

# Hydrological Forecasting in R

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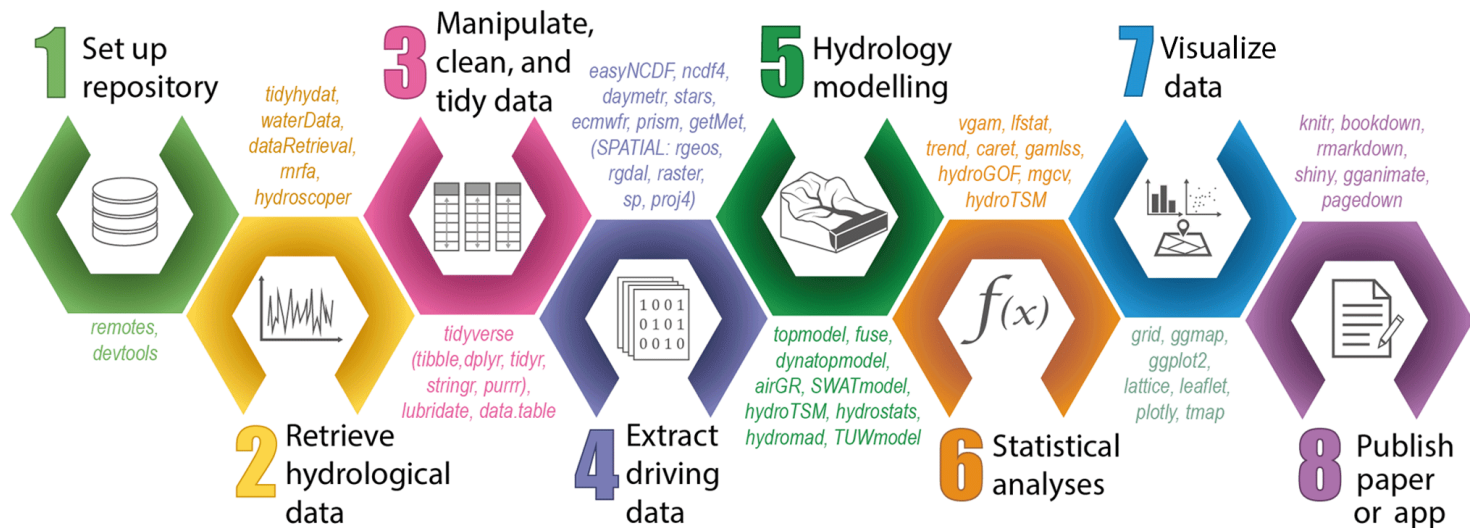
🐦 katieasmith26



# Forecasting in R

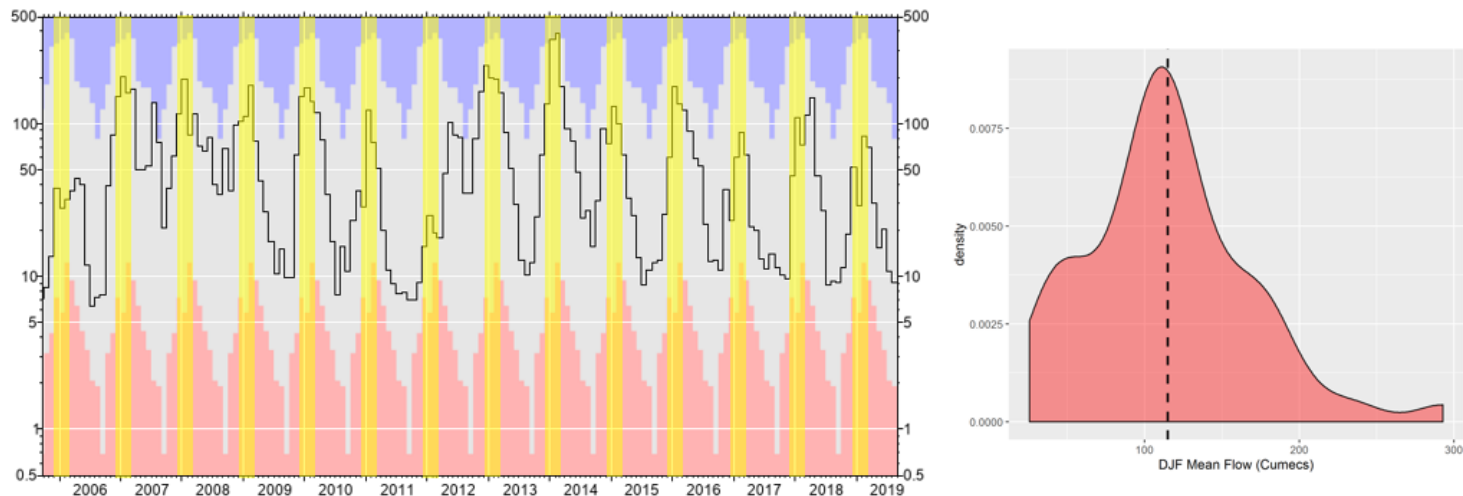
As with any piece of R work, forecasting has a pretty standard workflow of:

- setting up version control
- retrieving hydrological data for calibration
- tidying data
- extracting driving climate data
- applying a hydrological model
- analysing, visualising, and publishing the results



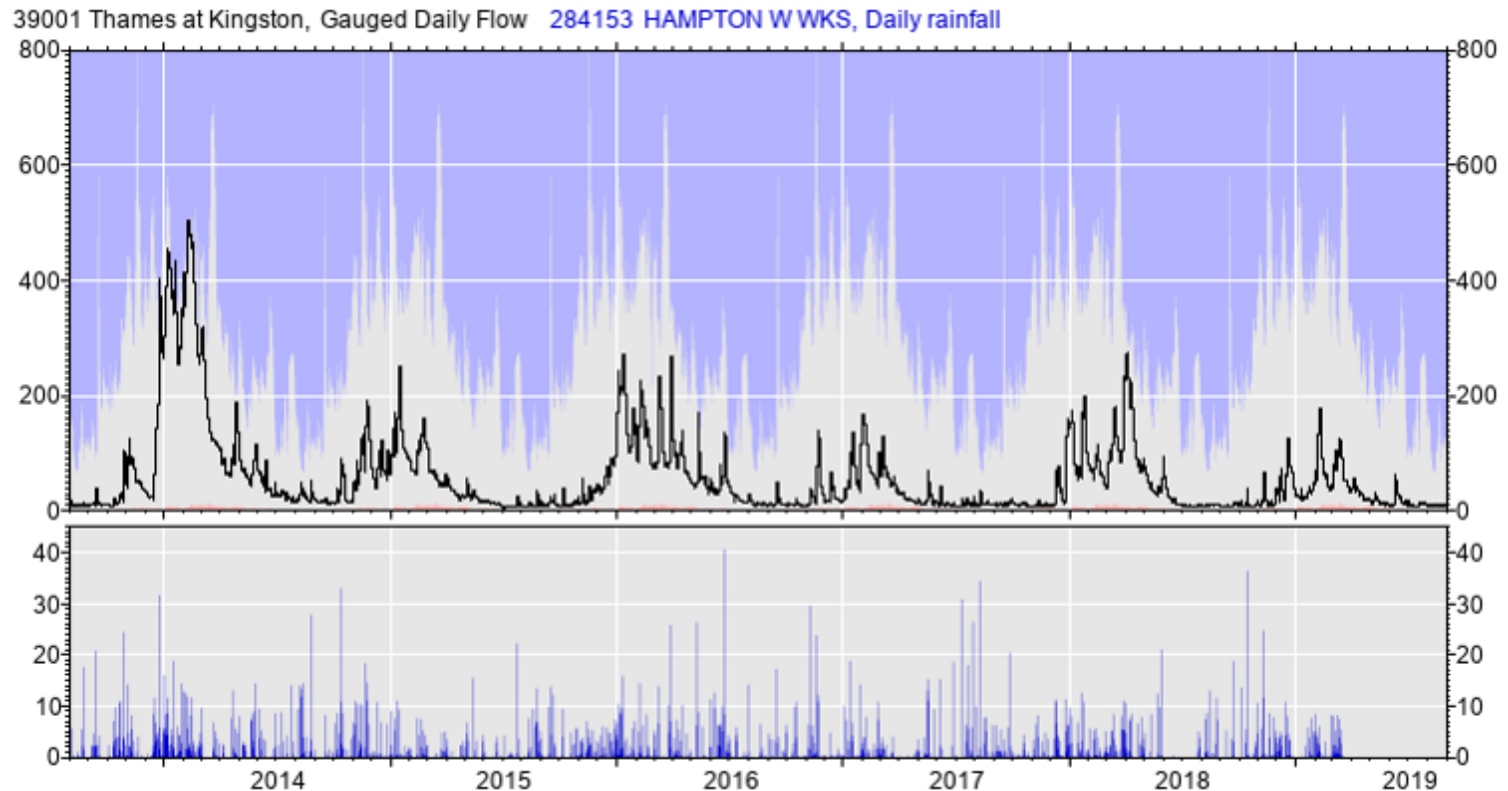
# Climatology

The most basic forecast that we could make is "climatology". This is simply looking at the observed streamflow at this time of year for each year in the past, and using those to form a distribution.



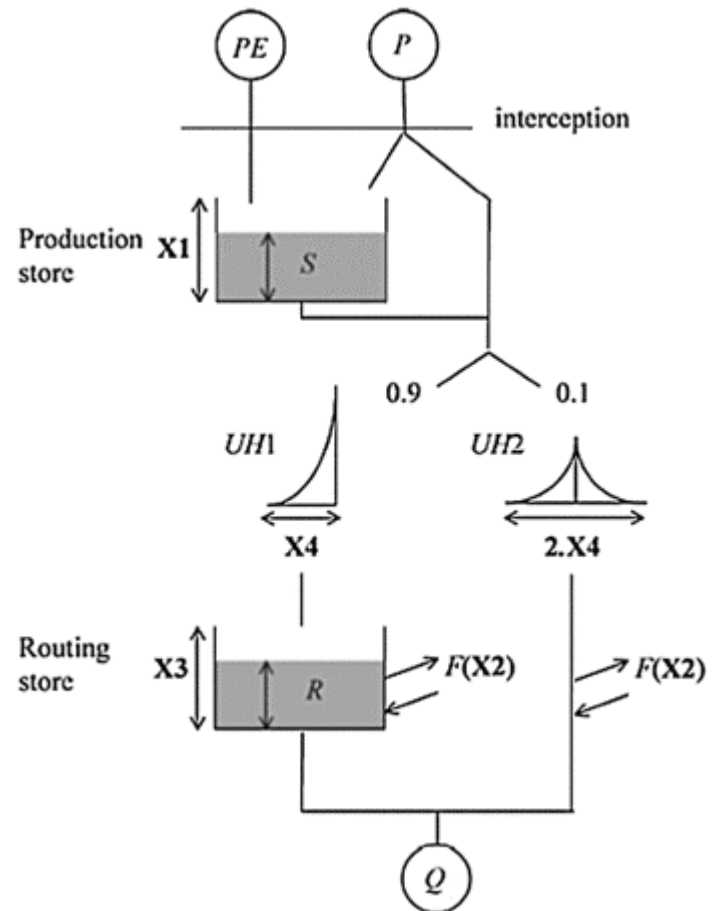
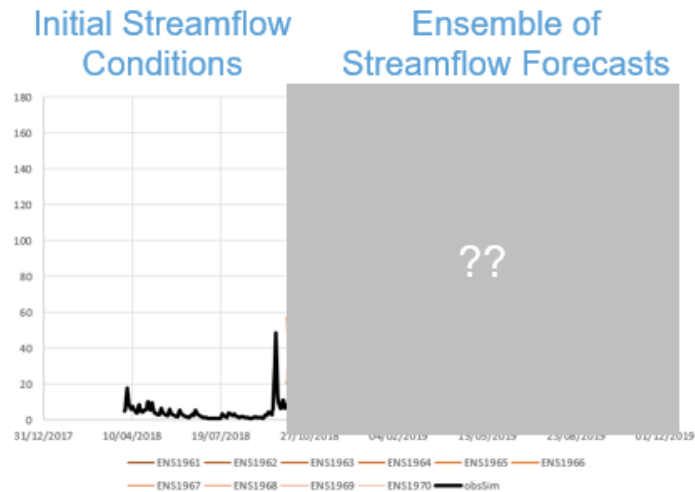
# Ensemble Streamflow Prediction

A step up from that is ESP, a very simple method of forecasting that does not require a meteorological forecast. We know our initial conditions, so some of the years in the climatology may not be appropriate.



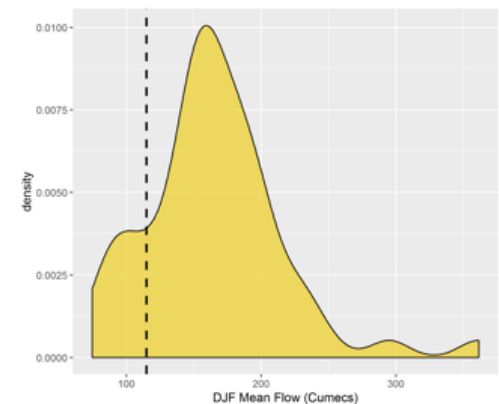
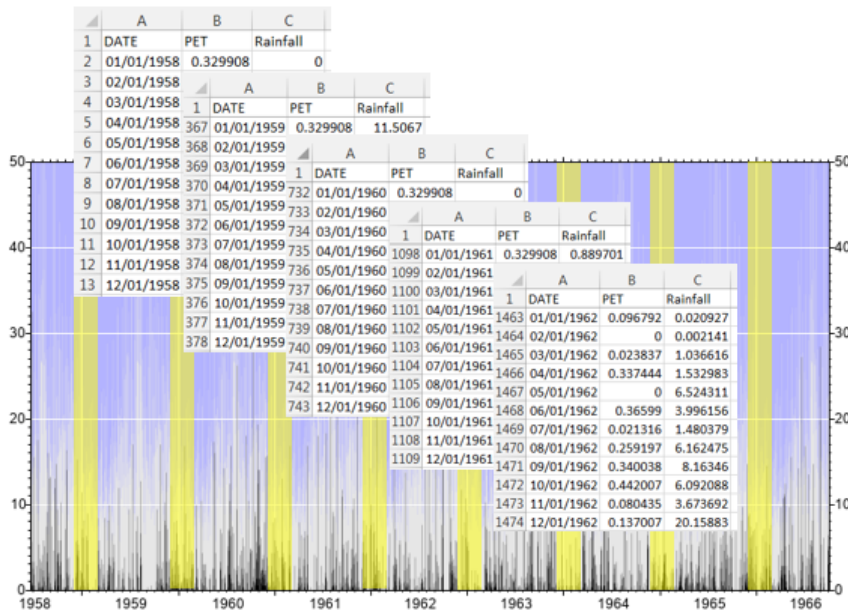
# Ensemble Streamflow Prediction

We can model the flow up until the present day, using observed climate data.



# Ensemble Streamflow Prediction

Then ESP simply uses past years of observed climate data, and runs a hydrological model as if that climate were to happen from today.

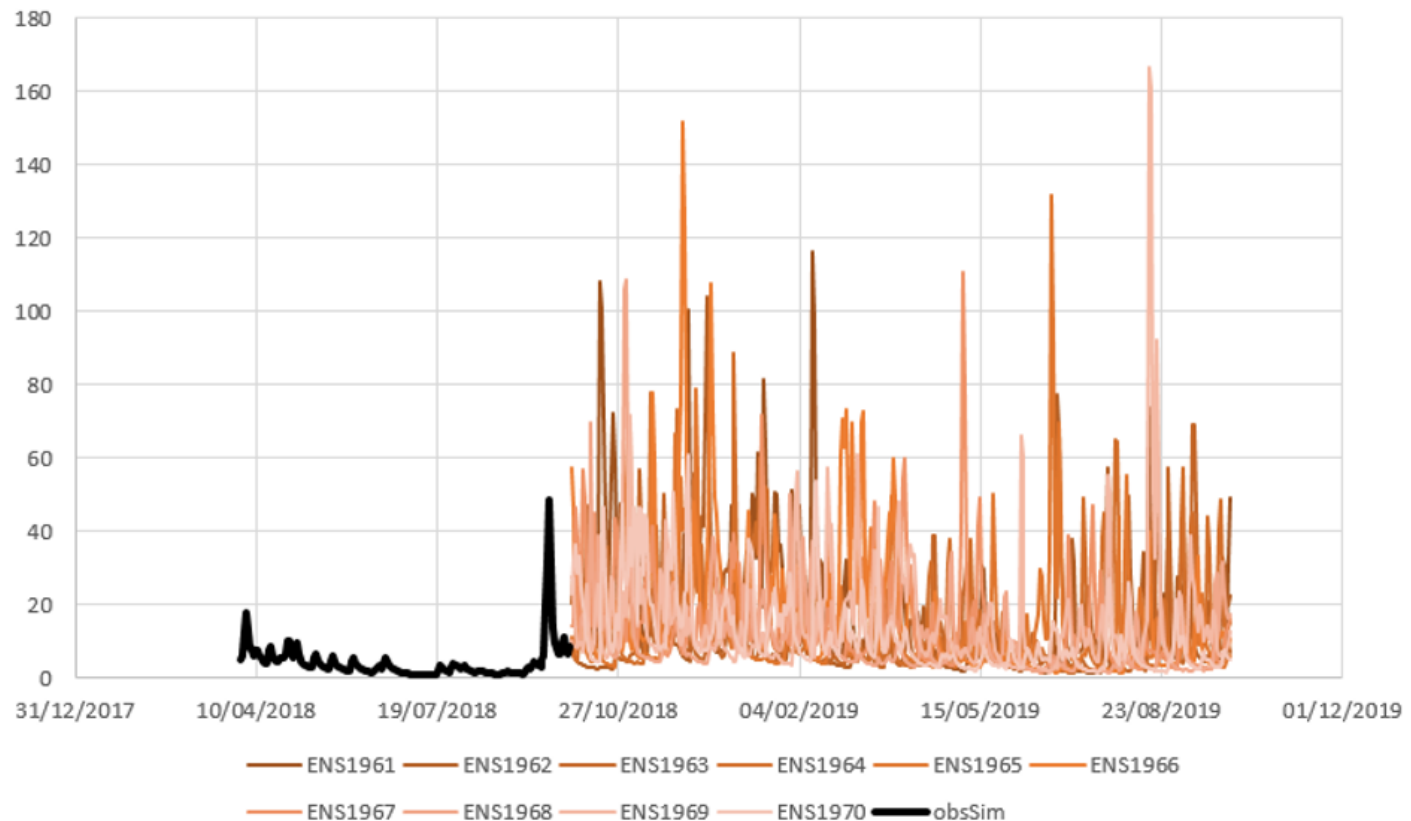


Dashed line = mean of climatology

# Ensemble Streamflow Prediction

Initial Streamflow  
Conditions

Ensemble of  
Streamflow Forecasts



# So let's have a go!

Ensemble Streamflow Prediction with GR4J



The first step is to calibrate the GR4J model. A walkthrough on how to do that can be found in the R notebook at:

[https://github.com/hydrosoc/rhydro\\_vEGU21/tree/main/presentations/04.hydro\\_forecas](https://github.com/hydrosoc/rhydro_vEGU21/tree/main/presentations/04.hydro_forecas)

## Hydrology in R demonstration airGR - EGU 24/04/2017

Code ▾

Session lead: Katie Smith (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology) [k.a.smith@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:k.a.smith@ceh.ac.uk)

This is an demonstration of how to use the airGR package of hydrological models in R, as well as how to plot interactive timeseries graphs with the dygraphs package.

First we need to install some packages

Hide

```
library(xts)
```

```
package <U+393C><U+3E31>xts<U+393C><U+3E32> was built under R version 3.3.3Loading required package: zoo
```

```
Attaching package: <U+393C><U+3E31>zoo<U+393C><U+3E32>
```

```
The following objects are masked from <U+393C><U+3E31>package:base<U+393C><U+3E32>:
```

```
as.Date, as.Date.numeric
```

Hide

```
library(dygraphs)
```

```
package <U+393C><U+3E31>dygraphs<U+393C><U+3E32> was built under R version 3.3.3
```

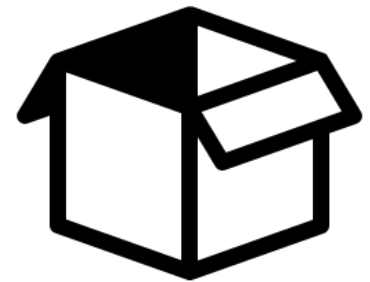
Now we'll load in some observational flow data from the River Thames (naturalised) in England - with thanks to the National River Flow Archive: <http://nrfa.ceh.ac.uk/data/search>

# You'll need some packages:

```
library(airGR)
library(dplyr)
library(ggplot2)
library(reshape2)
```

I also used a couple of personal functions to make life easier that:

- remove leap years from a date series
- make formatted dates from simple arguments (dd,mm,yyyy)



# Setting Up

We're working on the Lambourn catchment in the UK, a very groundwater dominated catchment. This is where ESP works the best, as it gets a lot of skill from flow persistence.

```
# set station and its area
BasinInfoAll<-c(39019,234.1)
getwd()
# Read BasinObs
BasinObs <- read.csv("./Final_New_BasinObs_1961_2017_39019.csv")
BasinObs$DATE <- as.POSIXct(BasinObs$DATE, format = dateFormat)
# Model parameters
Param <- c(455.6977636,-11.6614573,1085.473369,10.2877058)
# set data
DatesR <- as.POSIXlt(BasinObs$DATE)
Precip <- BasinObs$PRECIP
PotEvap <- BasinObs$PET
CatchArea <- BasinInfoAll[2]
```

# Running a baseline

```
# RUN GR4J FOR OBS PERIOD
InputsModel <- CreateInputsModel(FUN_MOD = RunModel_GR4J,
                                DatesR = DatesR,
                                Precip = Precip,
                                PotEvap = PotEvap)

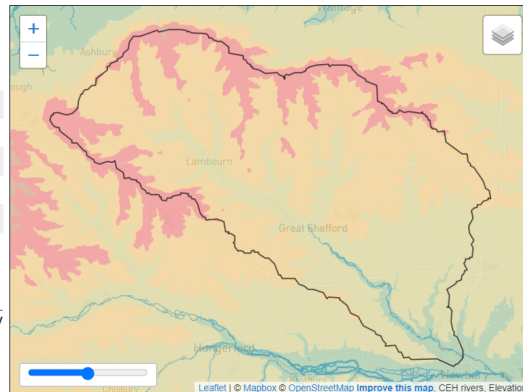
Ind_Run <- seq(1:length(DatesR))
RunOptions <- suppressWarnings(CreateRunOptions(FUN_MOD = RunModel_GR4J,
                                                InputsModel = InputsModel,
                                                IndPeriod_Run = Ind_Run,
                                                IniStates = NULL,
                                                IniResLevels = NULL,
                                                IndPeriod_WarmUp = NULL))

OutputsModel <- RunModel_GR4J(InputsModel = InputsModel,
                              RunOptions = RunOptions,
                              Param = Param)
```



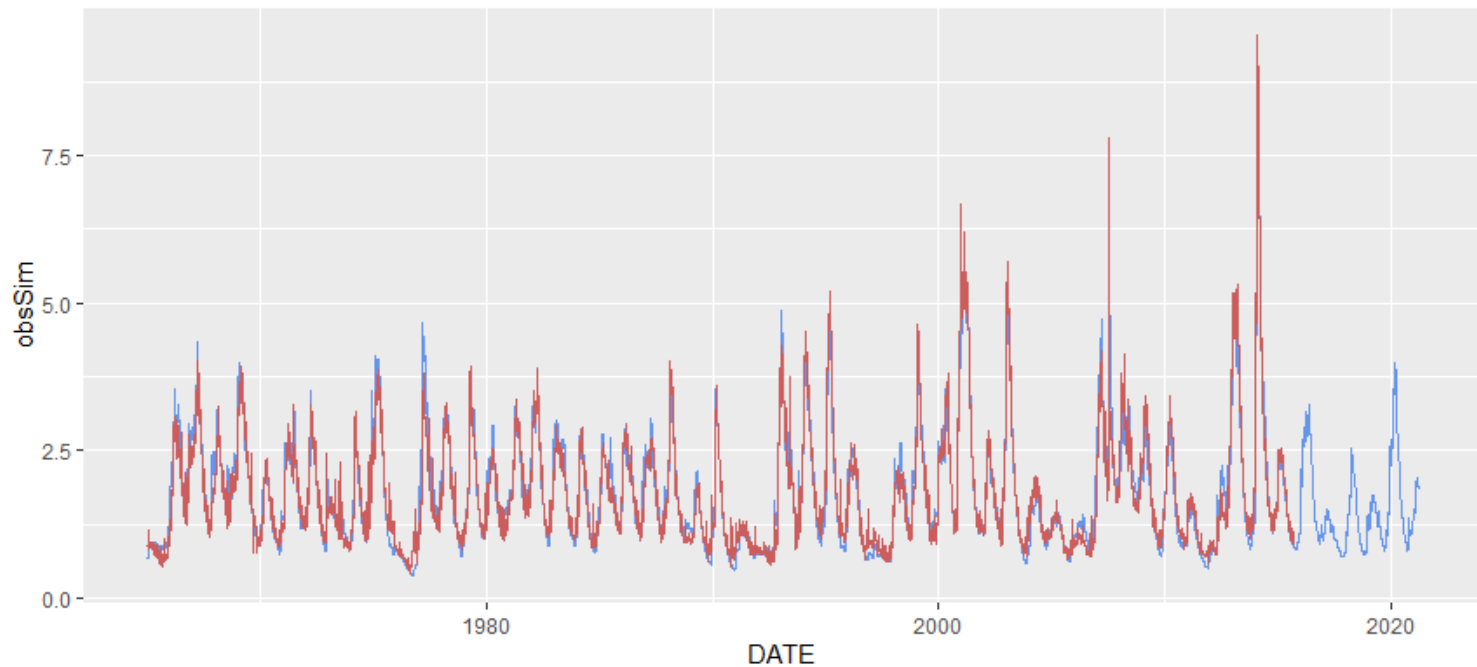
# Post process the output

```
obsSim<-as.data.frame(matrix(ncol=2,nrow=length(BasinObs$DATE),NA))
obsSim[,1]<-BasinObs$DATE
obsSim[,2]<-OutputsModel$Qsim
# Remove first 4 years as warm-up as change DATE to as.Date
colnames(obsSim) <- c("DATE", "obsSim")
obsSim$DATE<-as.Date(obsSim$DATE)
obsSim <- obsSim[which(obsSim$DATE > MakeDate(31,12,1964)), ]
# convert to cumecs
obsSim$obsSim <- (obsSim$obsSim * CatchArea) / 86.4
# merge with obs
obsSim$obs <- BasinObs$FLOW_cumecs[which(BasinObs$DATE==
                                           as.POSIXct(obsSim$DATE[1])):
                                           length(BasinObs$DATE)]
```



# Plotting the baseline run

```
# MAKE A PLOT  
ggplot(obsSim)+  
  geom_line(aes(x=DATE,y=obsSim),color="cornflower blue")+  
  geom_line(aes(x=DATE,y=obs), color="indianred")
```



# Get historic forecast data ready

```
#remove the first few months to mirror start month of forecast
BasinObs <- read.csv("./Final_New_BasinObs_1961_2017_39019.csv")
BasinObs$DATE <- as.Date(BasinObs$DATE)
BasinObs<-BasinObs[which(BasinObs$DATE >= MakeDate(01,04,1961)),]

#remove leap years from BasinObs
NoLeap <- RemoveLeapDay(BasinObs$DATE)
BasinObsNoLeap <- as.data.frame(NoLeap)
colnames(BasinObsNoLeap)<-c("DATE")
BasinObsNoLeap <- left_join(BasinObsNoLeap, BasinObs, by = "DATE")
```



# Get historic forecast data ready

## Make input matrix for Precip

```
PrecipESPin<-as.data.frame(matrix(NA,nrow=length(BasinObsNoLeap$DATE),
                                   ncol=(2021-1961)+1))
colnames(PrecipESPin)<-c("DATE",paste0("ENS",seq(1961,2020)))
PrecipESPin$DATE<-RemoveLeapDay(seq(MakeDate(01,04,1961),
                                      MakeDate(31,03,2021),by="day"))
PrecipESPin[1:length(BasinObsNoLeap$DATE),2:ncol(PrecipESPin)]<-
  BasinObsNoLeap$PRECIP
precipmatrix<-as.data.frame(matrix(BasinObsNoLeap$PRECIP,nrow=365,byrow=F))
colnames(precipmatrix)<-paste0("ENS",seq(1961,2020))
precipmatrix$DATE<-RemoveLeapDay(seq(MakeDate(01,04,2021),
                                      MakeDate(31,03,2022),by="day"))
PrecipESPin<-rbind(PrecipESPin,precipmatrix)
head(PrecipESPin)
```

	DATE <date>	ENS1961 <dbl>	ENS1962 <dbl>	ENS1963 <dbl>	ENS1964 <dbl>	ENS1965 <dbl>	ENS1966 <dbl>
1	1961-04-01	0.6130754	0.6130754	0.6130754	0.6130754	0.6130754	0.6130754
2	1961-04-02	3.4946752	3.4946752	3.4946752	3.4946752	3.4946752	3.4946752
3	1961-04-03	8.2962400	8.2962400	8.2962400	8.2962400	8.2962400	8.2962400
4	1961-04-04	8.0246365	8.0246365	8.0246365	8.0246365	8.0246365	8.0246365
5	1961-04-05	1.9650975	1.9650975	1.9650975	1.9650975	1.9650975	1.9650975
6	1961-04-06	0.6230135	0.6230135	0.6230135	0.6230135	0.6230135	0.6230135

6 rows | 1-8 of 61 columns



# Get historic forecast data ready

Do the same for PET

```
PetESPin<-as.data.frame(matrix(NA,nrow=length(BasinObsNoLeap$DATE),
                                ncol=(2021-1961)+1))
colnames(PetESPin)<-c("DATE",paste0("ENS",seq(1961,2020)))
PetESPin$DATE<-RemoveLeapDay(seq(MakeDate(01,04,1961),
                                (31,03,2021),by="day"))
PetESPin[1:length(BasinObsNoLeap$DATE),2:ncol(PetESPin)]<-
  BasinObsNoLeap$PET
petmatrix<-as.data.frame(matrix(BasinObsNoLeap$PET,
                                nrow=365,byrow=F))
colnames(petmatrix)<-paste0("ENS",seq(1961,2020))
petmatrix$DATE<-RemoveLeapDay(seq(MakeDate(01,04,2021),
                                MakeDate(31,03,2022),by="day"))
PetESPin<-rbind(PetESPin,petmatrix)
```

And make an output matrix

```
ESPforecasts<-as.data.frame(matrix(NA,nrow=length(BasinObsNoLeap$DATE)+365,
                                ncol=(2021-1961)+1))
colnames(ESPforecasts)<-c("DATE",paste0("ENS",seq(1961,2020)))
ESPforecasts$DATE<-RemoveLeapDay(seq(MakeDate(01,04,1961),
                                MakeDate(31,03,2022),by="day"))
```

# RUN ESP

```
for (i in 2:61){
  DatesR      <- as.POSIXlt(ESPforecasts$DATE)
  Precip      <- PrecipESPin[,i]
  PotEvap     <- PetESPin[,i]
  CatchArea   <- BasinInfoAll[2]
  InputsModel <- CreateInputsModel(FUN_MOD = RunModel_GR4J, DatesR = DatesR,
                                   Precip = Precip, PotEvap = PotEvap)
  Ind_Run     <- seq(1:length(DatesR))

  RunOptions  <- suppressWarnings(CreateRunOptions(FUN_MOD = RunModel_GR4J,
                                                    InputsModel = InputsModel,
                                                    IndPeriod_Run = Ind_Run,
                                                    IniStates = NULL,
                                                    IniResLevels = NULL,
                                                    IndPeriod_WarmUp = NULL))

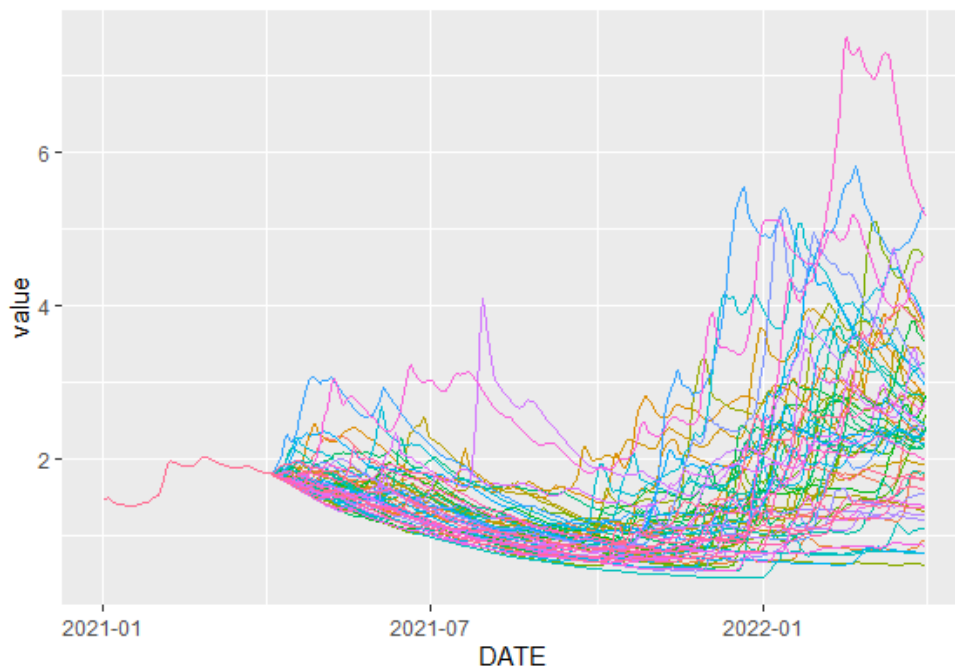
  OutputsModel <- RunModel_GR4J(InputsModel = InputsModel,
                                RunOptions = RunOptions,
                                Param = Param)

  ESPforecasts[,i]<-OutputsModel$Qsim
}
# convert runoff (mm/day) to flow (M3/s)
ESPforecasts_m3s <- ESPforecasts
ESPforecasts_m3s[,2:61] <- (ESPforecasts[2:61] * CatchArea) / 86.4
```

# Plot the forecast

```
# MAKE A PLOT
```

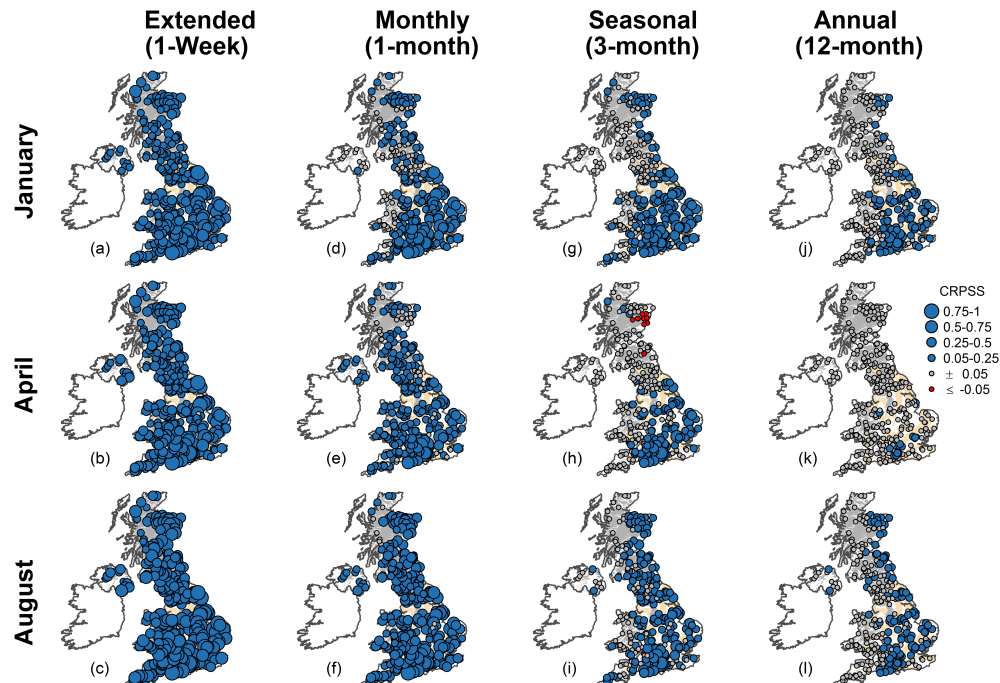
```
ESPsub<-ESPforecasts_m3s[which(ESPforecasts$DATE>MakeDate(01,01,2021)),]  
ESPMelt <- melt(ESPsub,id.var="DATE")  
ggplot(ESPMelt,aes(x=DATE,y=value))+  
  geom_line(aes(colour=variable))
```



ENS1963	ENS1983	ENS2003
ENS1964	ENS1984	ENS2004
ENS1965	ENS1985	ENS2005
ENS1966	ENS1986	ENS2006
ENS1967	ENS1987	ENS2007
ENS1968	ENS1988	ENS2008
ENS1969	ENS1989	ENS2009
ENS1970	ENS1990	ENS2010
ENS1971	ENS1991	ENS2011
ENS1972	ENS1992	ENS2012
ENS1973	ENS1993	ENS2013
ENS1974	ENS1994	ENS2014
ENS1975	ENS1995	ENS2015
ENS1976	ENS1996	ENS2016
ENS1977	ENS1997	ENS2017
ENS1978	ENS1998	ENS2018
ENS1979	ENS1999	ENS2019

# Assessing the Skill

It is important to assess the skill of your forecasting system. You can do this by setting up a "hindcast" experiment (making forecasts of a past date), that you can then compare with observations. For more on this, and how we assessed our system, using the easyVerification R package, see Harrigan et al (2018) <https://hess.copernicus.org/articles/22/2023/2018/>



# How we use our forecasts

The ESP method, along with two other methods of hydrological forecasting (1 - persistence and analogues statistical forecasting, and 2 - forecasting using dynamic climate forecasts), are combined with groundwater forecasts to produce our UK Hydrological Outlook.

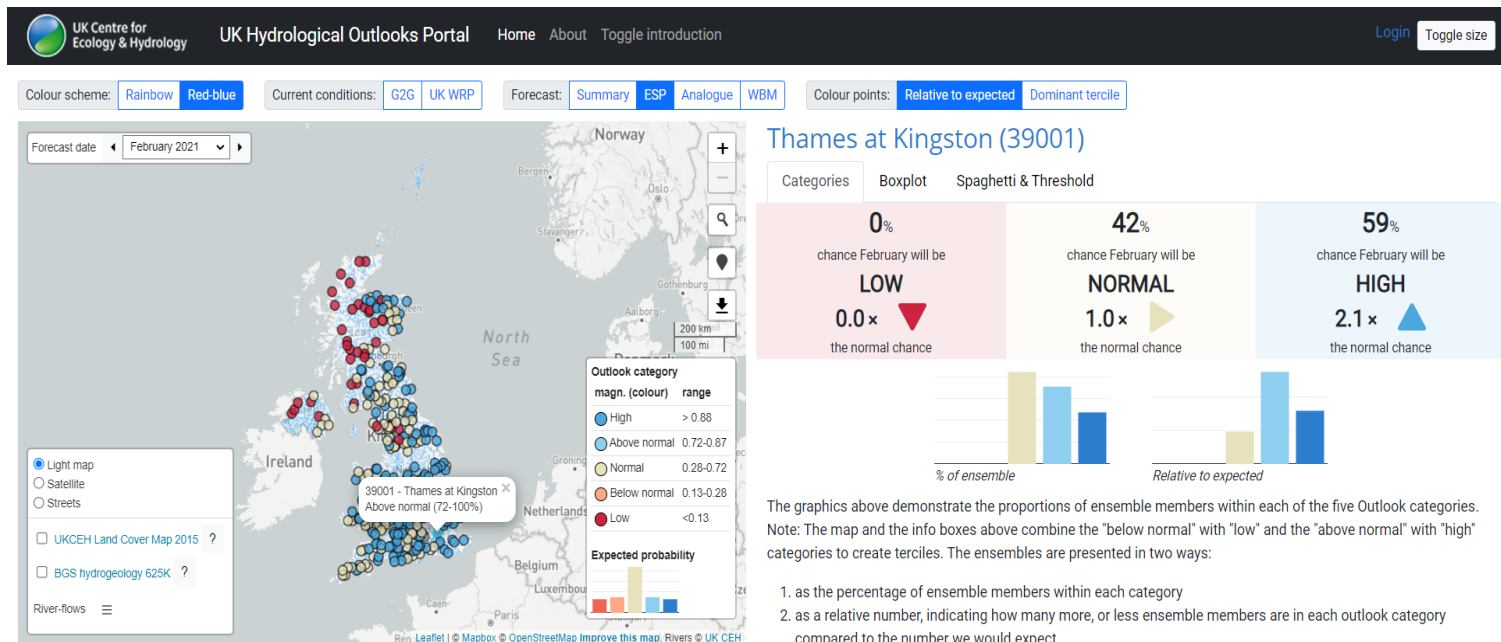
[www.hydoutuk.net](http://www.hydoutuk.net)



# UK Outlook Portal

We are developing a new interactive web portal, that will allow our users to look at the data in detail. Check back on this link in a couple of months when it will be open to the public.

<https://eip.ceh.ac.uk/Hydrology/outlooks/>



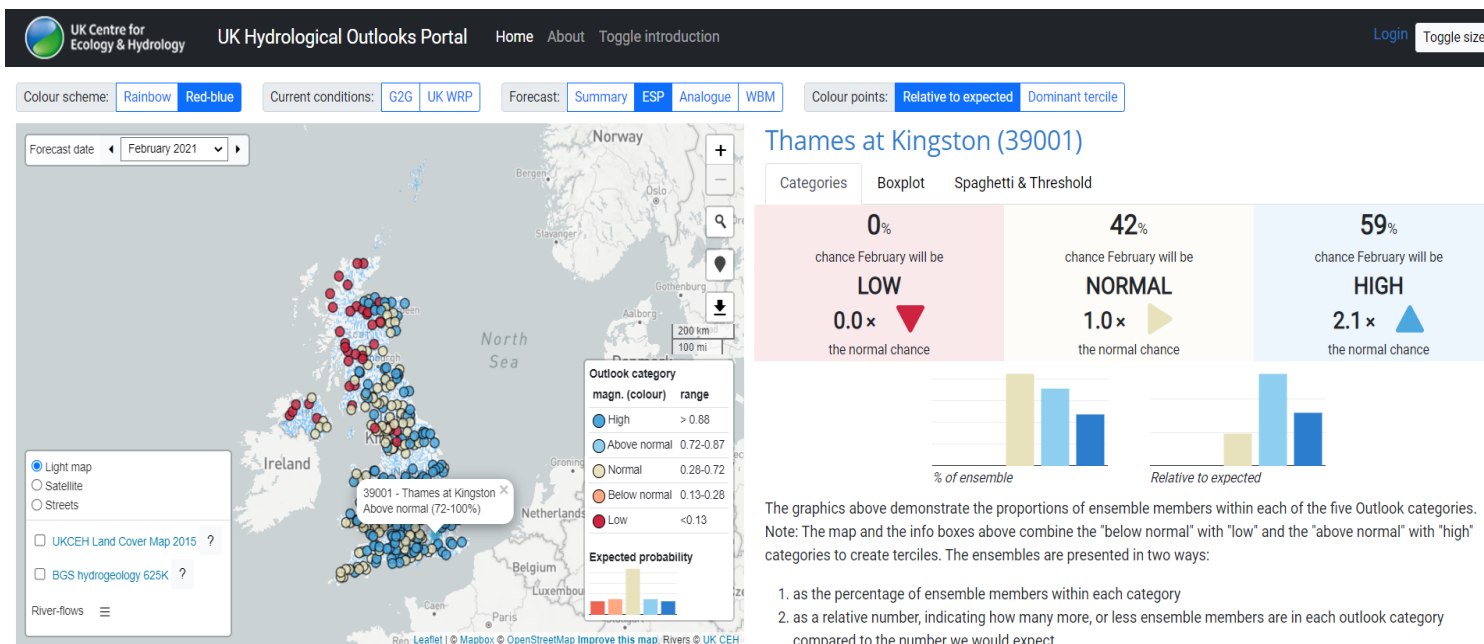
The graphics above demonstrate the proportions of ensemble members within each of the five Outlook categories. Note: The map and the info boxes above combine the "below normal" with "low" and the "above normal" with "high" categories to create terciles. The ensembles are presented in two ways:

1. as the percentage of ensemble members within each category
2. as a relative number, indicating how many more, or less ensemble members are in each outlook category compared to the number we would expect

This distinction is important, as the expected probabilities of the five categories are not of equal size. You can adjust the colouring of the points on the map to represent either of these options.

# UK Outlook Portal

This page allows users to look at how many of the ensemble members sit in each category, below normal, normal and above normal. <https://eip.ceh.ac.uk/Hydrology/outlooks/>

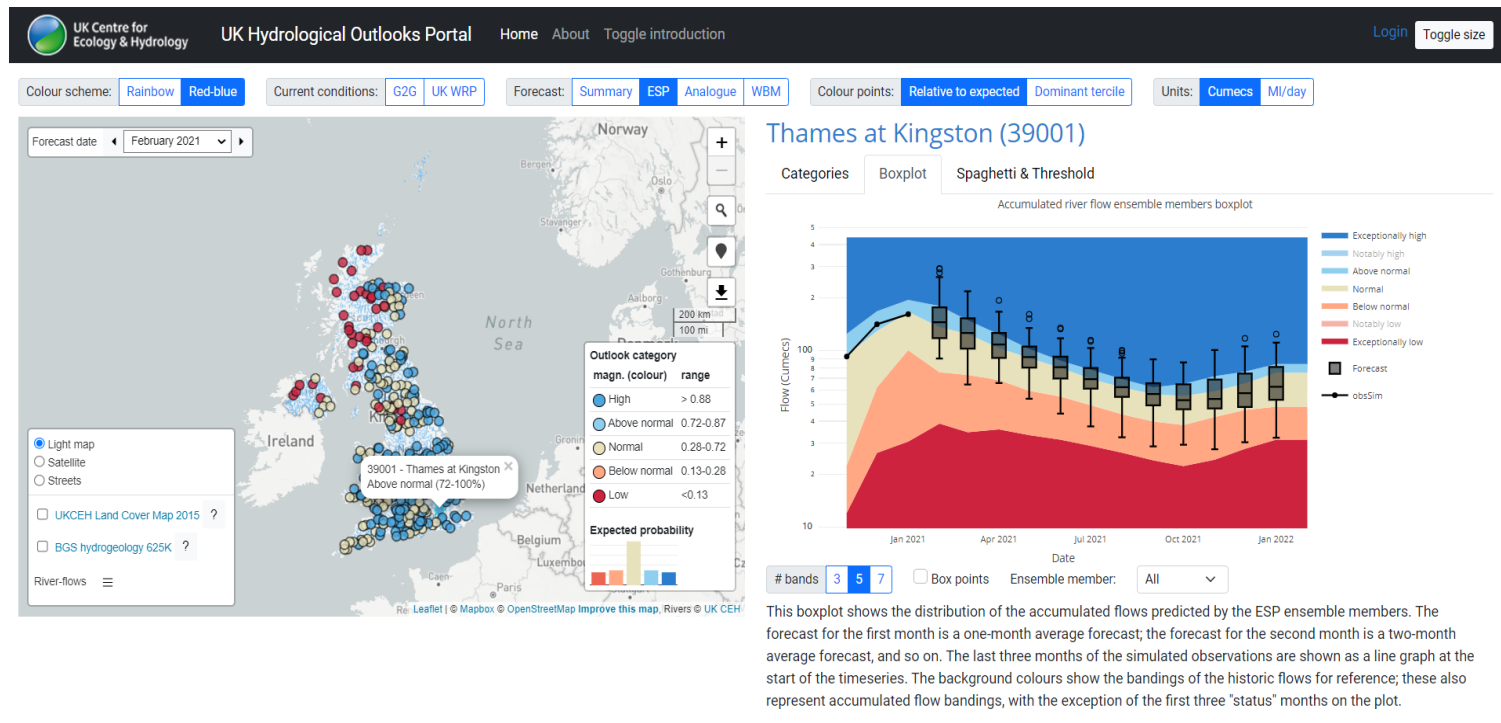


This distinction is important, as the expected probabilities of the five categories are not of equal size. You can adjust the colouring of the points on the map to represent either of these options.



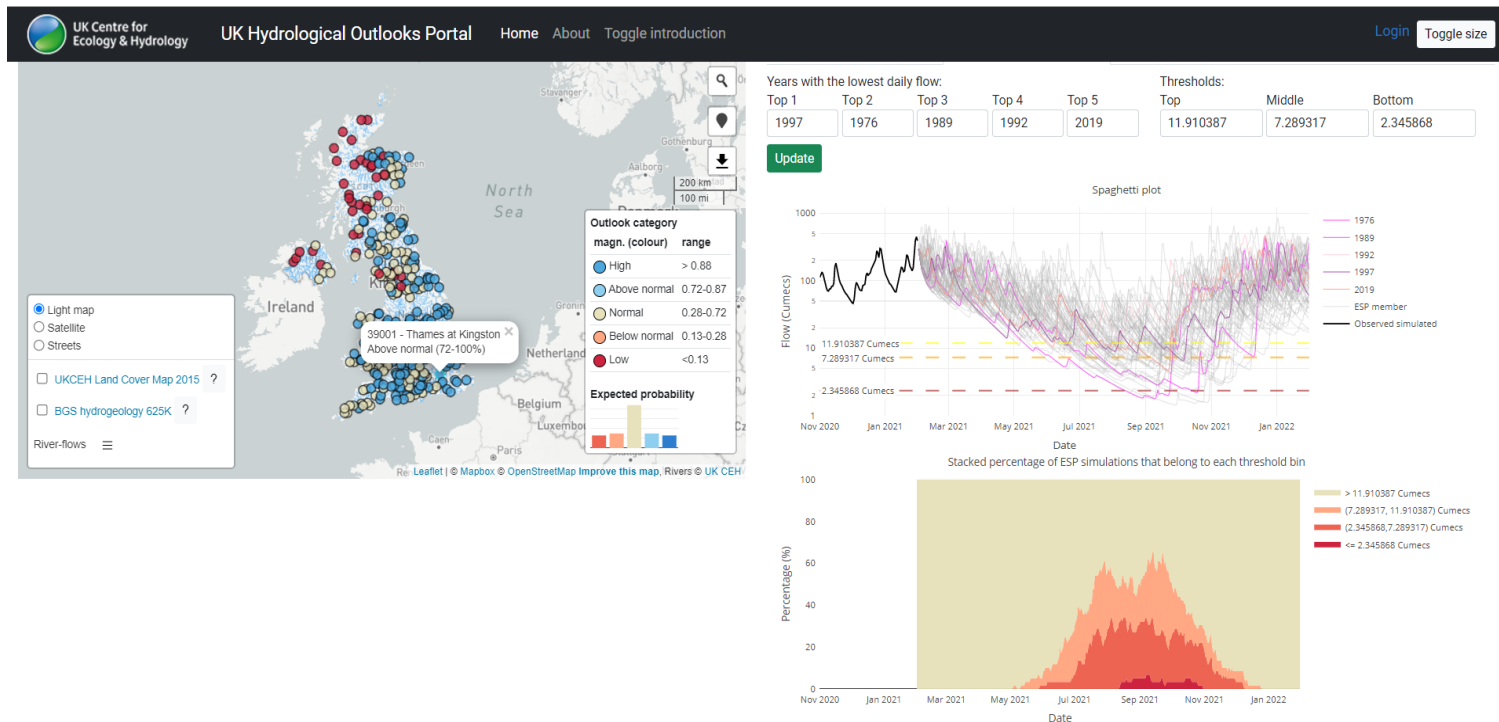
# UK Outlook Portal

This page shows users the full ensemble distributions for the forecasts moving forward, against the historic bands of normal flows. <https://eip.ceh.ac.uk/Hydrology/outlooks/>



# UK Outlook Portal

Finally, this page allows users to select past years of interest to see how the forecast would run if that weather were to happen again now. It also lets users define flow thresholds, and the bottom plot shows the likelihood of flows falling below those thresholds. This is particularly useful for reservoir management. <https://eip.ceh.ac.uk/Hydrology/outlooks/>



# Thank you for listening!

The slides and materials are available on Github:  
[https://github.com/hydrosoc/rhydro\\_vEGU21/](https://github.com/hydrosoc/rhydro_vEGU21/)

