

The forecast presented here is for June and the average of the June-July-August 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 June, there is a large degree of uncertainty, but on balance above-average rainfall is more likely than below-average. For the June-July-August period as a whole above-average rainfall is also more probable than below-average rainfall. There is less confidence in the signal emerging in the forecast for rainfall than for temperature.

The probability that UK precipitation for June-July-August will fall into the driest of our five categories is around 15% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest category is around 20% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Climatologically June-July-August is wetter than the spring months of March, April and May. This can be attributed to an increase in convective rainfall, rather than large-scale storm systems that are more typical in autumn and winter. UK-average rainfall at this time of year becomes increasingly difficult to predict – because of its convective and localised nature – and there is often more regional variability.

During the summer season below-average temperatures are typically associated with above-average rainfall. As discussed in the temperature section, forecast models indicate an increased probability of westerly or southwesterly types, with a greater likelihood of air masses from a relatively cold maritime source

rather than a warm continental one. This more mobile weather pattern not only favours colder-than-average conditions in summer, but also wetter-than-average. This is reflected in the forecast in figure P2, which shows a shift to above-average rainfall, although the probability of conditions being as wet as last year is low. The forecast curve shows a large spread of solutions, with the probability of drier-than-average only slightly lower than climatology.

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

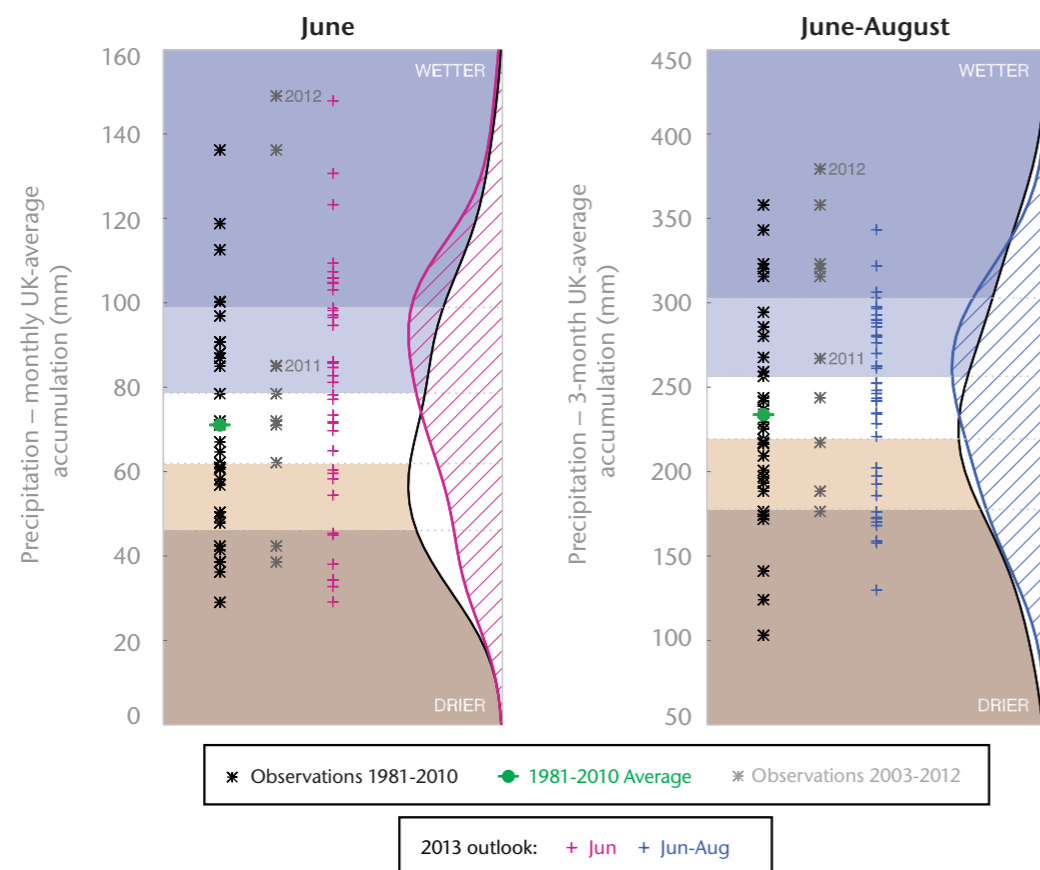


Fig P1

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

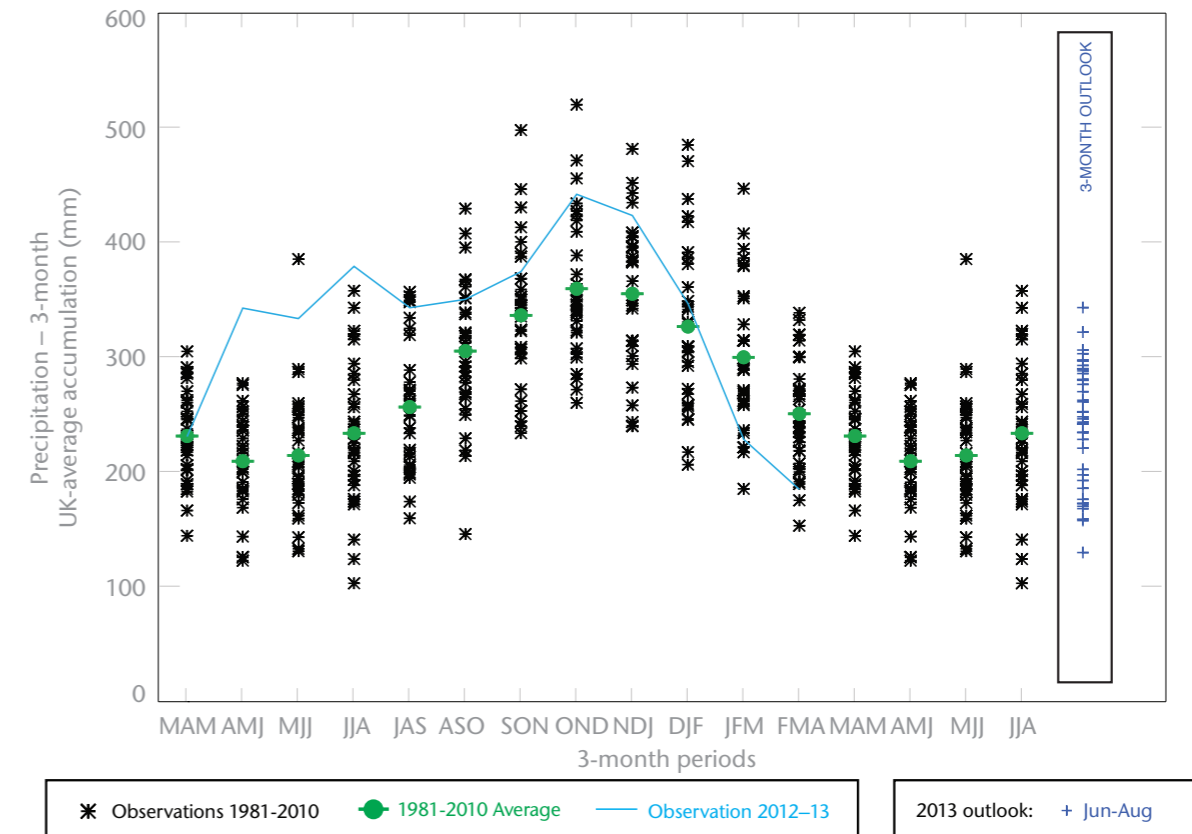
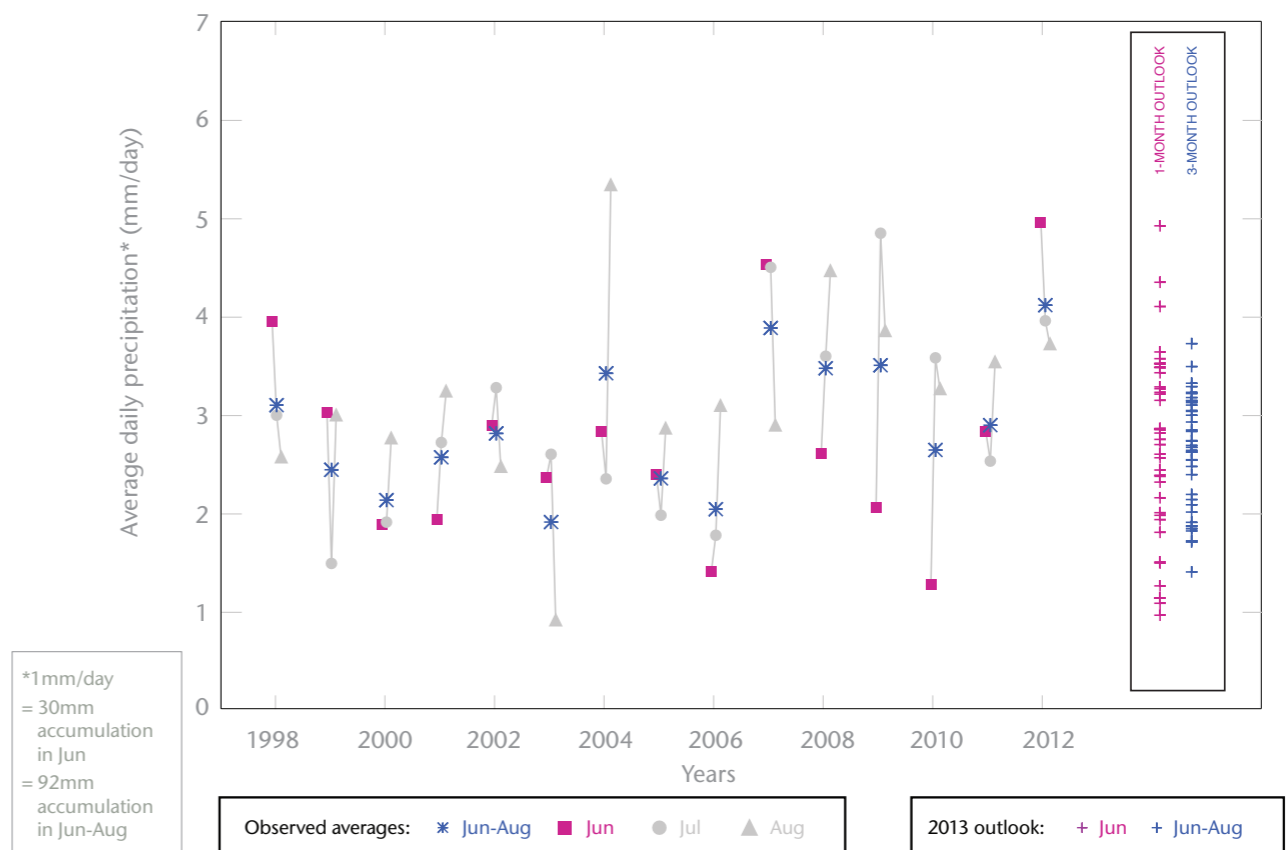


Fig P3

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.