



Met Office

Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: March – May 2018 Issue date: 22.02.18

The forecast presented here is for March and the average of the March-April-May period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for March will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 2 March 2018.

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

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For March, below-average precipitation is more likely than above-average precipitation. For March-April-May as a whole, above-average precipitation is slightly more likely than below-average precipitation.

The probability that UK-average precipitation for March-April-May will fall into the driest of our five categories is between 15-20% 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, UK weather patterns in March are likely to be affected by the Sudden Stratospheric Warming (SSW) that occurred in February. Consistent with this, the Met Office long-range prediction system shows an increased likelihood of weather patterns that reduce the normal progress of moist Atlantic air across the UK during March. This leads to a moderately increased chance of drier-than-normal conditions (see left-hand

graph in figure P2). The chances of impacts from high winds and heavy rainfall are less than usual. Over the March-April-May period, the Met Office long-range prediction system shows slightly greater-than-usual chances of above-average precipitation, with a small shift in probabilities towards wetter-than-average conditions (see right-hand graph in figure P2).

Fig P1

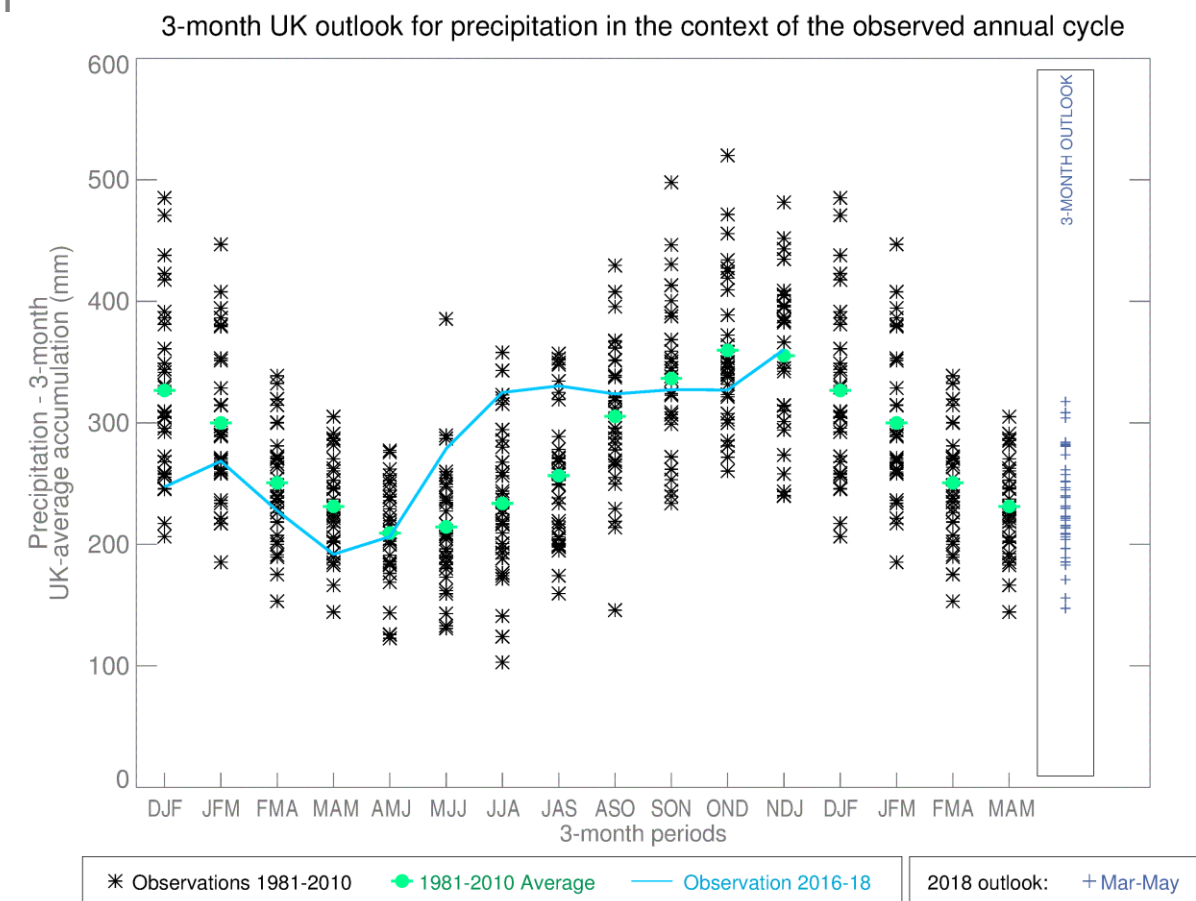


Fig P2

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

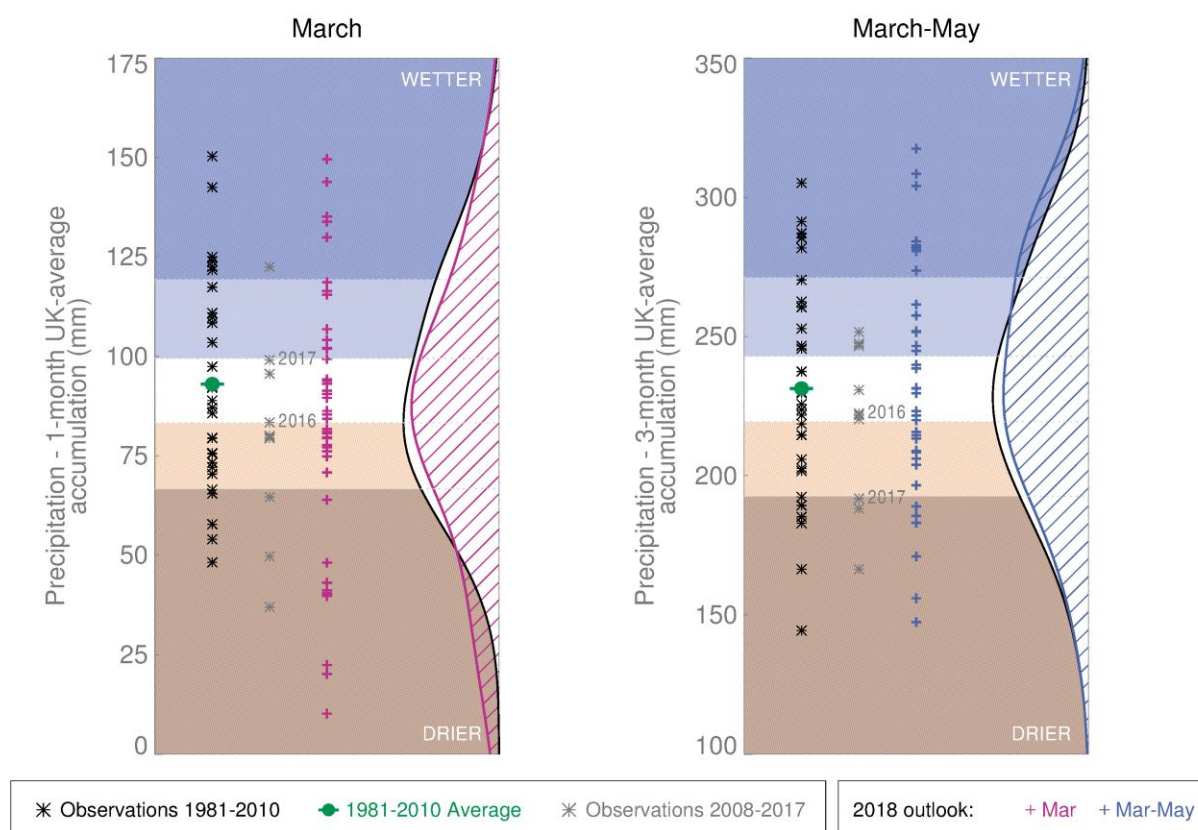
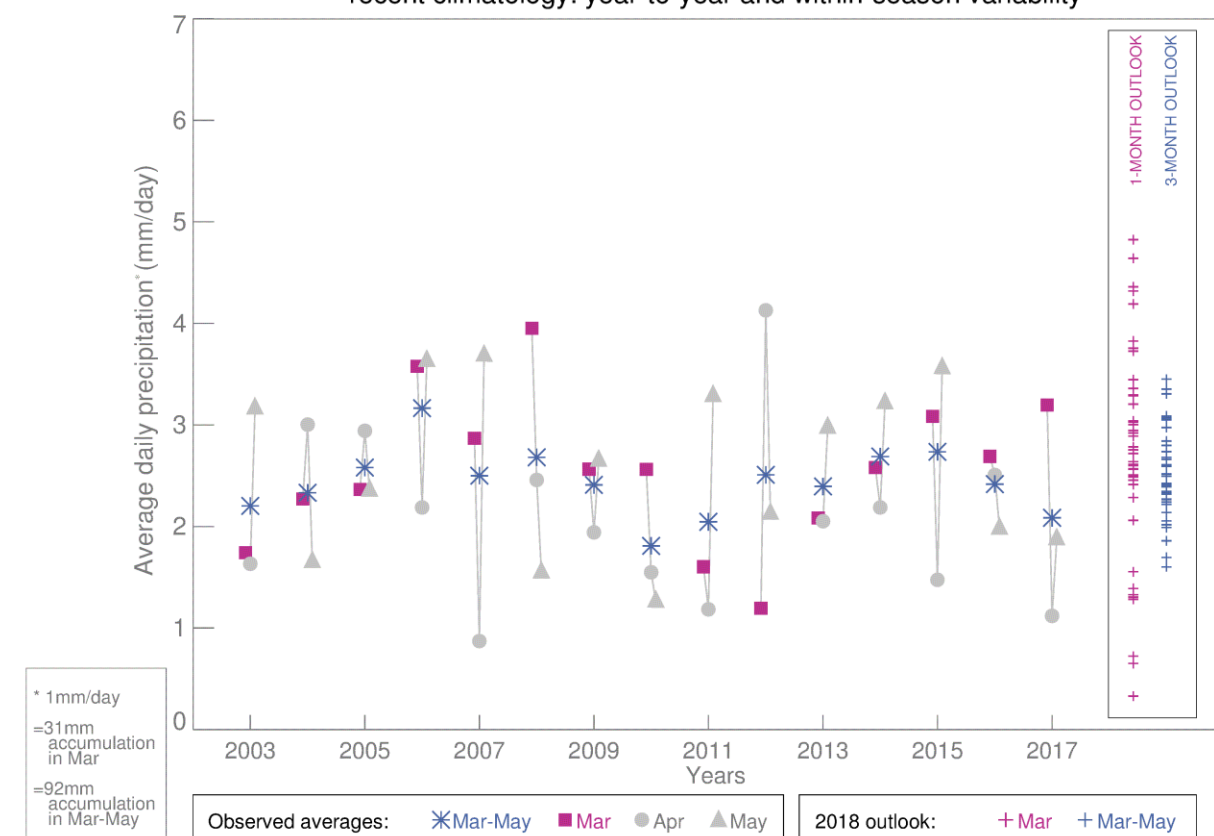


Fig P3

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.