

The forecast presented here is for November and the average of the November-December-January period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for November will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 30 October 2015. This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement.

SUMMARY - PRECIPITATION:

For both November and November-December-January above-average precipitation is considered more probable than below-average.

The probability that UK-average precipitation for November-December-January will fall into the driest of our five categories is between 10% and 15% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is between 25% and 30% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

As discussed in the temperature section, the ongoing El Niño event, together with the westerly phase of the Quasi-Biennial Oscillation (QBO) and North Atlantic temperatures, increase the chances of a positive phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO).

At this time of year, the positive phase of the NAO is associated with above-average precipitation and an increased frequency of Atlantic depressions crossing the UK.

The Met Office seasonal prediction system, along with systems from other global forecast centres, supports an increased risk of above-average rainfall. Taking all the evidence together, our outlook is illustrated in the graphs below. The right-hand graph in figure P2 highlights a clear shift towards above-average precipitation with a reduced probability of below-average precipitation and an increased probability of above-average precipitation compared to normal. Furthermore, the risk of spells of windy or even stormy weather is expected to be greater than usual for the time of year.

Fig P1

3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of the observed annual cycle

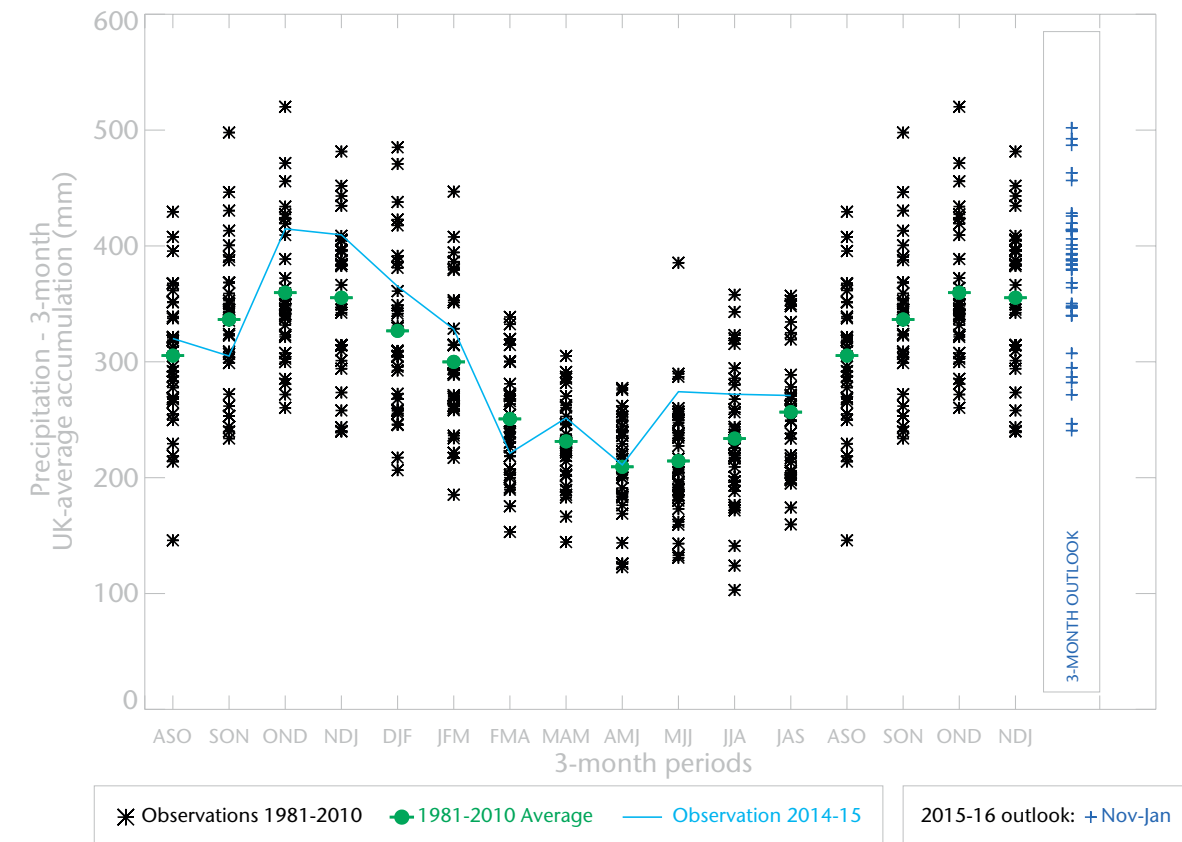


Fig P2

1-month and 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of observed climatology

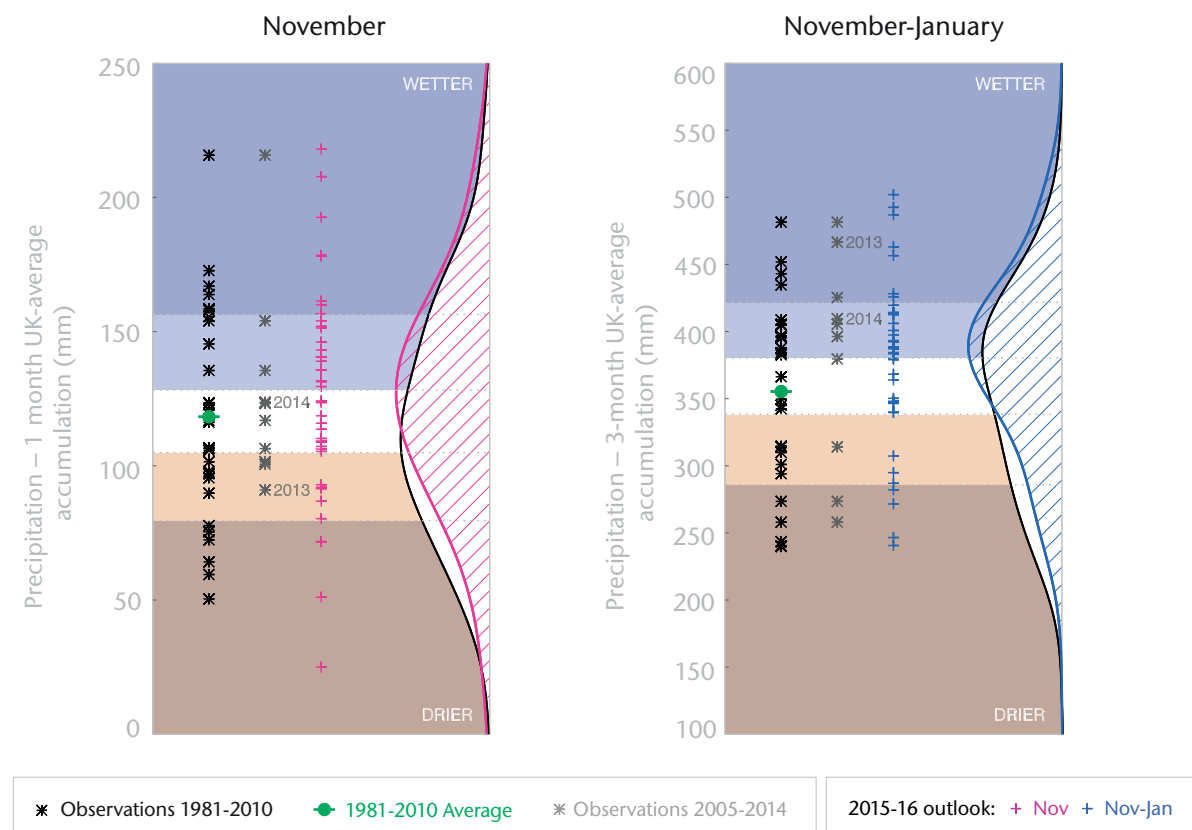
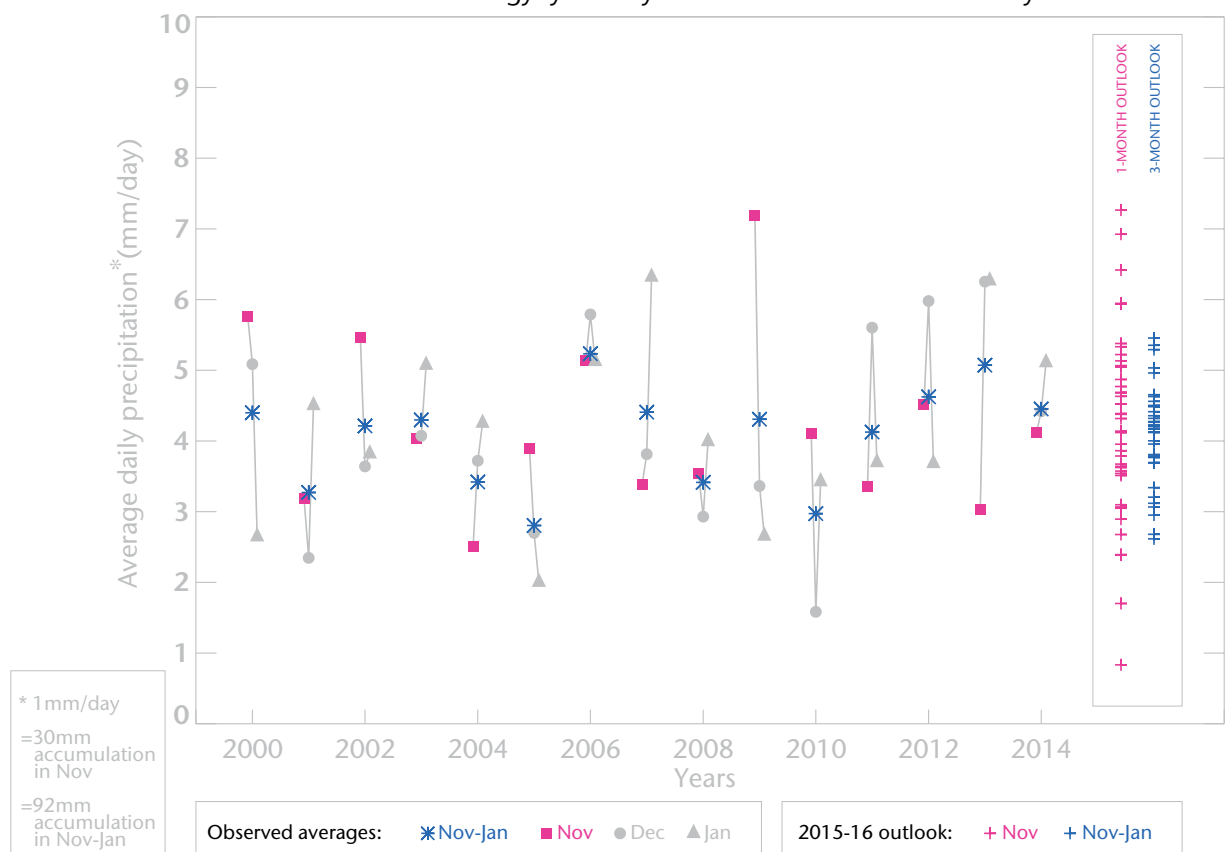


Fig P3

1-month and 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of recent climatology: year-to-year and within-season variability



This Outlook provides an indication of possible temperature and rainfall conditions over the next 3 months. It is part of a suite of forecasts designed for contingency planners. The Outlook should not be used in isolation but should be used with shorter-range and more detailed (30-day, 15-day and 1-to-5-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.