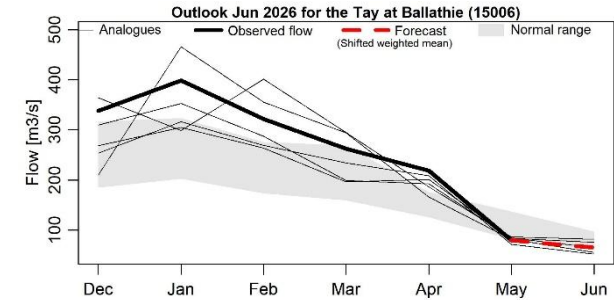
These figures provide insight into the hydrological analogue methodology for a set of sites from across the UK.

In each of the time series graphs the bold black line represents the observed flow during the past six months. The grey band indicates the normal flow range (the normal band includes 44%

of observed flows in each month). The selected analogues are shown as thin lines and the trajectories that flows took in the following month are also shown. The forecast is shown as the dashed red line, and in each plot it states whether this has come from the analogues or has been generated on the basis of persistence.



Issued on 04.06.2026 using data to the end of May 2026

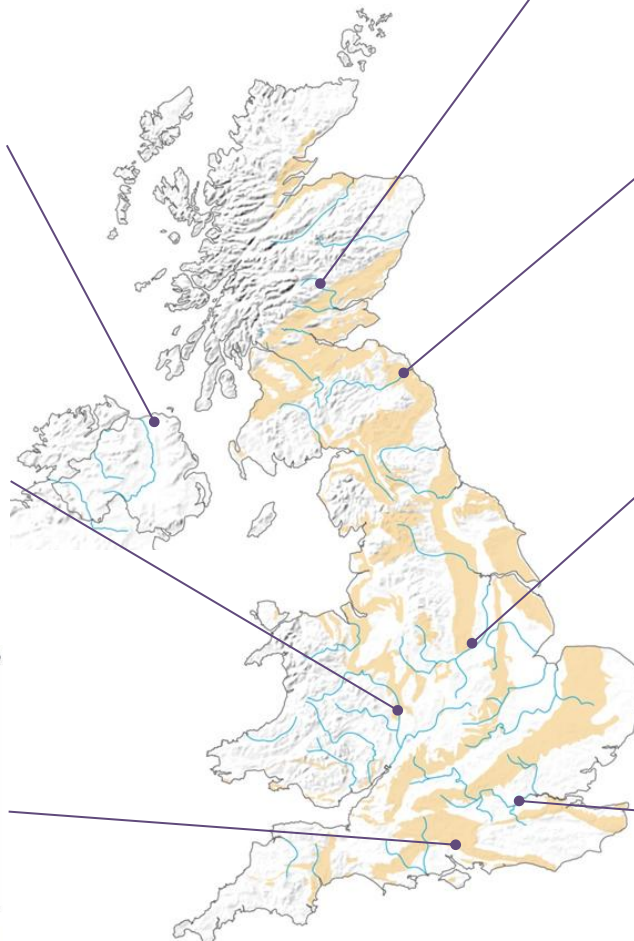
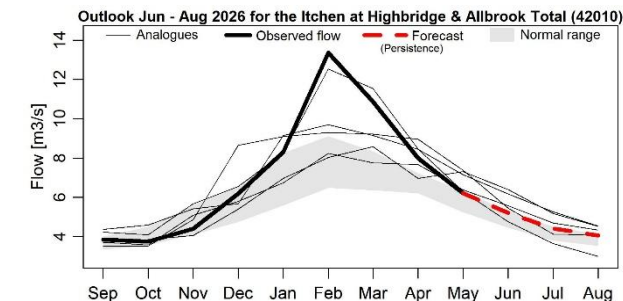
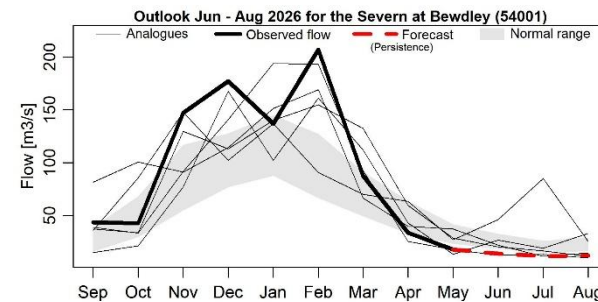
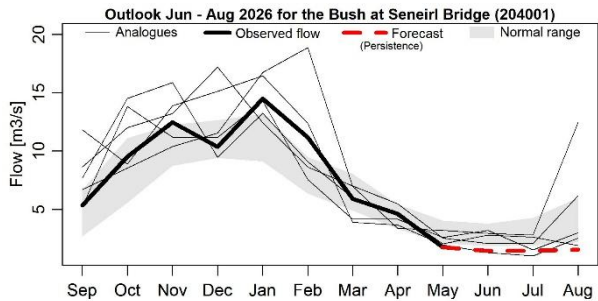


Period: June 2026 – August 2026

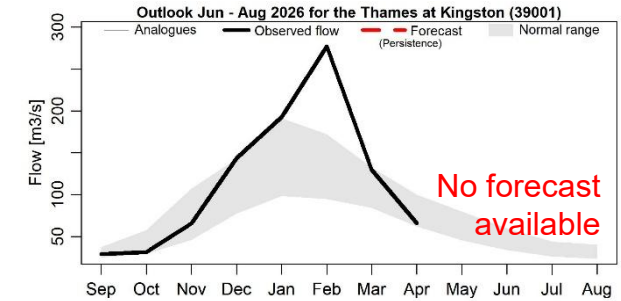
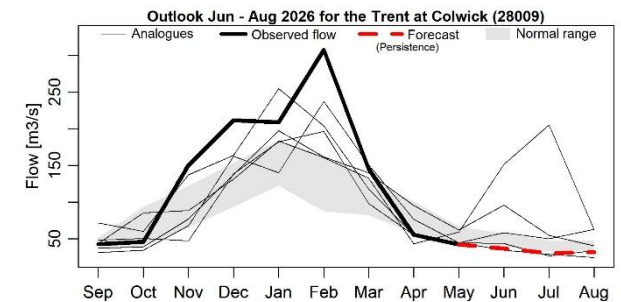
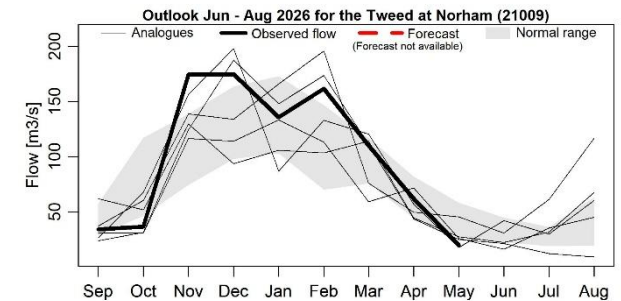
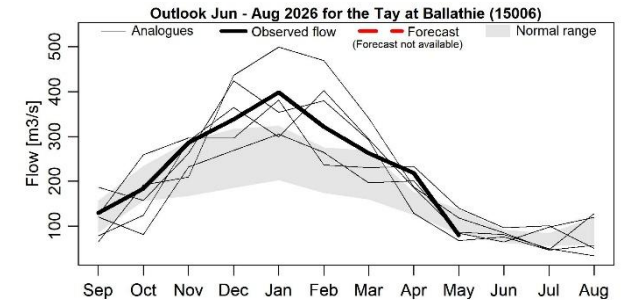
These figures provide insight into the hydrological analogue methodology for a set of sites from across the UK.

In each of the time series graphs the bold black line represents the observed flow during the past nine months. The grey band indicates the normal flow range (the normal band includes 44%

of observed flows in each month). The selected analogues are shown as thin lines and the trajectories that flows took in the following three months are also shown. The forecast is shown as the dashed red line, and in each plot it states whether this has come from the analogues or has been generated on the basis of persistence.



Issued on 04.06.2026 using data to the end of May 2026

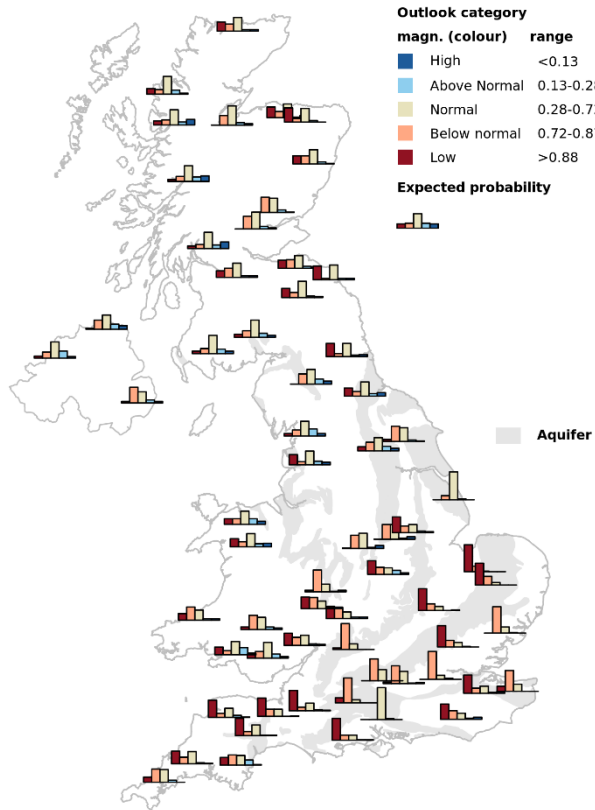


Period: June 2026 – November 2026

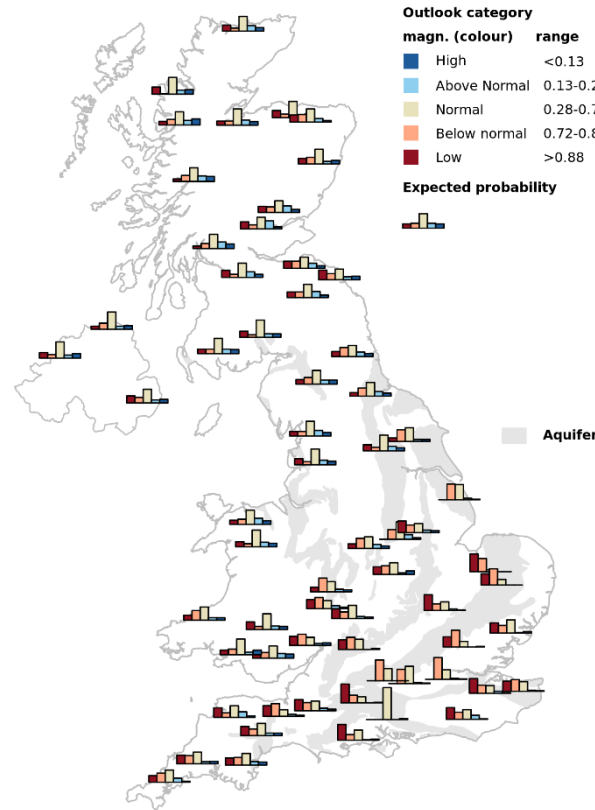
Issued on 02.06.2026 using data to the end of May 2026

The outlook for June indicates that river flows are likely to be below normal to low across eastern and southern England, and mostly below normal across central England, eastern Scotland and parts of Wales. Elsewhere, flows are likely to be in the normal range, except for northern and western Scotland where flows are likely to be normal to above normal. The June to August outlook indicates a slight easing of this dry pattern across central and southern areas, with normal conditions most likely elsewhere.

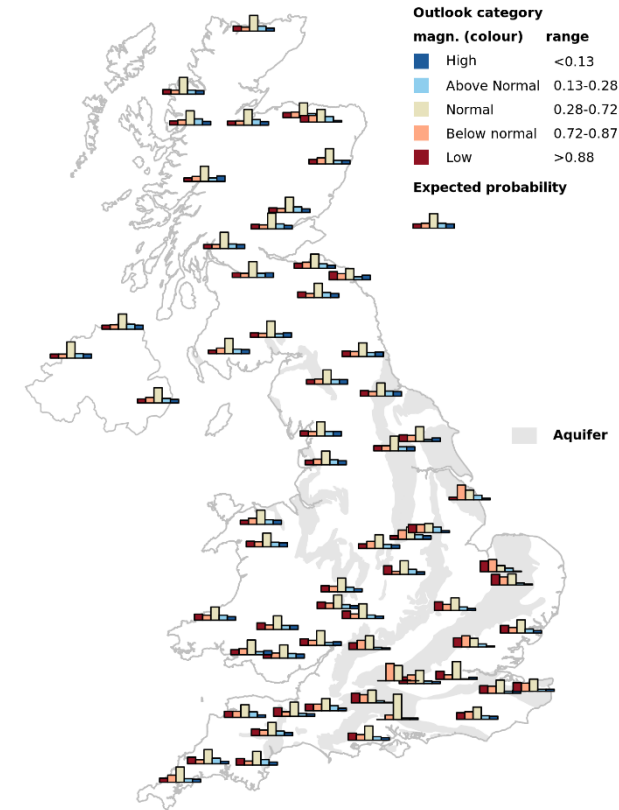
1-month river flow outlook starting Jun 2026



3-month river flow outlook starting Jun 2026



6-month river flow outlook starting Jun 2026



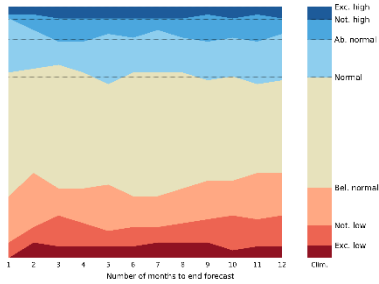
This outlook is based on monthly ensembles of historical sequences of observed climate (rainfall and potential evapotranspiration) that form input to a hydrological model. The outputs are probabilistic simulations of the average river flow over the forecast period (1 to 12 months ahead), at each location. The simulations are generated by the GR6J conceptual rainfall-runoff model from INRAE (France) calibrated on observed or naturalised flows.

The bar plot maps show the outlook distribution for 1, 3 and 6-month period for 64 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.

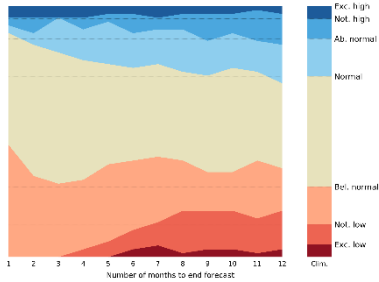
This outlook is based entirely on historical sequences and therefore does not contain any knowledge of the state of the atmosphere and ocean. It is hence possible that some of the historical sequences used might be inconsistent with current large-scale atmospheric conditions and would therefore be unlikely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

Please note that *Outlooks based on modelled flow from historical climate* from October 2023 onwards were generated using GR6J model, whereas until September 2023, they were produced using GR4J model. For more details, please see the section on River flow from historical climate at this link: <https://hydoutuk.net/about/methods/river-flows>

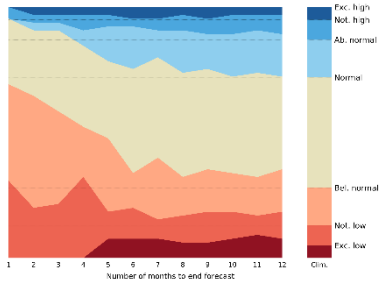
Mourne
201010



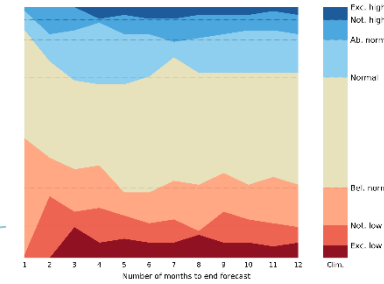
Trent
28009



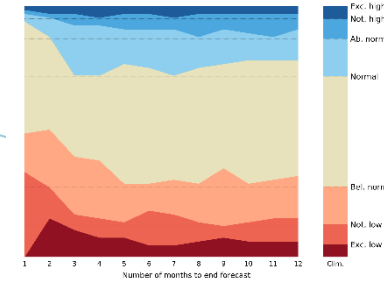
Severn
54032



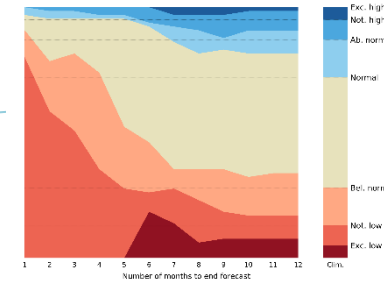
Tay
15006



Tweed
21009



Thames
39001



This outlook is based on monthly ensembles of historical sequences of observed climate (rainfall and potential evapotranspiration) that form input to a hydrological model. 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 the GR6J conceptual rainfall-runoff model from INRAE (France) calibrated on observed or naturalised flows.

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).

This outlook is based entirely on historical sequences and therefore 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.

Outlook based on modelled flow using historical weather analogues

Period: June 2026 – August 2026

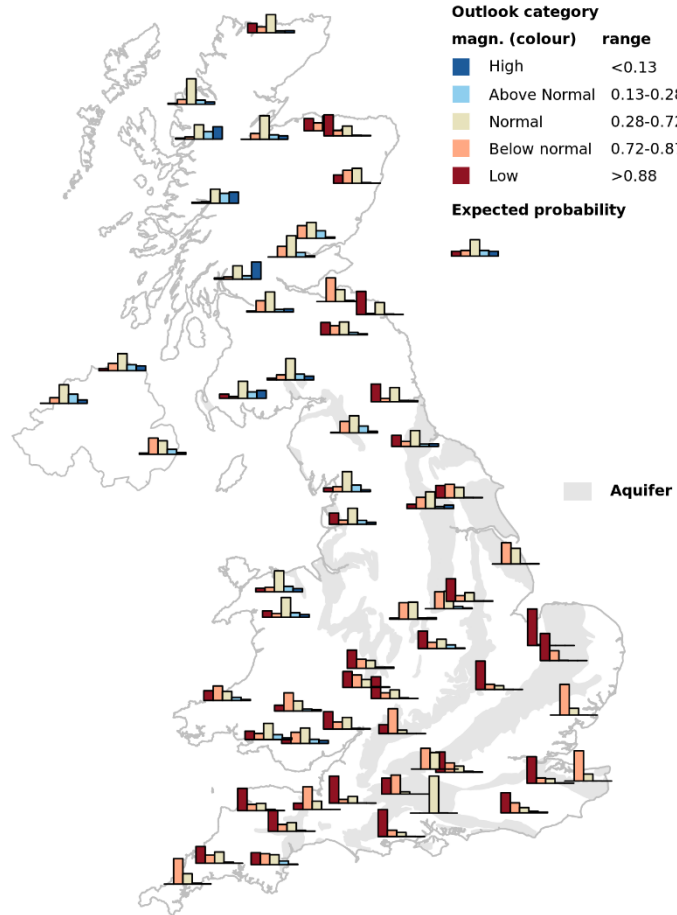
Issued on 02.06.2026 using data to the end of May 2026

The outlook for June indicates that river flows are likely to be below normal to low across central, southern, and eastern England, eastern Scotland, and parts of Wales. Elsewhere, flows are expected to be in the normal range, except for northern and western Scotland where flows are likely to be normal to above normal. The June to August outlook indicates a slight easing of this below normal to low pattern across central and southern areas, while normal to above normal conditions remain dominant further north.

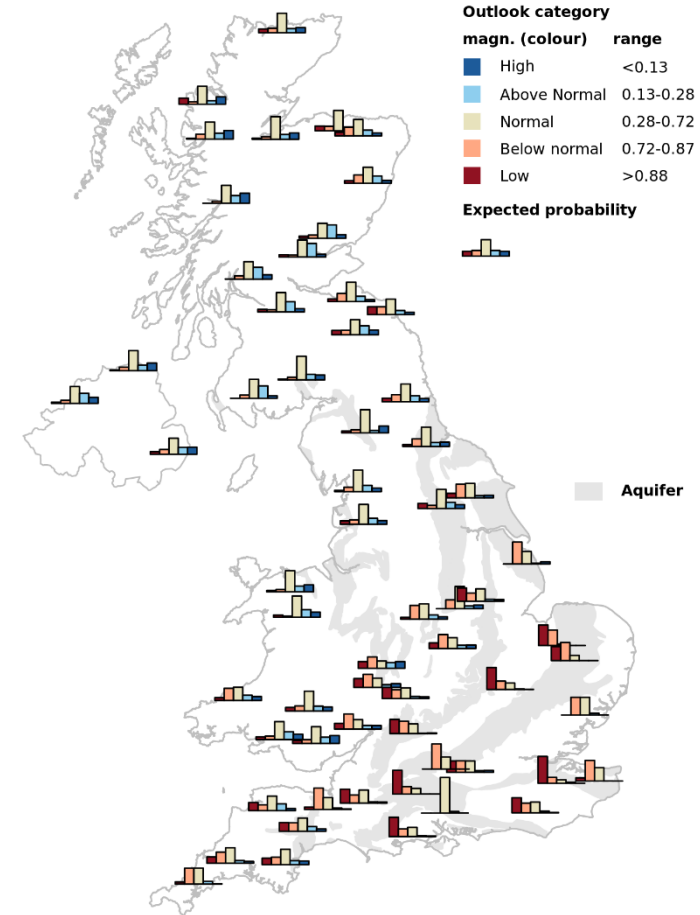
The historical weather analogues method uses Met Office predictions of average weather 1 and 3 months ahead to provide inputs to a hydrological model. Like the ESP method, observed rainfall and temperature data from past years are used to drive the predictions, however, the analogue method constrains the selection of past rainfall using the weather conditions in the meteorological forecasts (which are summarised for this forecast in the Met Office likelihood of impacts blocks underneath the maps). For each member of the Met Office forecast ensemble, the 10 analogues that best match the predicted average weather pattern (surface pressure map) over the forecast period are selected. Precipitation and temperature sequences constructed from the selected analogue scenarios are corrected to account for historic trends and used as inputs to hydrological models. Here, the GR6J model is run using these inputs, creating an ensemble of hydrological forecasts.

The outputs shown in the maps are the likelihoods of different outcomes for the average river flow over the one-month and three-month forecast periods at each location. The outlooks maps show the distribution for 64 catchments across the United Kingdom. Each bar plot represents the likelihood 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. The expected climatological probability of ensemble members in each of these categories is shown under the legend.

1-month river flow outlook starting Jun 2026



3-month river flow outlook starting Jun 2026



Met Office 1-month likelihood of precipitation impact



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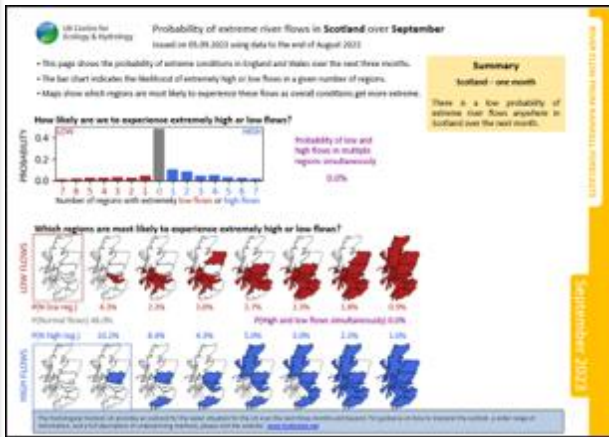
Met Office 3-month likelihood of precipitation impact



© Crown copyright, Met Office

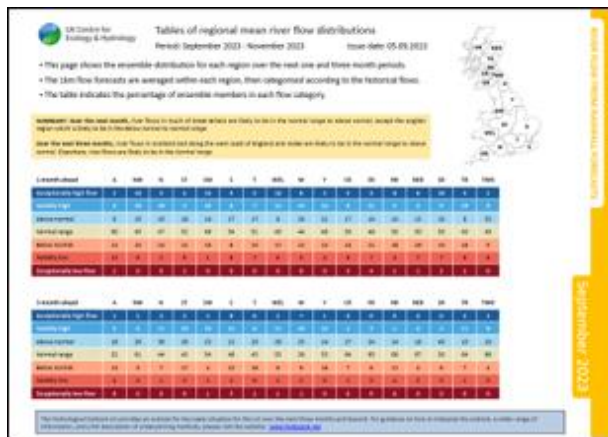
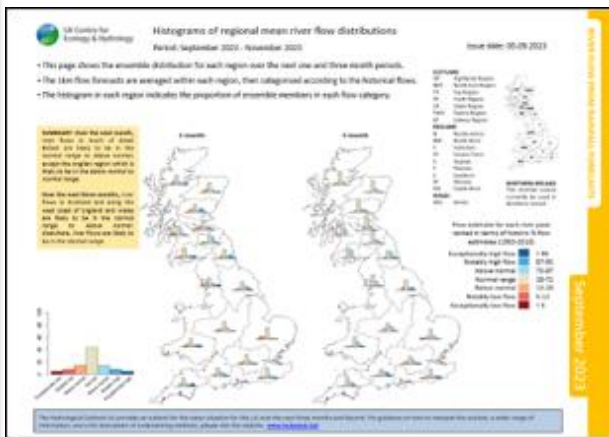
- These (yellow edged) pages summarise river flow forecasts produced by the UKCEH Water Balance Model.
- This model uses an ensemble of rainfall forecasts provided by the Met Office and a hydrological model to forecast river flows for the next one- and three-months ahead.
- A detailed description of these forecast products can be found on the final page, and a full technical description is given in the documentation available via the Hydrological Outlook website.
- Additional forecast products are available on the Hydrological Outlook Portal, via the website.

Probability of extreme river flows



- Use these pages if you are interested in extreme conditions across multiple regions.
- These pages summarise the risk of extremely high or low flows being observed across GB.
- The four pages show the risk for **Scotland** and for **England & Wales** over the next one and three months.
- The slides indicate the **probability of widespread extreme conditions** and which regions are most likely to experience extremely high or low flows.

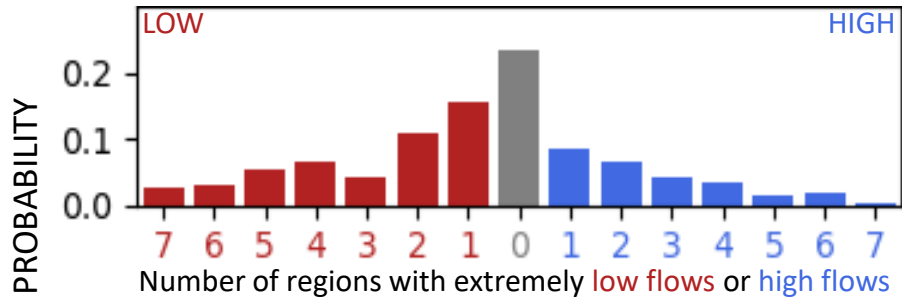
Regional mean river flow distributions



- Use these pages if you are interested in the ensemble distribution in a single region.
- The first page shows the ensemble distribution as a histogram for each region.
- The second page shows the percentage of ensemble members in each band for each region.

This page shows the **probability of extreme conditions in Scotland** over the next month. The bar chart indicates the likelihood of extremely high or low flows in a given number of regions. Maps show which regions are most likely to experience these flows as overall conditions get more extreme.

How likely are we to experience extremely low or high flows?



Probability of low and high flows in multiple regions simultaneously

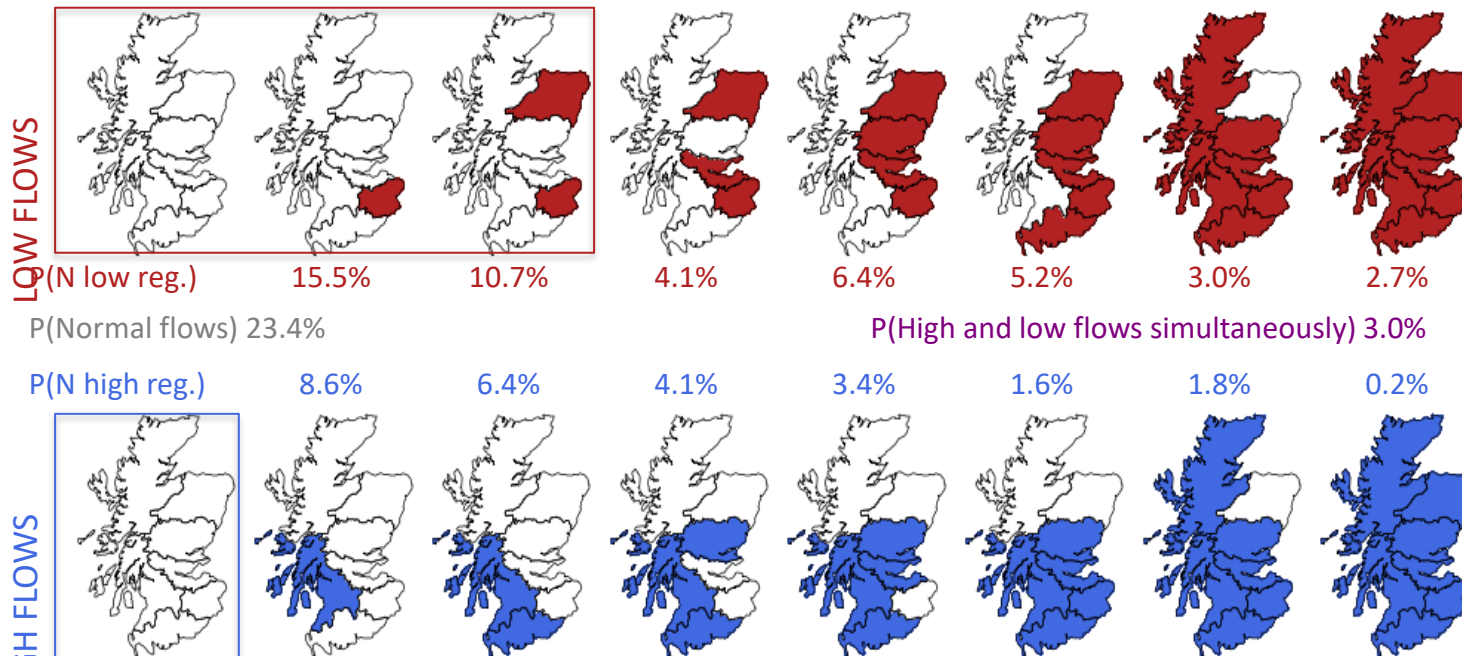
3.0%

Summary

Scotland – one month

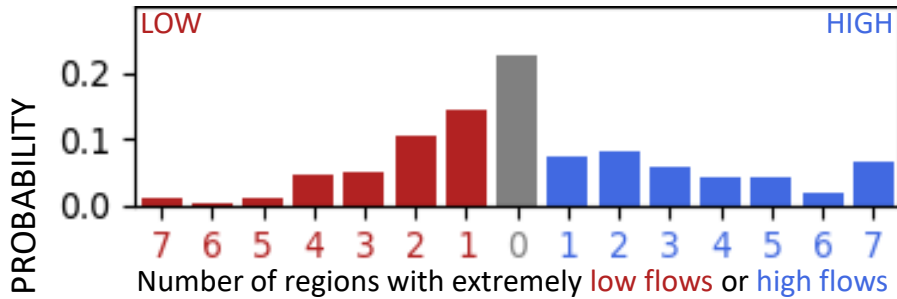
Extremely high or low flows are not likely to be observed in Scotland over June, but some extremely low flows could occur in the East of Scotland.

Which regions are most likely to experience extremely low or high flows?



This page shows the **probability of extreme conditions in Scotland** over the next three months. The bar chart indicates the likelihood of extremely high or low flows in a given number of regions. Maps show which regions are most likely to experience these flows as overall conditions get more extreme.

How likely are we to experience extremely low or high flows?



Probability of low and high flows in multiple regions simultaneously

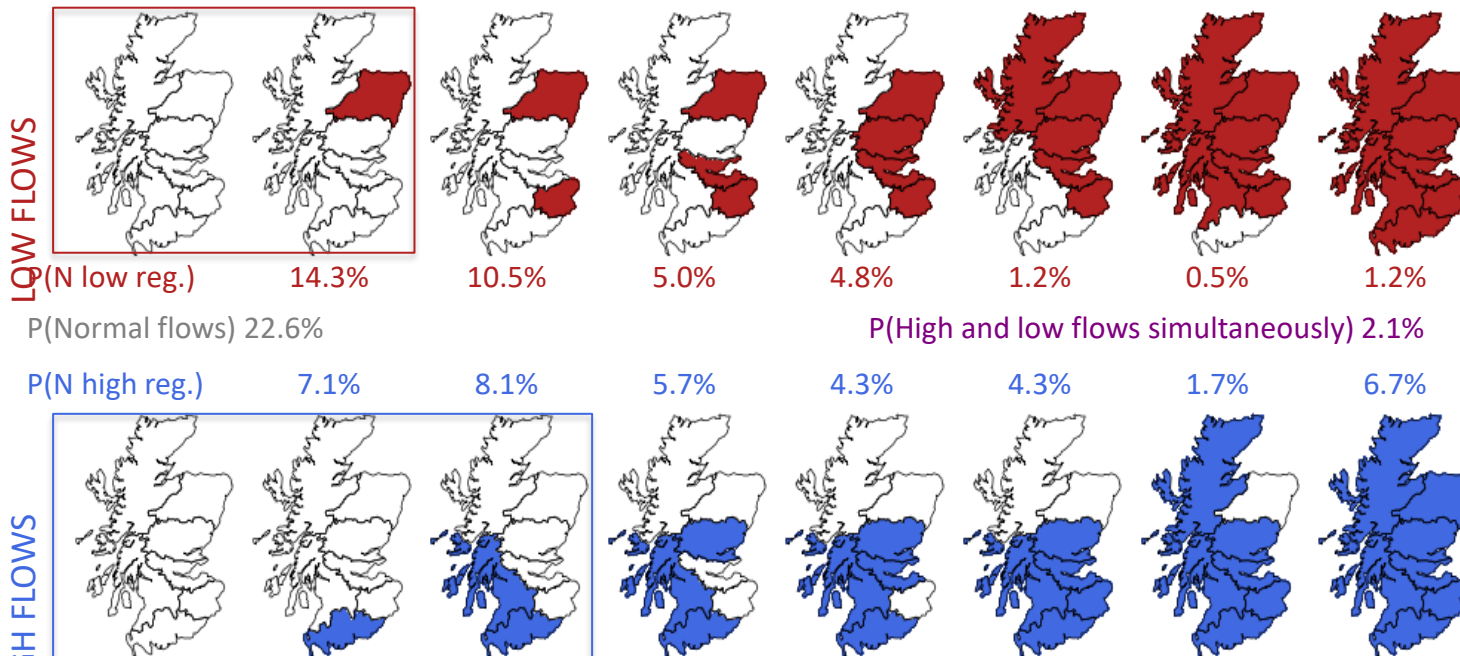
2.1%

Summary

Scotland – three months

Extremely high or low flows are not likely to be observed in Scotland over the next three months, but some extremely low flows could occur in the East of Scotland while higher flows could occur in the South of Scotland.

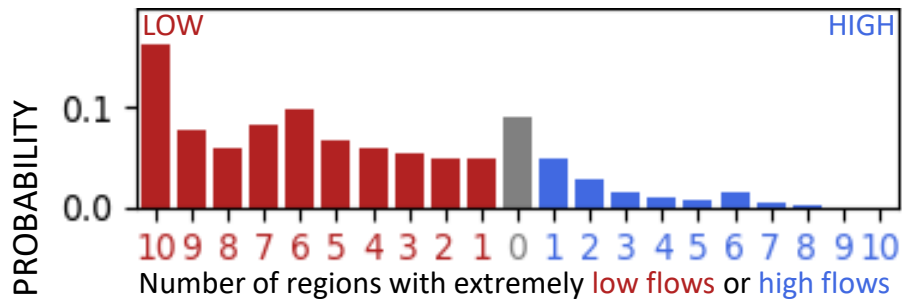
Which regions are most likely to experience extremely low or high flows?



This page shows the **probability of extreme conditions in England and Wales** over the next month. The bar chart indicates the likelihood of extremely high or low flows in a given number of regions. Maps show which regions are most likely to experience these flows as overall conditions get more extreme.

Summary
England and Wales – one month
 Extremely low flows are likely to be observed across England and Wales over the next month.

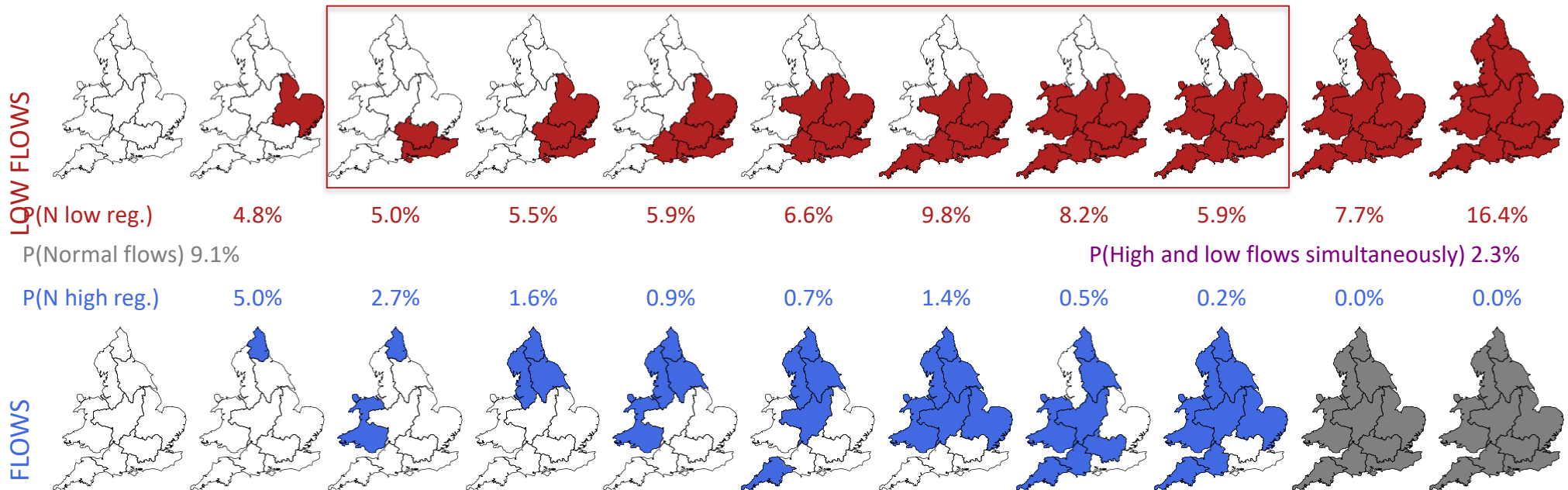
How likely are we to experience extremely low or high flows?



Probability of low and high flows in multiple regions simultaneously

2.3%

Which regions are most likely to experience extremely low or high flows?



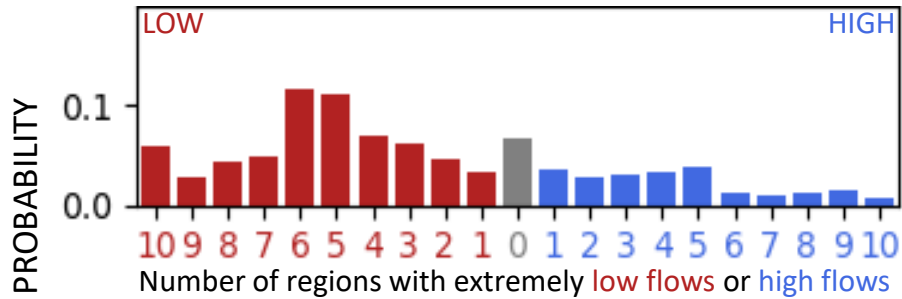
This page shows the **probability of extreme conditions in England and Wales** over the next three months. The bar chart indicates the likelihood of extremely high or low flows in a given number of regions. Maps show which regions are most likely to experience these flows as overall conditions get more extreme.

Summary

England and Wales – three months

Extremely low flows are likely to be observed across England and Wales over the next three months.

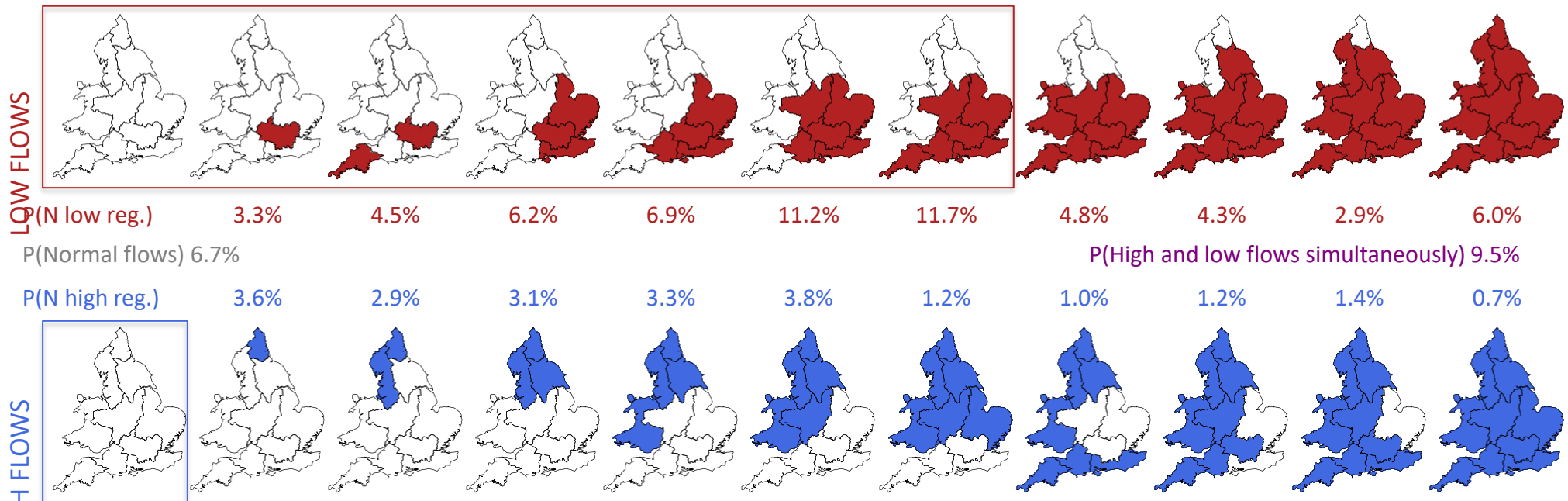
How likely are we to experience extremely low or high flows?



Probability of low and high flows in multiple regions simultaneously

9.5%

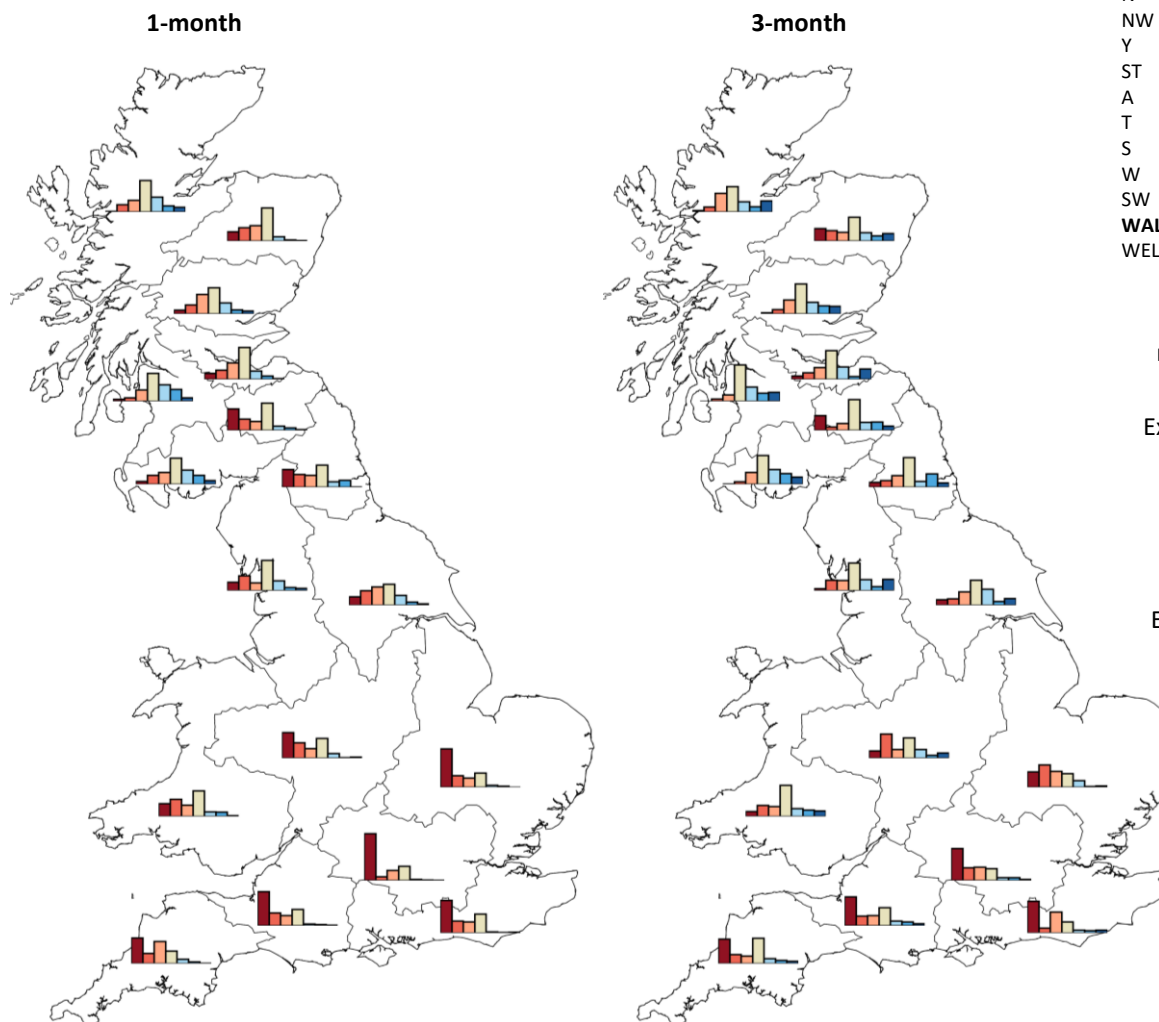
Which regions are most likely to experience extremely low or high flows?



- This page shows **the ensemble flow distribution for each region** over the next 1- and 3-month periods.
- The 1km flow forecasts are averaged within each region, then categorised according to the historical flows.
- The histogram in each region indicates the proportion of ensemble members in each flow category.

SUMMARY: Over the next month, river flows across Great Britain are likely to be in the *normal to exceptionally low range*. Exceptionally low flows are most likely in the south.

Over the next three months, river flows in the South of England are likely to be in the *normal to exceptionally low range*, while river flows in the rest of the country are likely to be in the *normal range*.



SCOTLAND

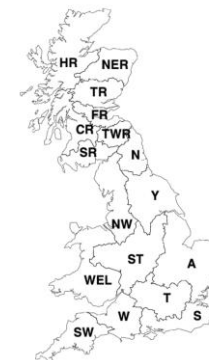
- HR Highlands Region
- NER North East Region
- TR Tay Region
- FR Forth Region
- CR Clyde Region
- TWR Tweed Region
- SR Solway Region

ENGLAND

- N Northumbria
- NW North West
- Y Yorkshire
- ST Severn Trent
- A Anglian
- T Thames
- S Southern
- W Wessex
- SW South West

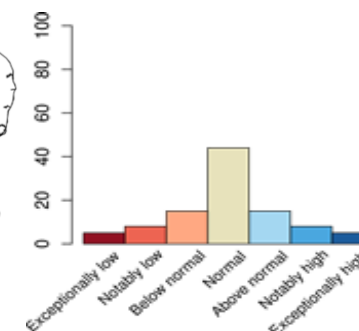
WALES

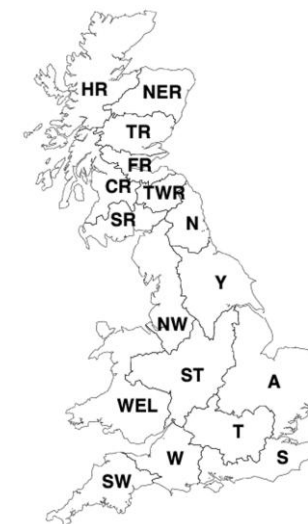
- WEL Welsh



Flow estimate for each river pixel ranked in terms of historic % flow estimates (1963-2016)

Exceptionally high flow	> 95
Notably high flow	87-95
Above normal	72-87
Normal range	28-72
Below normal	13-28
Notably low flow	5-13
Exceptionally low flow	< 5





- This page shows **the ensemble flow distribution for each region** over the next 1- and 3-month periods.
- The 1km flow forecasts are averaged within each region, then categorised according to the historical flows.
- The table indicates the percentage of ensemble members in each flow category.

SUMMARY: Over the next month, river flows across Great Britain are likely to be in the *normal range* to *notably low* in almost all areas.

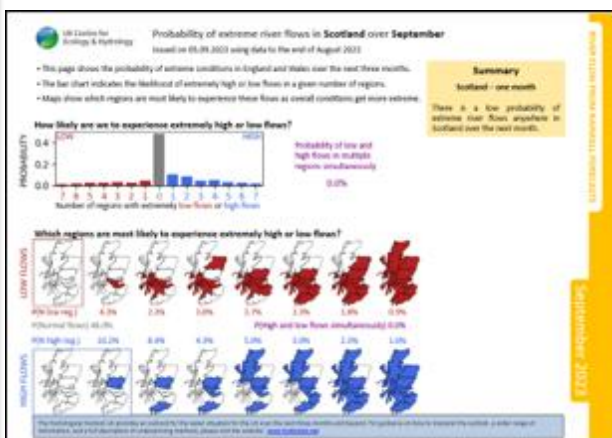
Over the next three months, river flows in southern and central England are likely to be in the *normal range* to *exceptionally low*. Flows in southern and eastern Scotland are likely to be in the *normal range* to *above normal*.

1-month ahead	A	NW	N	ST	SW	S	T	WEL	W	Y	CR	FR	HR	NER	SR	TR	TWR
Exceptionally high flow	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	4	1	6	1	5	4	1
Notably high	2	4	9	1	2	1	1	6	2	4	16	4	8	1	12	5	3
Above normal	3	13	7	6	6	2	1	6	2	13	22	11	19	6	19	14	6
Normal range	18	40	29	26	16	24	18	33	21	28	36	42	41	43	34	34	36
Below normal	12	10	16	12	29	14	13	15	13	24	15	22	15	20	16	26	12
Notably low	15	20	17	20	13	16	5	22	17	19	4	12	10	17	12	12	15
Exceptionally low flow	50	11	23	33	33	42	61	17	44	11	2	8	1	12	4	5	28

3-month ahead	A	NW	N	ST	SW	S	T	WEL	W	Y	CR	FR	HR	NER	SR	TR	TWR
Exceptionally high flow	2	15	6	7	3	4	1	7	3	9	12	14	14	10	10	10	6
Notably high	1	5	18	4	4	3	4	8	5	5	11	4	7	7	14	11	11
Above normal	9	14	8	11	6	4	4	10	6	21	19	16	13	11	20	15	10
Normal range	18	36	39	26	33	14	16	41	24	33	48	38	33	31	38	39	40
Below normal	21	13	15	11	10	27	17	13	13	18	8	16	24	11	16	18	9
Notably low	29	14	9	31	12	6	17	14	12	8	3	9	6	14	3	6	4
Exceptionally low flow	20	2	6	9	32	41	42	6	38	7	0	4	2	16	0	1	19

- The data on these (yellow-bordered) pages are based on approximately 400 rainfall scenarios provided by the Met Office, which are used as inputs to a water balance hydrological model.
- River flow forecasts for every 1km grid cell are ranked according to the historical flow estimates and aggregated within each region.
- A full description of this method and these summary products is given in the technical documentation available via the Hydrological Outlook website.

Probability of extreme river flows



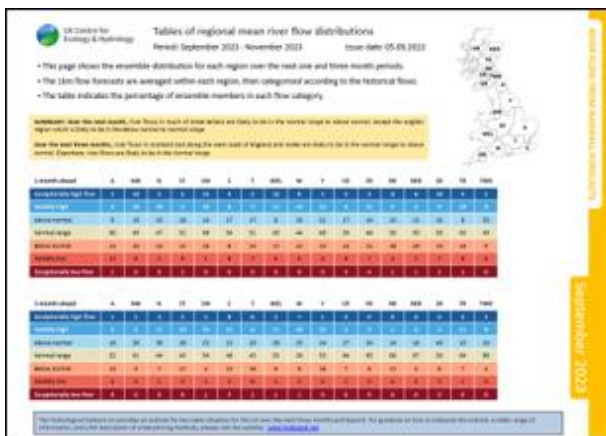
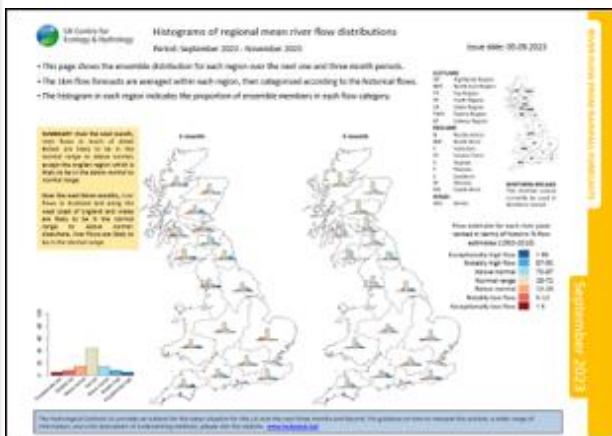
Extreme river flows are defined as those which rank in the lowest or highest 13% of historical flow estimates (1963 - 2016). This definition encompasses the 'Notably' and 'Exceptionally' high/low flow bands used elsewhere in the Outlook.

The bar chart shows the probability of a given number of regions experiencing extremely high/low flows, where scenarios showing both extremely high and extremely low flows in different regions simultaneously excluded. These probabilities are also shown beneath the maps.

Shaded regions on each map are those most likely to experience extreme flows from the set of scenarios with at least a given number of regions experiencing such flows. If shown, grey maps indicate scenarios not observed in the ensemble.

The box drawn around some maps spans the central 50% probability interval, excluding scenarios where extremely high/low flows are observed simultaneously. If these excluded cases constitute a significant probability, details are given in the yellow summary box.

Regional mean river flow distributions



The maps illustrate the ensemble distribution of regional mean river flows. The historical distribution is shown at bottom-left, and allows deviations from the normal distribution to be determined by comparing the forecast distribution to the historical distribution. A summary is given in the yellow box.

The table gives access to the data shown in the histograms. The numbers in the tables are the percentage of ensemble forecasts falling in each of the flow categories. As before results are averaged by region then ranked in terms of 54 years of historical regional flow estimates (1963 – 2016).

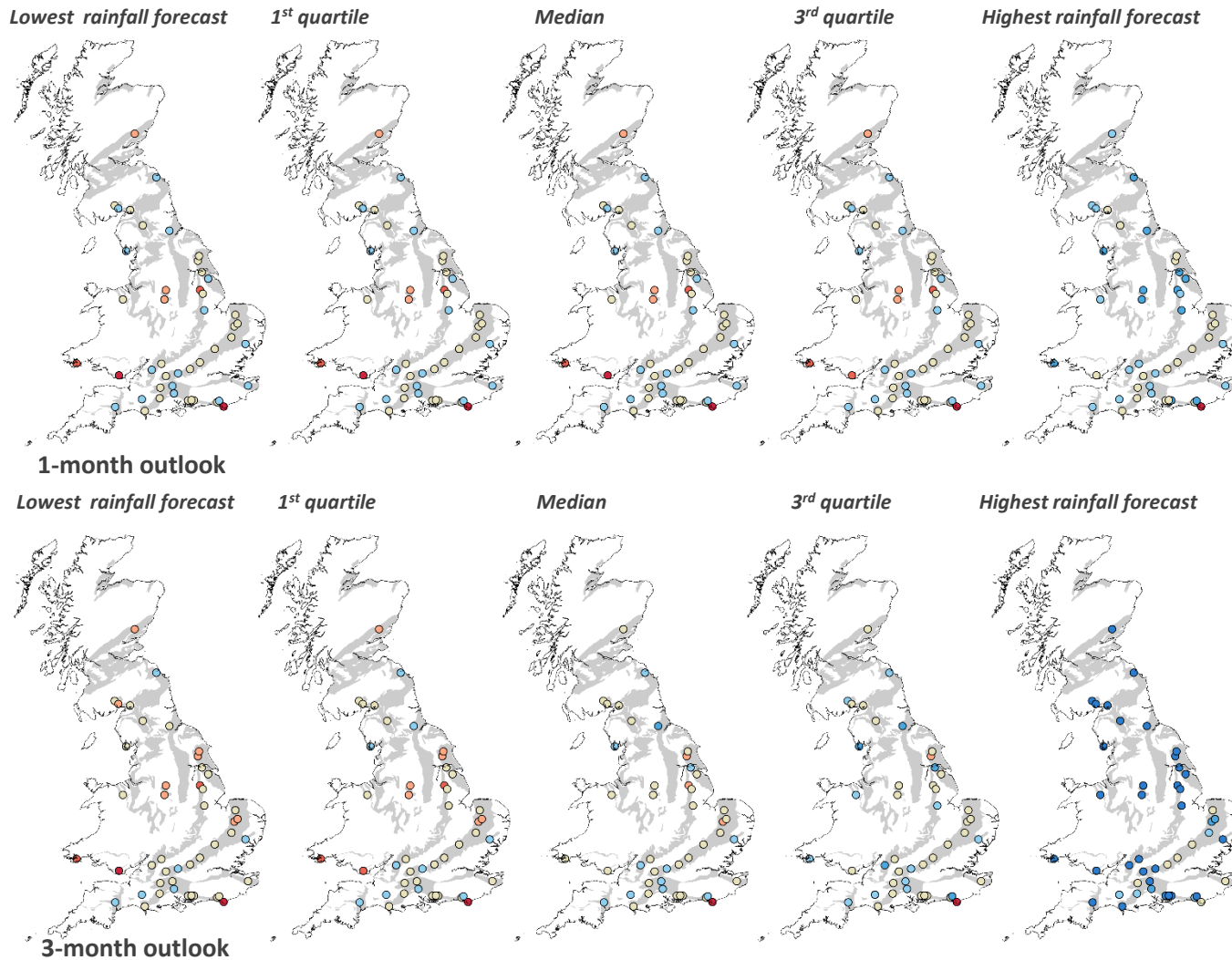
Period: June 2026 – August 2026

Issued on 04.06.2026 using data to the end of May

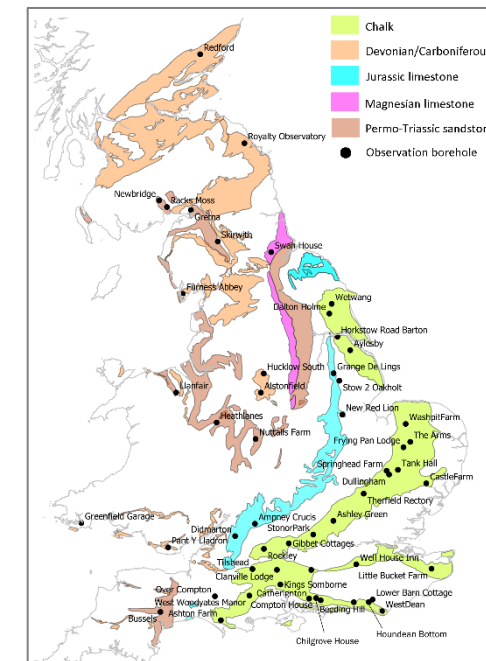
Under median rainfall conditions, groundwater levels in the Chalk across Southern England, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and East Anglia are generally expected to be within the normal to above normal range over the next month. In the Jurassic limestones in England and in the Permo-Triassic and Devonian/Carboniferous sandstones in northern England and Scotland, levels are expected to range from below normal to above normal. In north Wales, levels are expected to be normal, whereas in South Wales it is anticipated levels will be exceptionally low. Under median rainfall conditions the three-month groundwater outlook broadly aligns with the one-month forecast, with levels generally rising slightly and remaining, or recovering to, normal to above normal ranges.

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
Exceptionally high levels	> 95
Notably high levels	87-95
Above normal	72-87
Normal	28-72
Below normal	12-28
Notably low levels	5-13
Exceptionally low levels	< 5



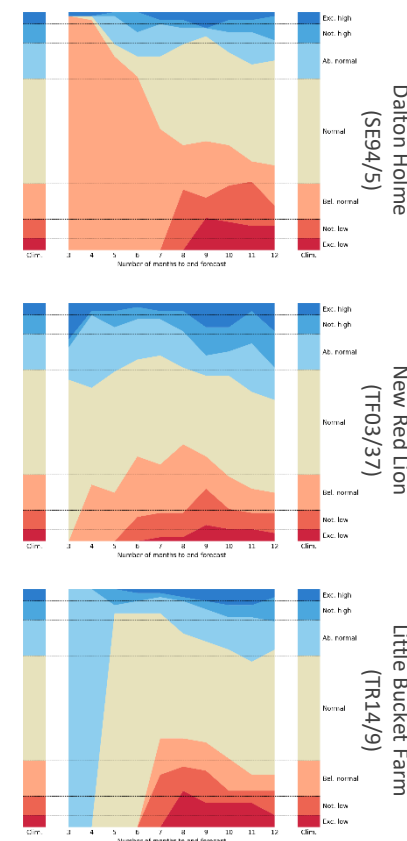
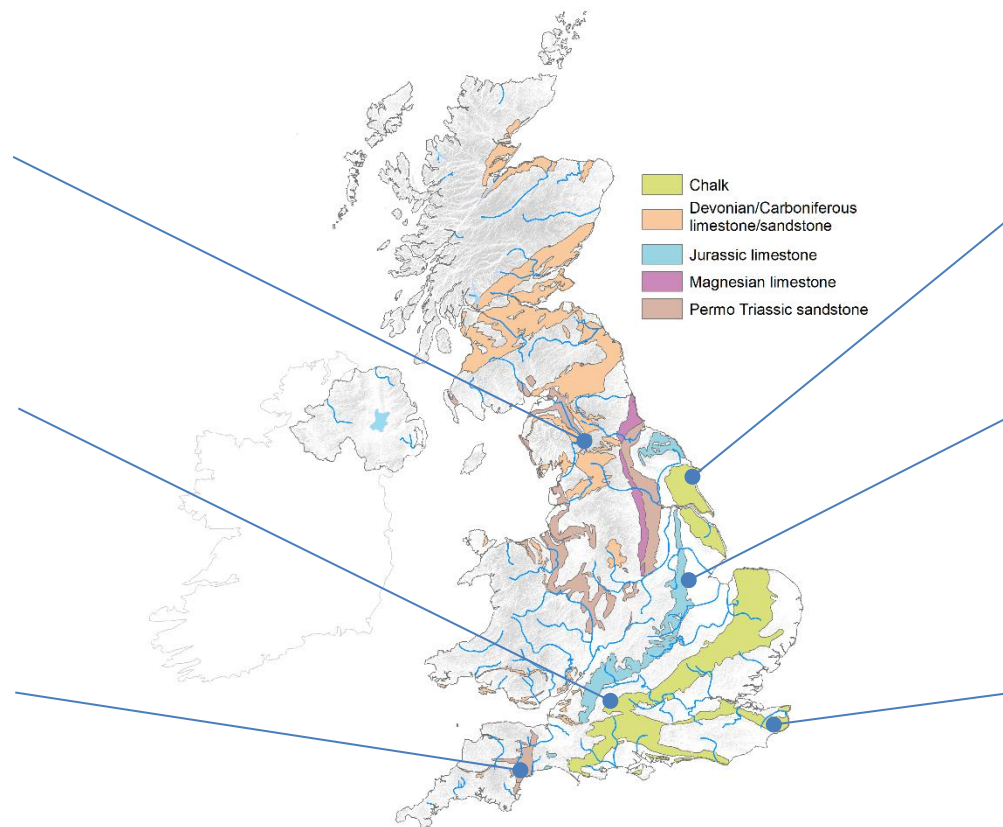
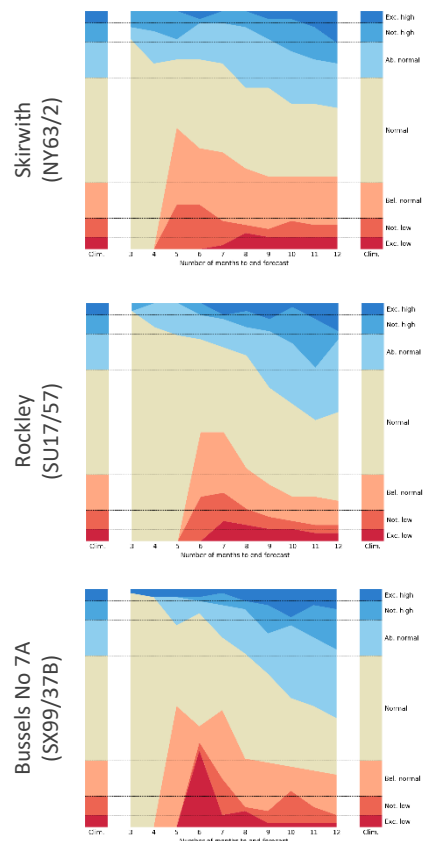
The Hydrological Outlook UK provides an outlook for the water situation for the UK over the next three months and beyond. For guidance on how to interpret the outlook, a wider range of information, and a full description of underpinning methods, please visit the website: www.hydoutuk.net

Outlook based on modelled groundwater from historical climate

Period: May 2026 – April 2027

Issued on 04.06.2026 using data to the end of May

Groundwater levels in the Chalk at Little Bucket Farm (south-east England) are expected to fall from above normal to near-normal within four to five months. At Rockley in the Chalk (southern England), New Red Lion in the Jurassic limestone (midlands England), plus Skirwith (northern England) and Bussels No 7A (south-west England) in the Permo Triassic sandstone, levels are forecast to remain normal for the next three to five months, then decline to below-normal, before recovering to normal or above normal levels within nine to twelve months. At Dalton Holme in the Chalk (northern England) levels are expected to remain below normal for seven months, then gradually recover towards normal conditions.



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 groundwater level over the forecast horizon (3 to 12 months ahead), at each location.

that fall within each the seven categories: exceptionally low, notably low, below normal, normal, above normal, notably high and exceptionally high. The monthly variations can be compared to the long-term average distribution of levels, which are shown as columns on the left and right of each graph.

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.

The graphs show variation over time of the number of simulated groundwater levels in each monthly ensemble,

This outlook is based entirely on historical sequences and therefore does not contain any knowledge of the state of