



Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: November 2018 – January 2019 Issue date: 25.10.18

The forecast presented here is for November and the average of the November-December-January period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for November will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 5th November 2018.

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

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For November, the chances of above- or below-average precipitation are approximately similar. For November-December-January as a whole, above-average precipitation is more likely than below-average precipitation.

The probability that UK-average precipitation for November- December-January will fall into the driest of our five categories is between 10% and 15% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is around 25% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Late autumn/early winter is a part of the year when Atlantic depressions become more intense, often carrying large amounts of moisture. This often makes it one of the stormiest and wettest parts of the year (see figure P1).

During November, the Met Office prediction system, along with other global prediction systems, shows an increased chance that the UK will be between the influence of weather systems coming from the Atlantic and high pressure to our east. This makes the outlook more uncertain. As a result, the probabilities of above- and below-average rainfall do not differ significantly from normal (see left-hand graph of figure P2).

For November-December-January, the Met Office prediction system shows an increased likelihood of a positive phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO). While some systems from other prediction centres do not show this, a majority agree. This is also consistent with the expected influence of current global conditions (see discussion in temperature section). Consequently, there is a greater chance of above-average precipitation (see right-hand graph of figure P2) than below-average precipitation, although the size of the shift is moderate. The chances of spells of very wet and stormy weather are increased during the outlook period compared to usual.

Fig P1

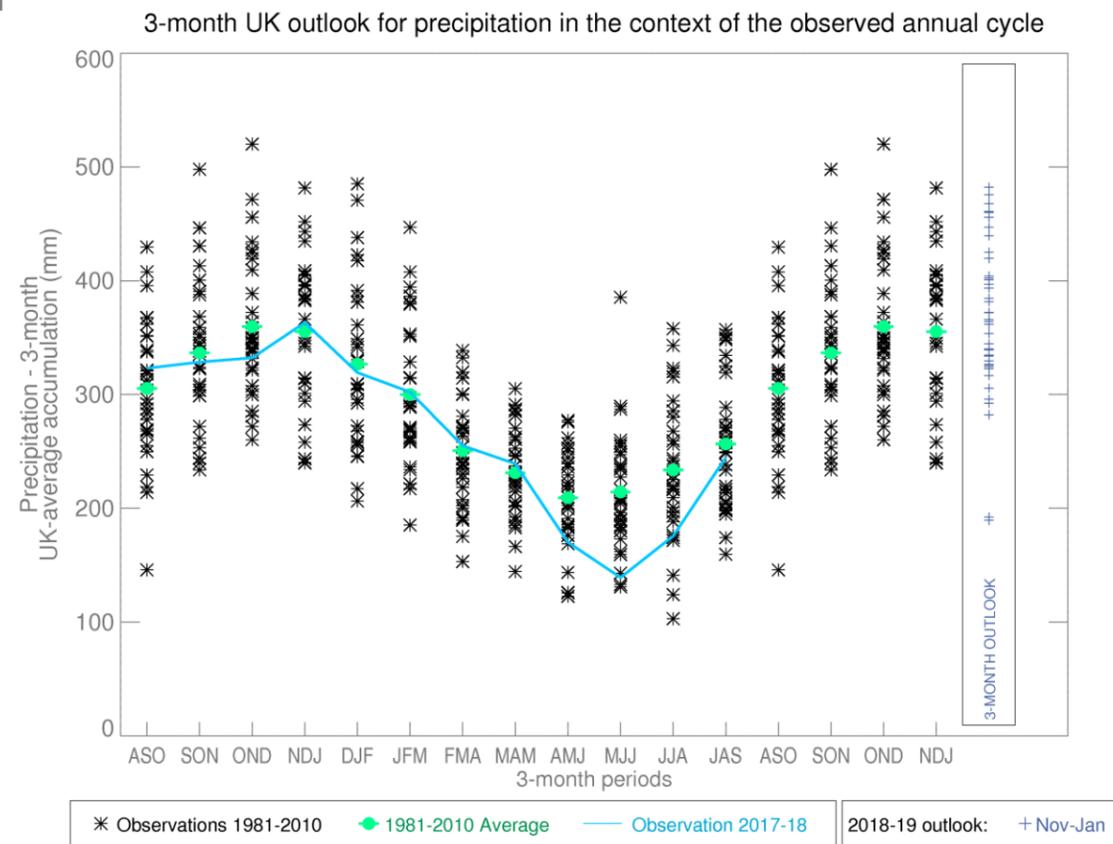


Fig P2

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

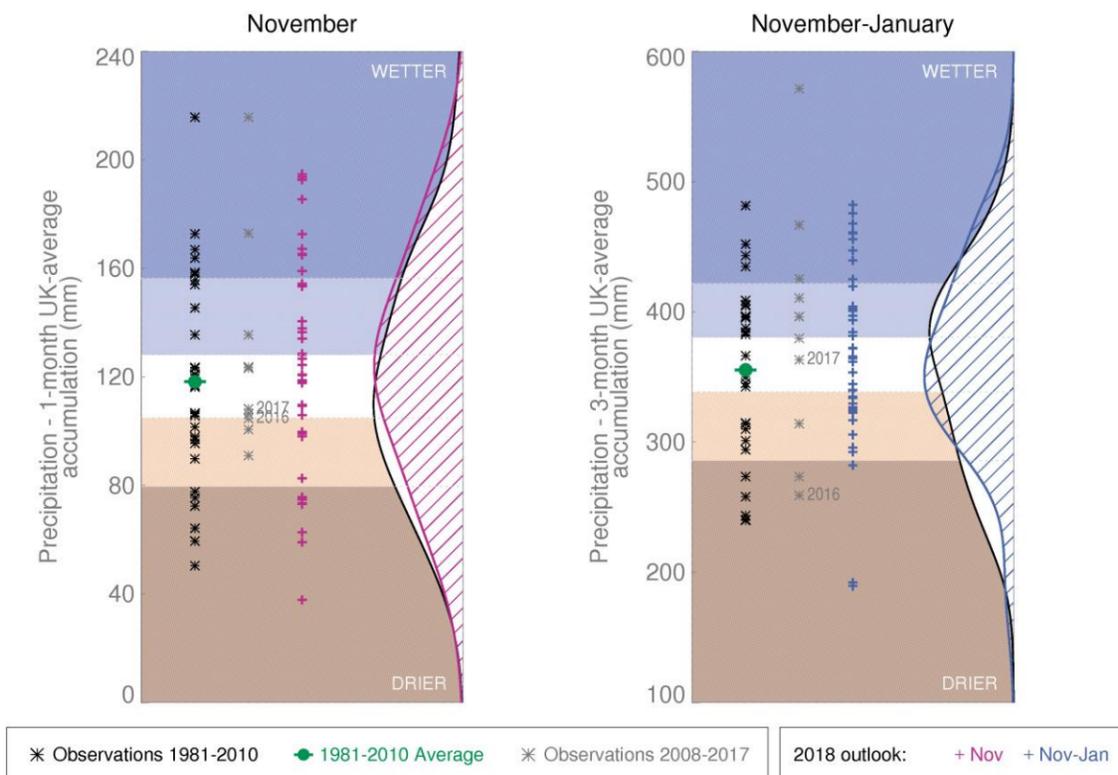
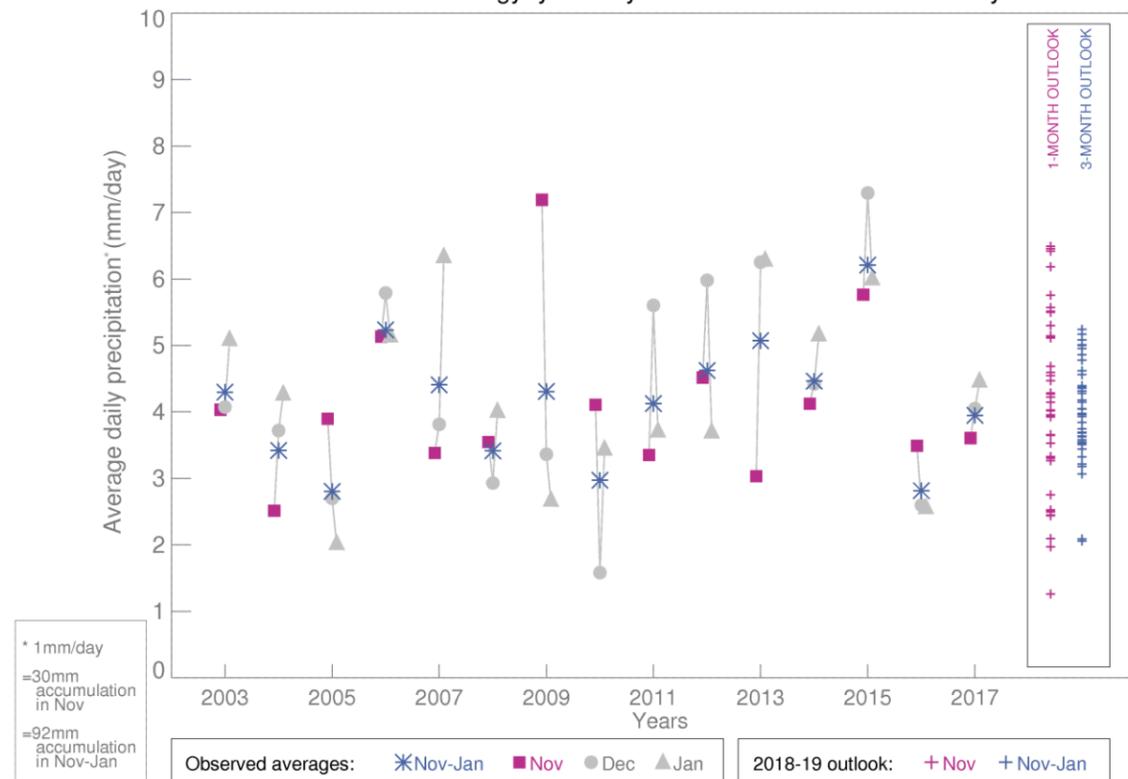


Fig P3

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.