

The forecast presented here is for February and the average of the February-March-April period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for February will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 29 January 2016.

This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement.

SUMMARY - PRECIPITATION:

For both February and for February-March-April both above- and below-average precipitation are equally probable.

The probability that UK-average precipitation for February-March-April will fall into the driest of our five categories is around 20% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is also around 20% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Predictions for February and the season as a whole (February-March-April) are uncertain. This is because the precipitation across the UK is dependent on the position of the expected developing ridge across the Mid-Atlantic. While there

is an increased chance of this feature developing, uncertainty in its exact position and the resulting flow across the UK translates into uncertainty in the rainfall. Overall, the probability of above- and below-normal are considered to be equally balanced.

Fig P1

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

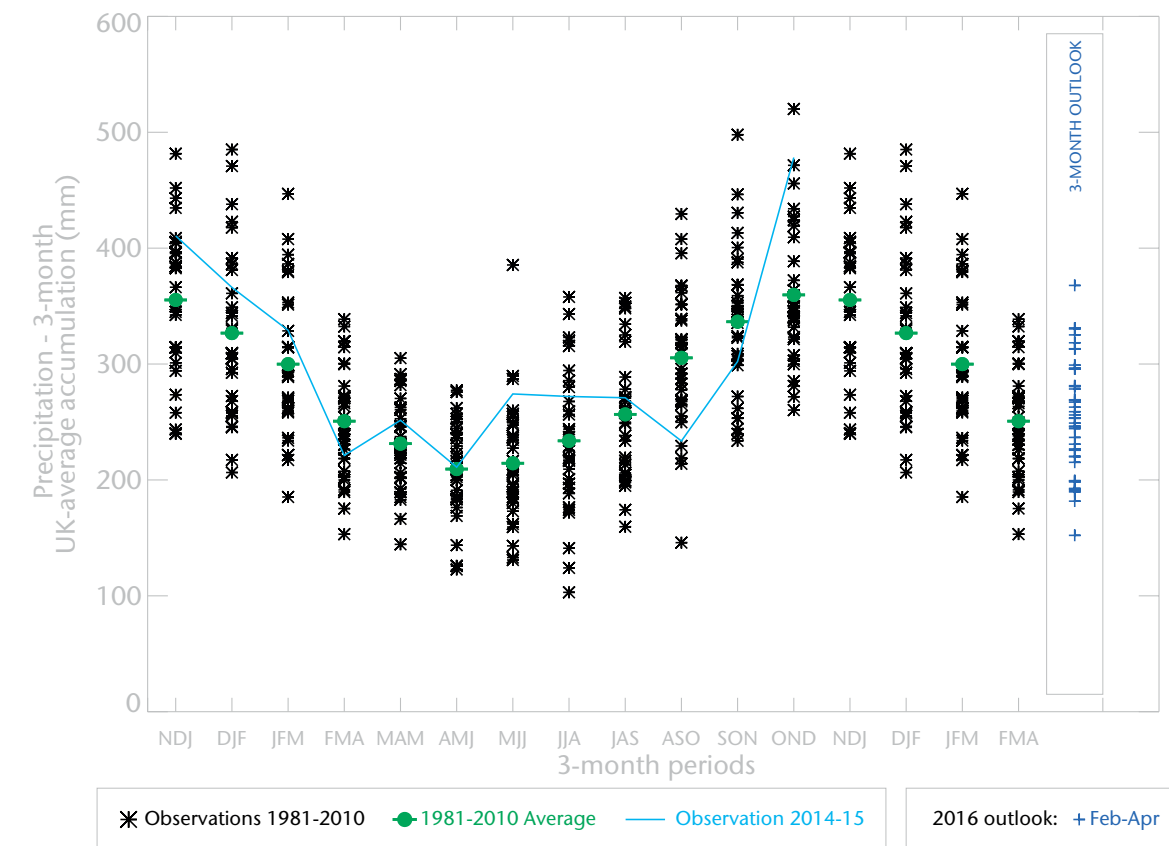


Fig P2

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

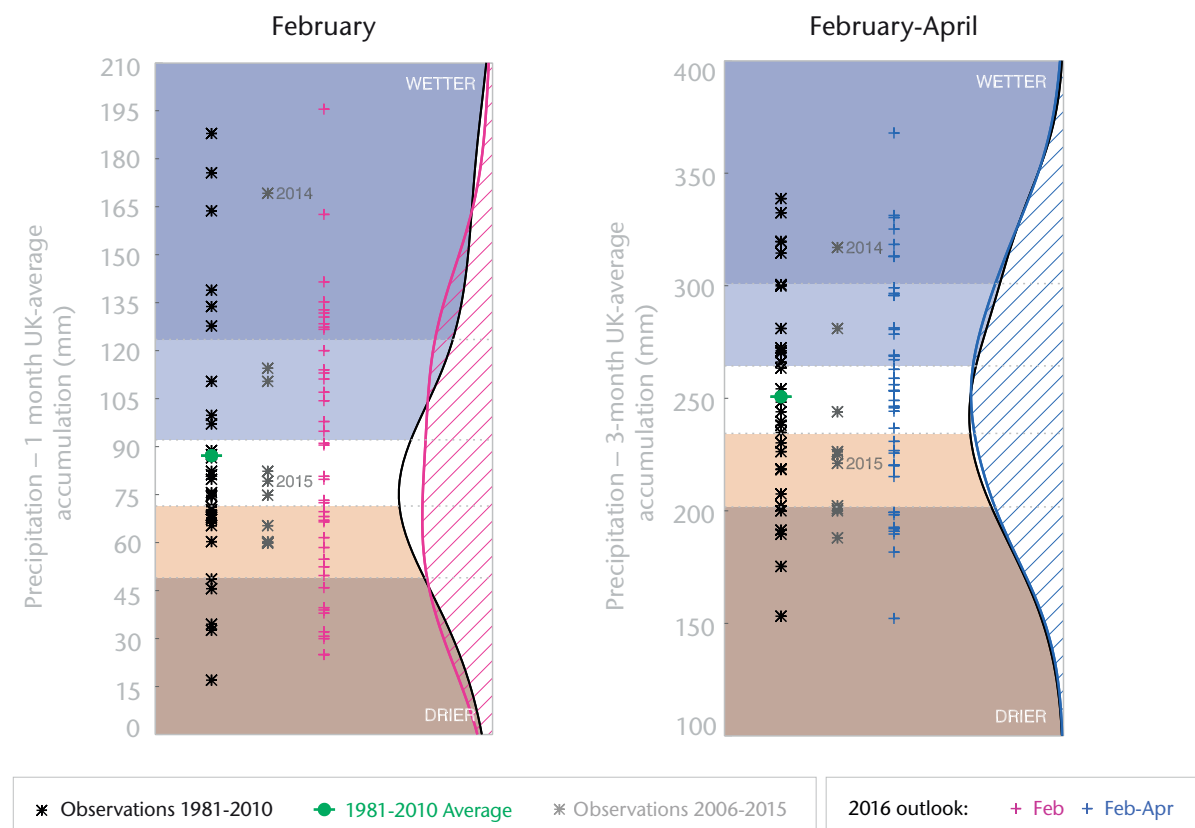
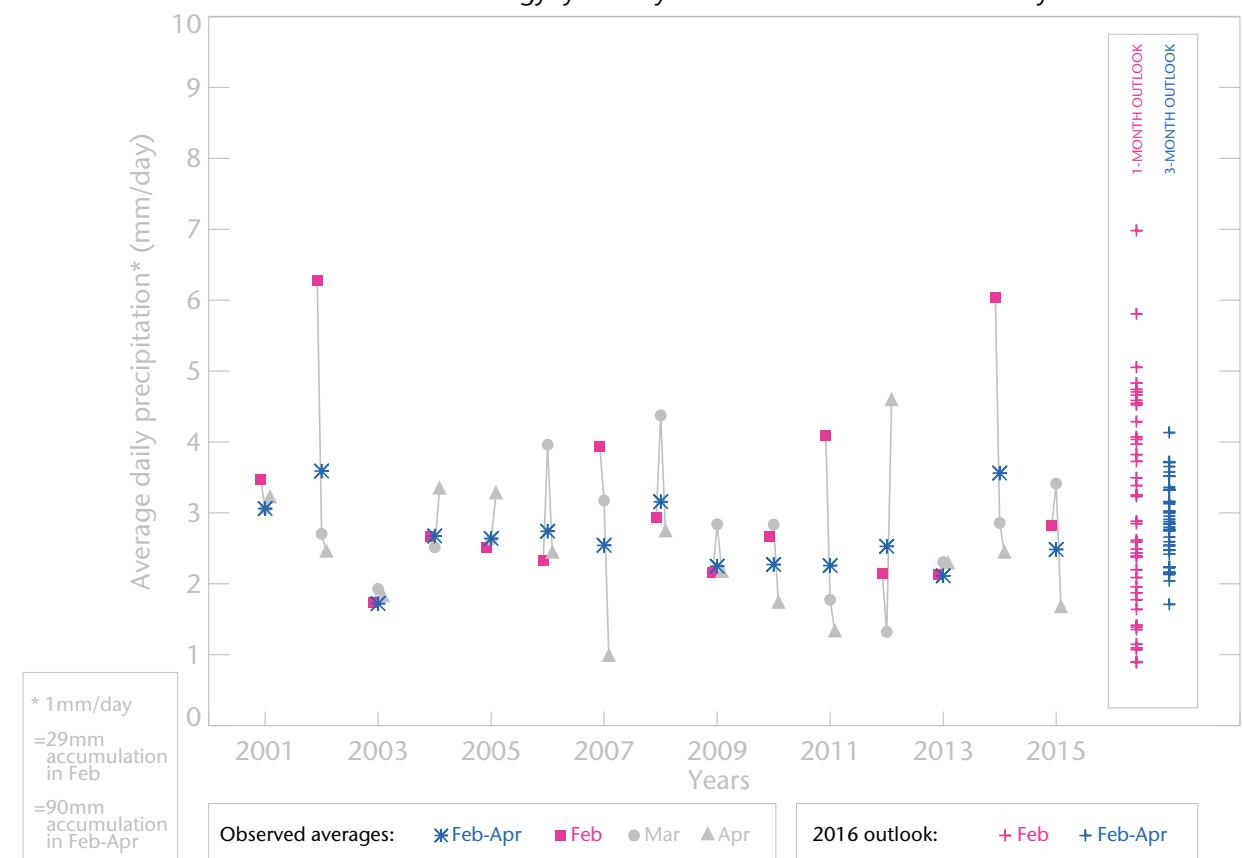


Fig P3

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.