



Met Office 3-month Outlook

Met Office Period: April – June 2017 Issue date: 23.03.17

The forecast presented here is for April and the average of the April-May-June period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for April will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 01 April 2017.

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

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For April, and April-May-June as a whole, below-average precipitation is considered slightly more probable than above-average.

Overall, the probability that the UK-average precipitation for April-May-June will fall into the driest of our five categories is between 15 and 20% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is around 20% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

For April, there is an increased chance of anticyclonic conditions near the UK. If high pressure is positioned further east over continental Europe this would allow more Atlantic weather systems to affect the north of the UK, but overall the chances of drier-than-normal UK-average precipitation are greater than wetter-than-normal conditions (see the left-hand graph of fig. P2).

large differences in the likelihoods of above- and below-average precipitation over the 3-month period compared to those we would usually expect. For the April-May-June period as a whole drier-than-average conditions are slightly more likely than wetter-than-average (see the right-hand graph of fig. P2). This outlook gives no particular indication, therefore, that the precipitation deficit (see fig. P1) that has arisen in the last 6 months in many parts of the UK is likely to substantially diminish.

As highlighted in the outlook for temperature, global drivers of UK weather patterns are currently weak. As a result, we do not expect

Fig P1

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

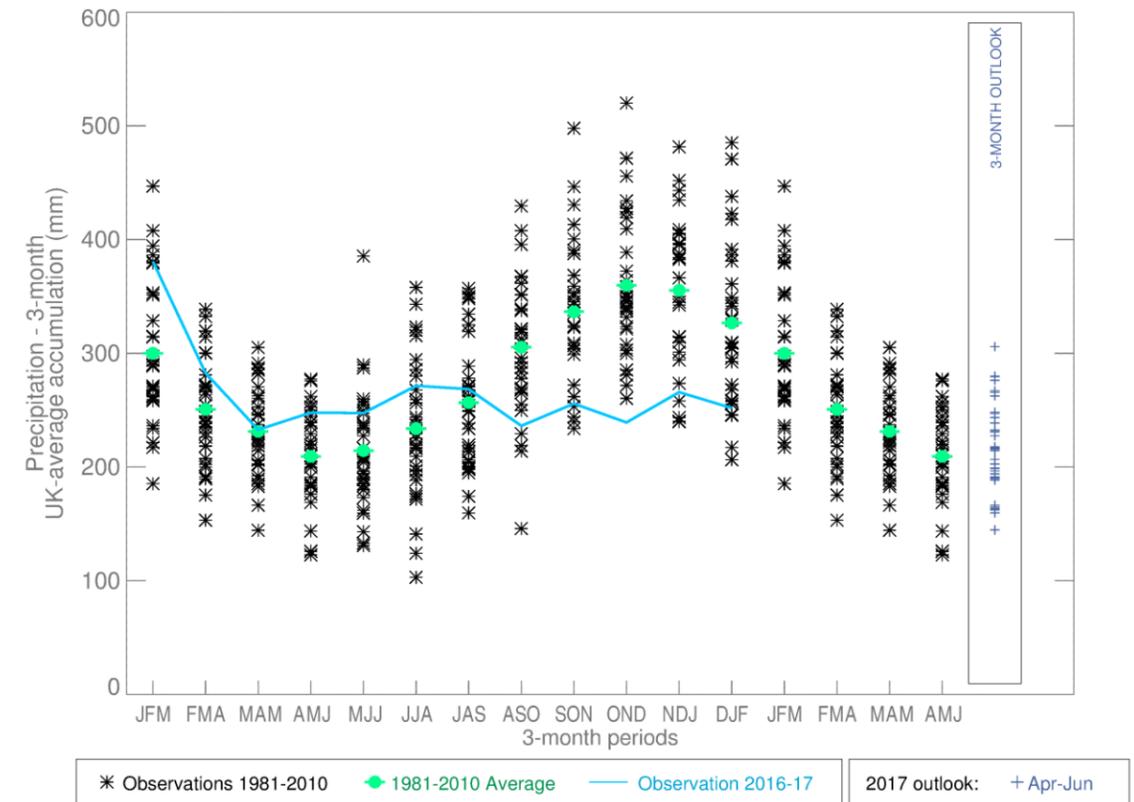


Fig P2

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

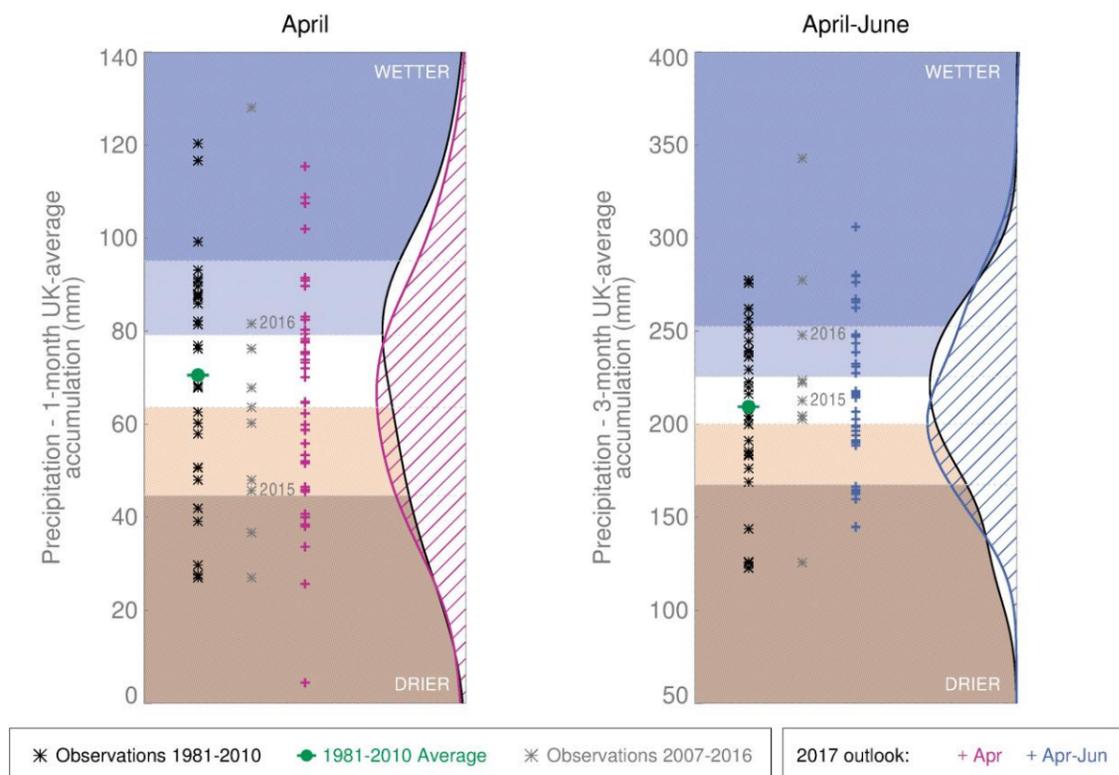
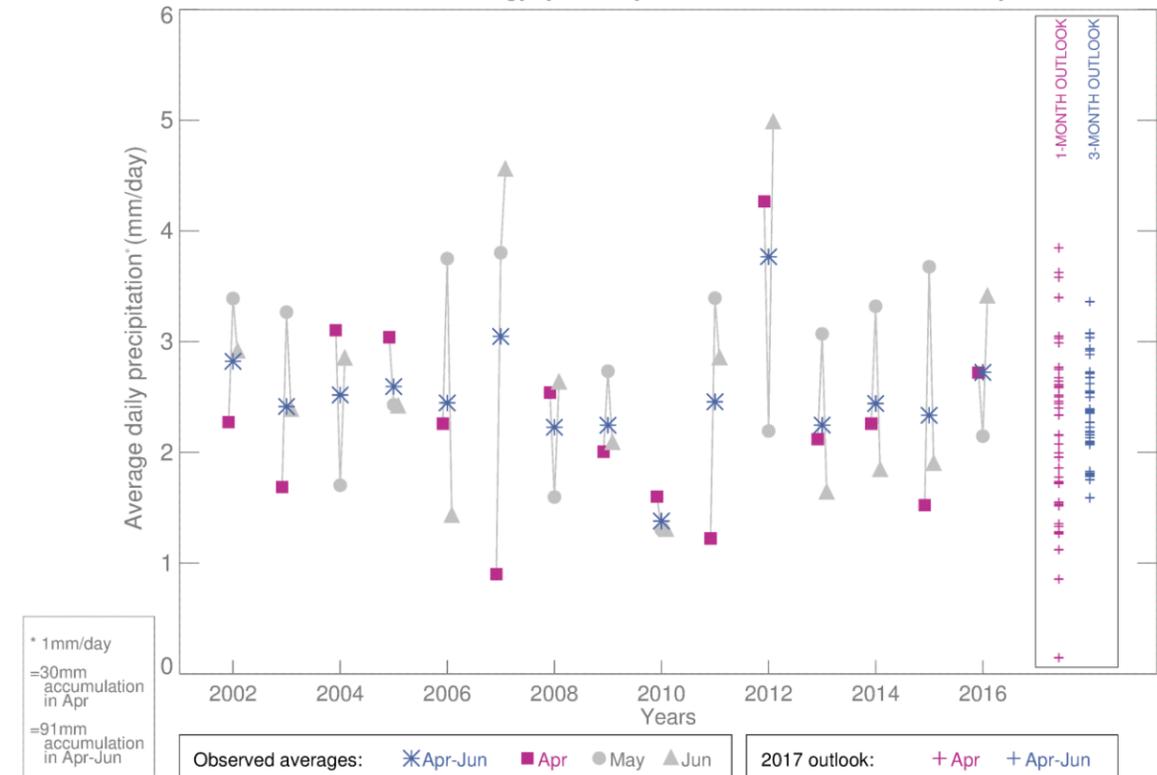


Fig P3

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.