

The forecast presented here is for October and the average of the October-November-December period for the United Kingdom as a whole.

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

SUMMARY - PRECIPITATION:

For UK-averaged rainfall the predicted probabilities favour below normal rainfall during October. For the period October-November-December as a whole the range of forecasts also favours lower than average rainfall.

The probability that UK rainfall for October-November-December will fall into the driest of our five categories is around 25% whilst the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is 15-20%, close to the climatological average. (The 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

The precipitation signal is on average for slightly drier conditions than the climatological mean in both October and the three-month forecast period. Whilst this is consistent with the indications of a weakened westerly, or even easterly, flow, there is a wide variety of predicted patterns in the models and through the three-month period.

The distribution of model solutions is therefore very broad, with a small risk of some very wet or very dry weather over the period, this being especially noticeable in October.

The tendency for low pressure to the south of the UK could come to dominate the flow pattern, or there could be stronger flow off the Atlantic, both of which would lead to high rainfall totals.

Fig P1 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of the observed annual cycle

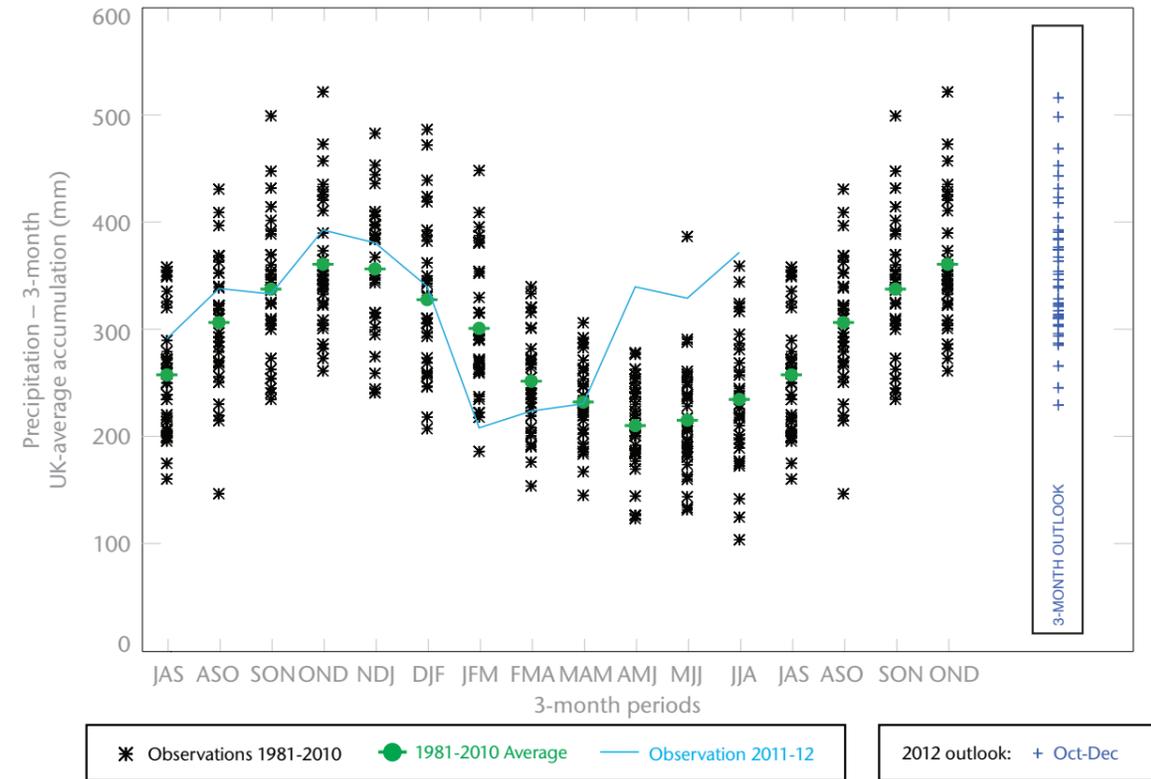


Fig P2 1-month and 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of observed climatology

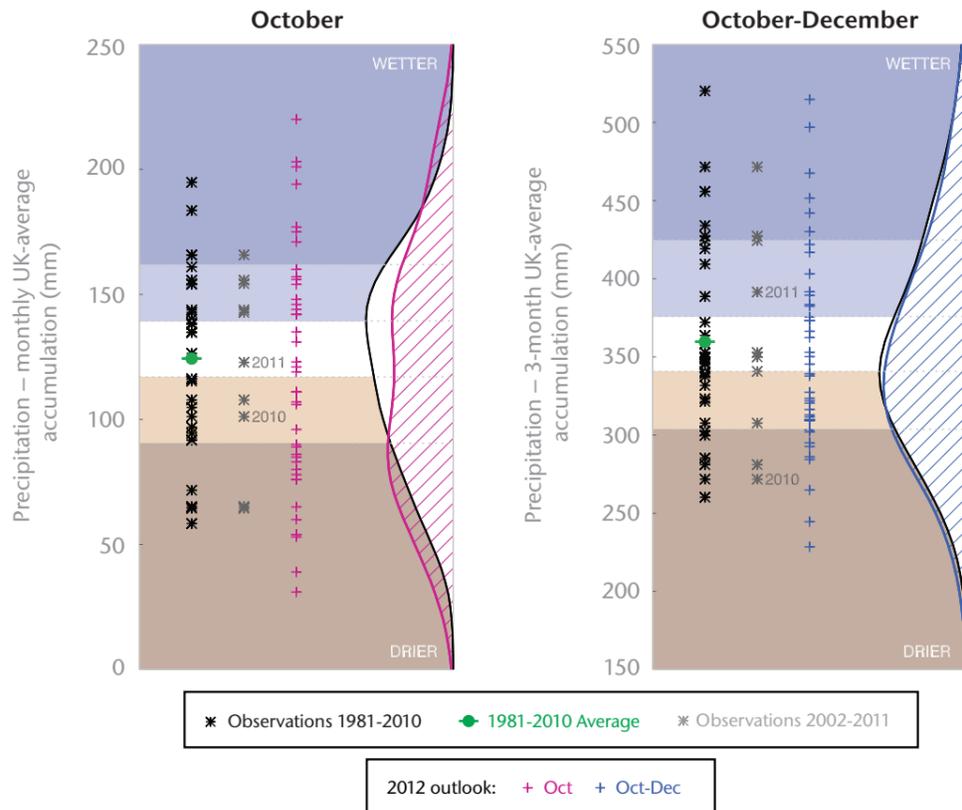
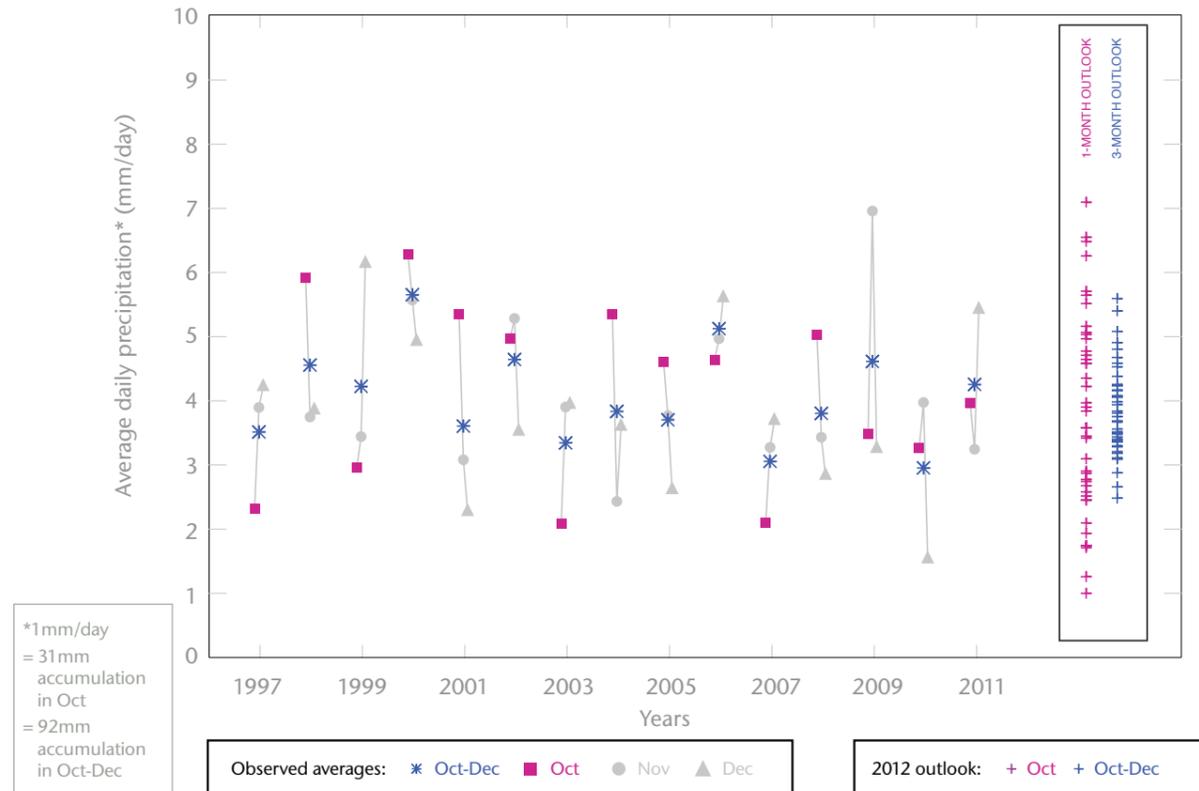


Fig P3 1-month and 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of recent climatology: year-to-year and within-season variability



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.