



Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: November 2020 – January 2021 Issue date: 22.10.20

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 The forecast for November will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 3rd November 2020.

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

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For November and November-December-January as a whole, below-average precipitation is slightly more likely than above-average precipitation.

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

CONTEXT:

As discussed in the Temperature Outlook, global drivers become more influential and forecast skill increases during this period. Precipitation is often more uncertain than temperature and forecast confidence is lower than in the temperature forecast.

Signals from global long-range prediction systems show an increased likelihood of northwesterly winds in the Outlook period. This is a fairly neutral

direction for UK precipitation at this time of year, favouring neither wet nor dry conditions. As a result, the likelihood of above- and below-average rainfall are similar both for November and November-December-January, with only a slight decrease in the probability of wetter-than-average conditions (see graphs of figure P2).

Fig P1

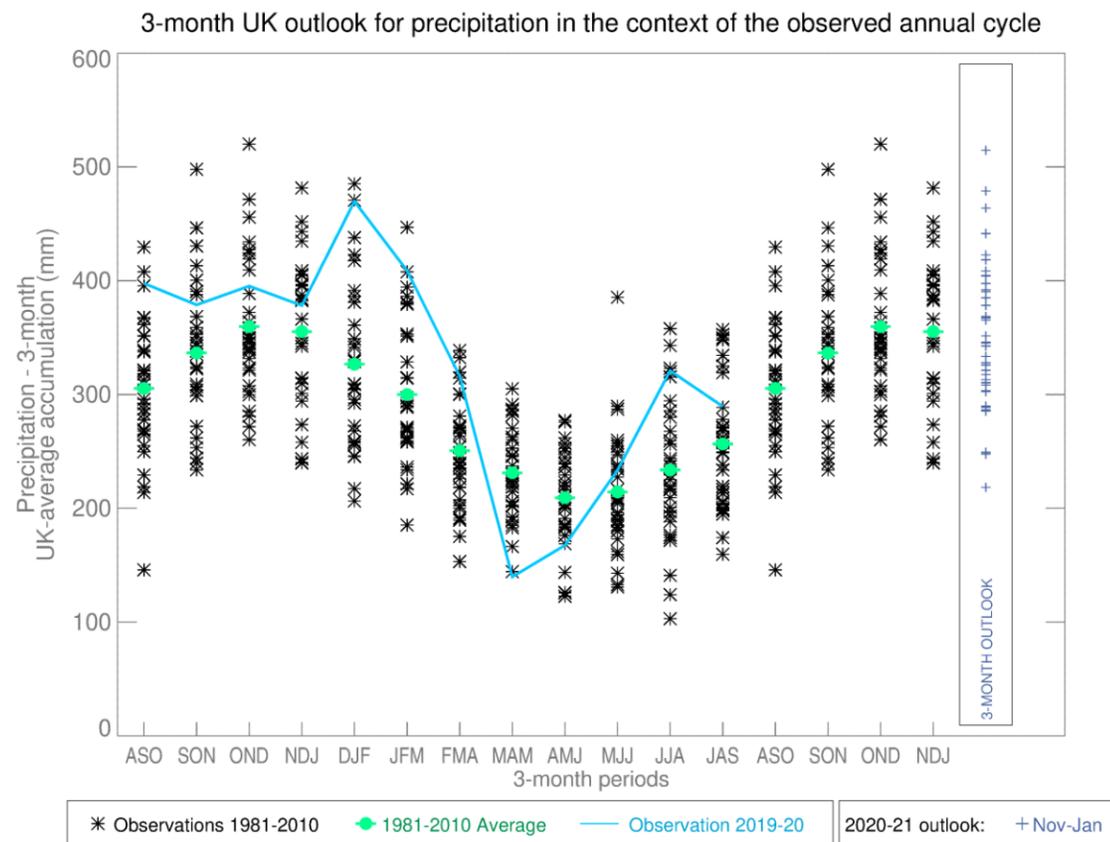


Fig P2

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

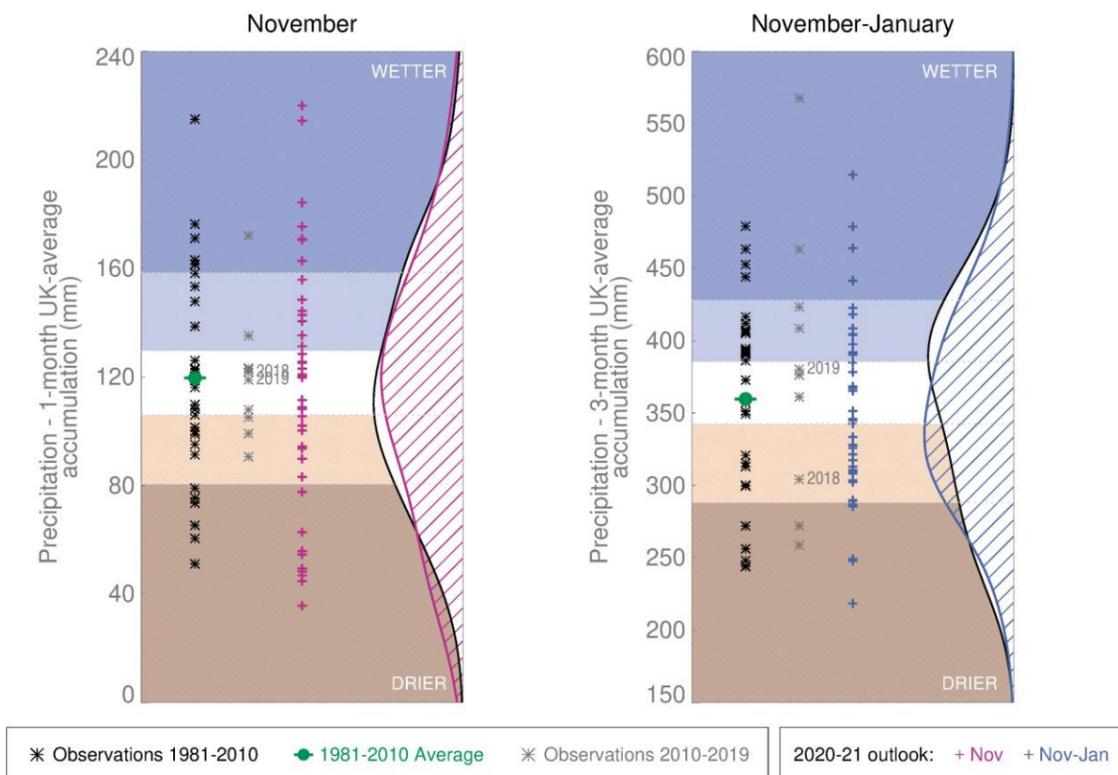
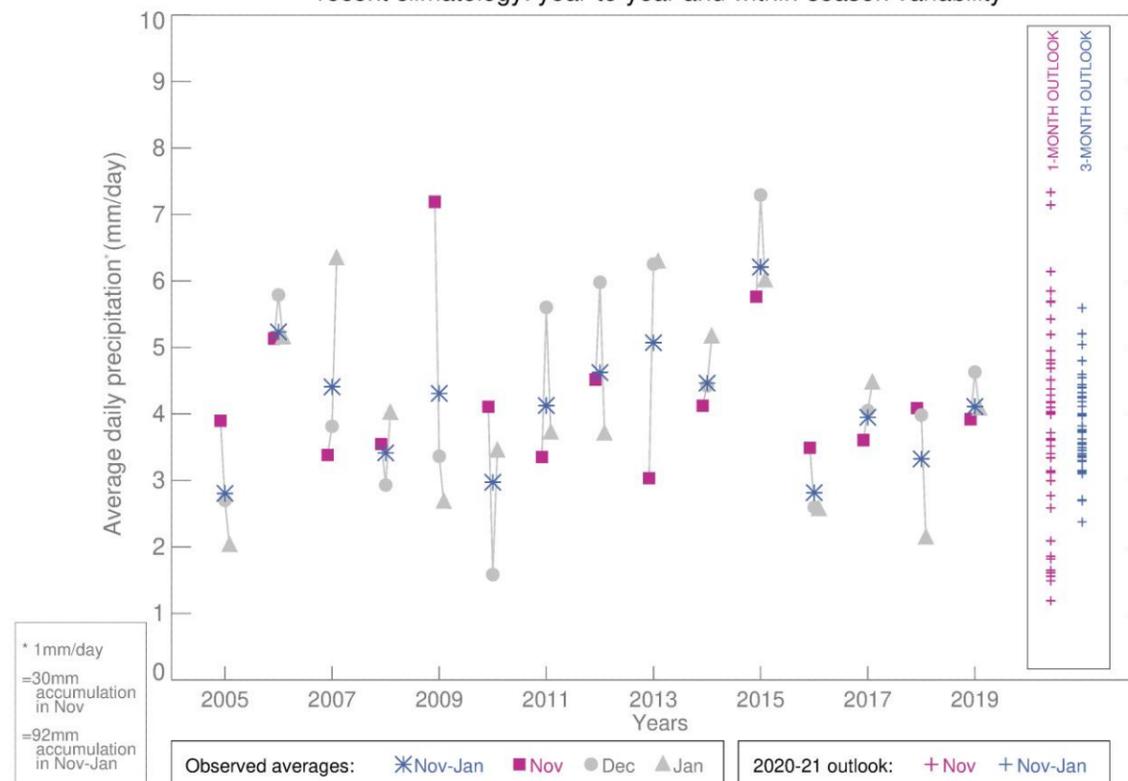


Fig P3

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-7-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.