



Met Office

Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: May – July 2020 Issue date: 23.04.20

The forecast presented here is for May and the average of the May-June-July period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for May will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 1st May 2020.

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

SUMMARY – TEMPERATURE:

For May and May-June-July as a whole, above-average temperatures are more likely than below-average temperatures.

Overall, the probability that the UK-average temperature for May-June-July will fall into the coldest of our five categories is between 5% and 10%, and the probability that it will fall into the warmest of our five categories is between 50% and 55% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a neutral phase and is likely to remain so throughout this forecast period. It is therefore not expected to have a significant effect on UK weather. Sea surface temperatures are below average across the North Atlantic Ocean west of the UK. This pattern has been linked to greater incidence of high pressure in summer, implying increased chances of higher-than-normal temperatures in the Outlook period. For May and May-June-July as a whole, the Met Office long-range prediction system shows an increase in the likelihood of high pressure near the UK. While confidence is typically lower at this time of year than in winter, there is better agreement between prediction systems from centres around the world than is usual at this time of year. High pressure would lead to more settled weather for the UK

and, combined with the warming climate, this means a greater-than-usual chance of above-average temperature (see graphs of figure T2). Nevertheless, cooler-than-normal conditions remain a possibility, albeit with a smaller likelihood. While the relatively high probability of our warmest forecast category does suggest that the chance of spells of very hot weather is increased compared to usual, it does not imply extreme or unseasonal weather throughout the whole 3-month period. Indeed, the Outlook does not identify weather for a particular day or week. The increased likelihood of this category could mean more days with temperatures that are above average to a more modest degree. Above-average temperatures can also arise from a range of types of weather, not just sunny and dry conditions.

Fig T1

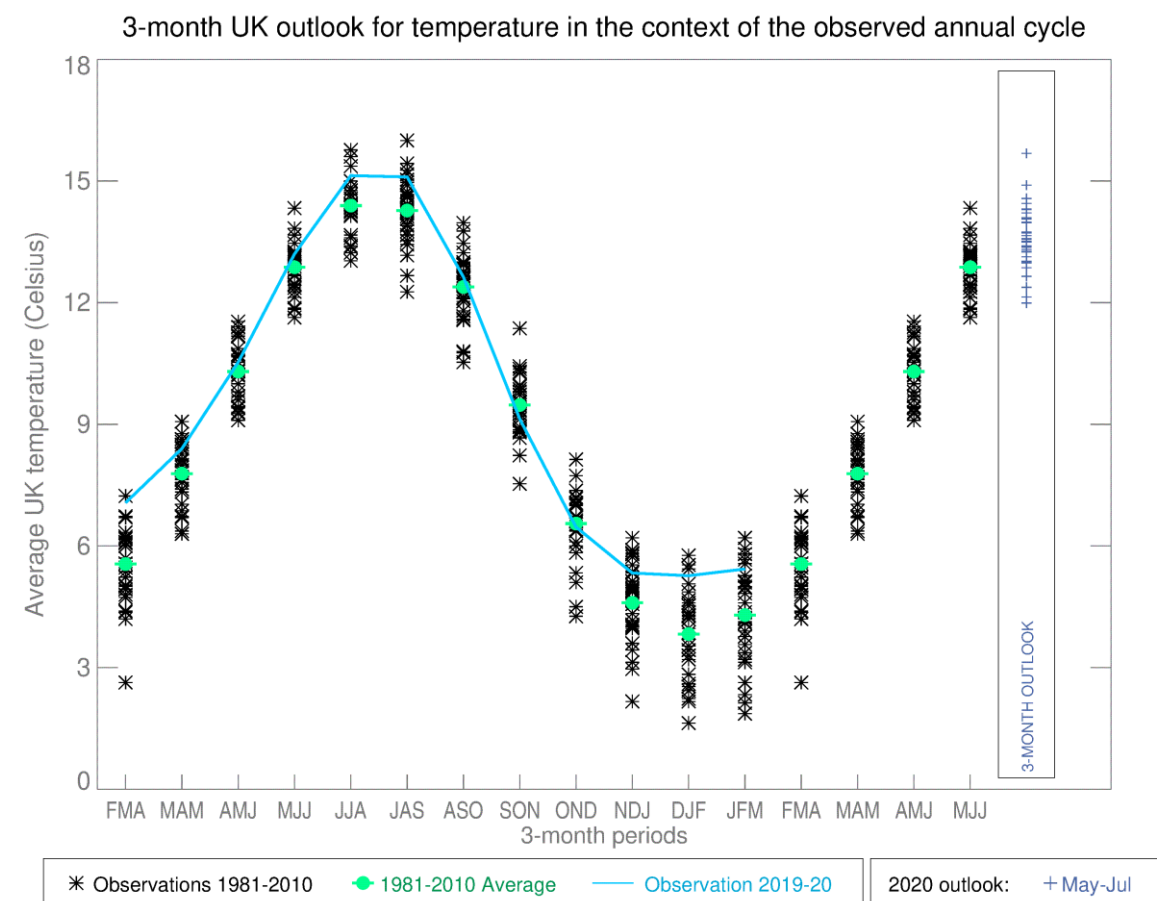


Fig T2

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

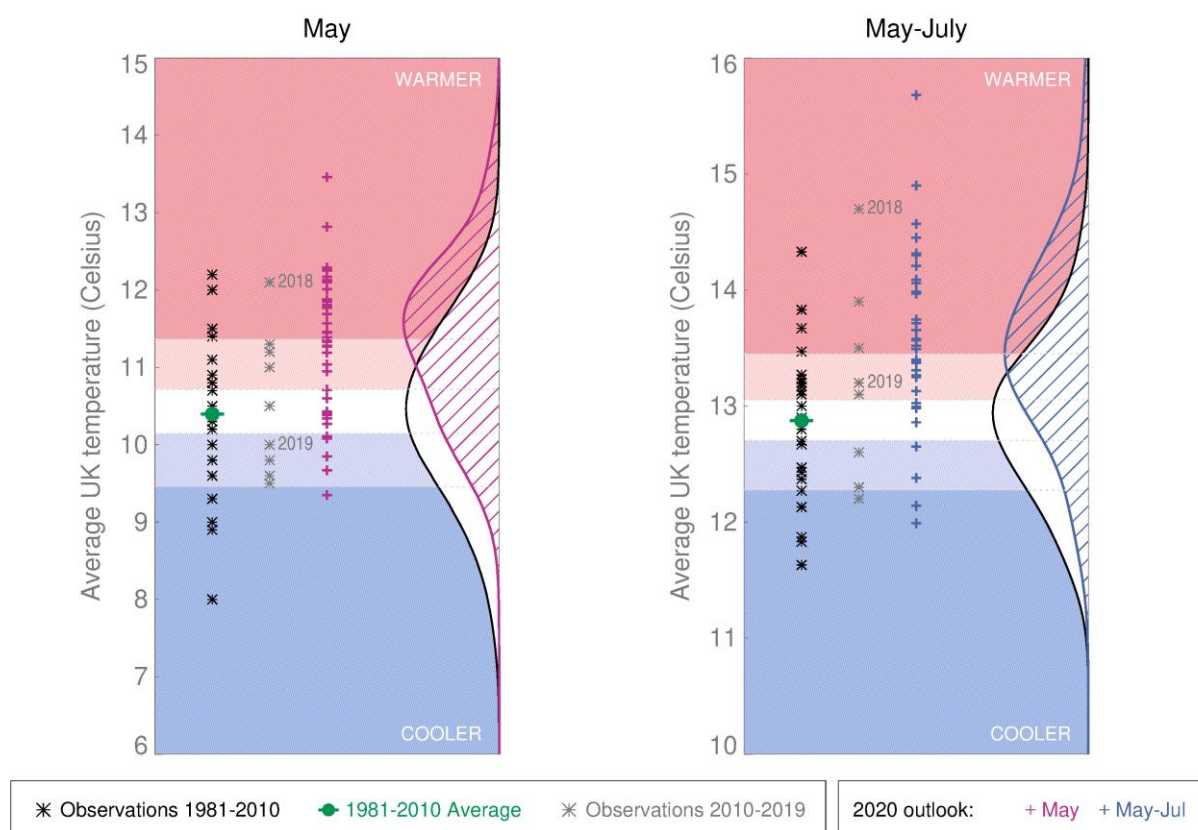
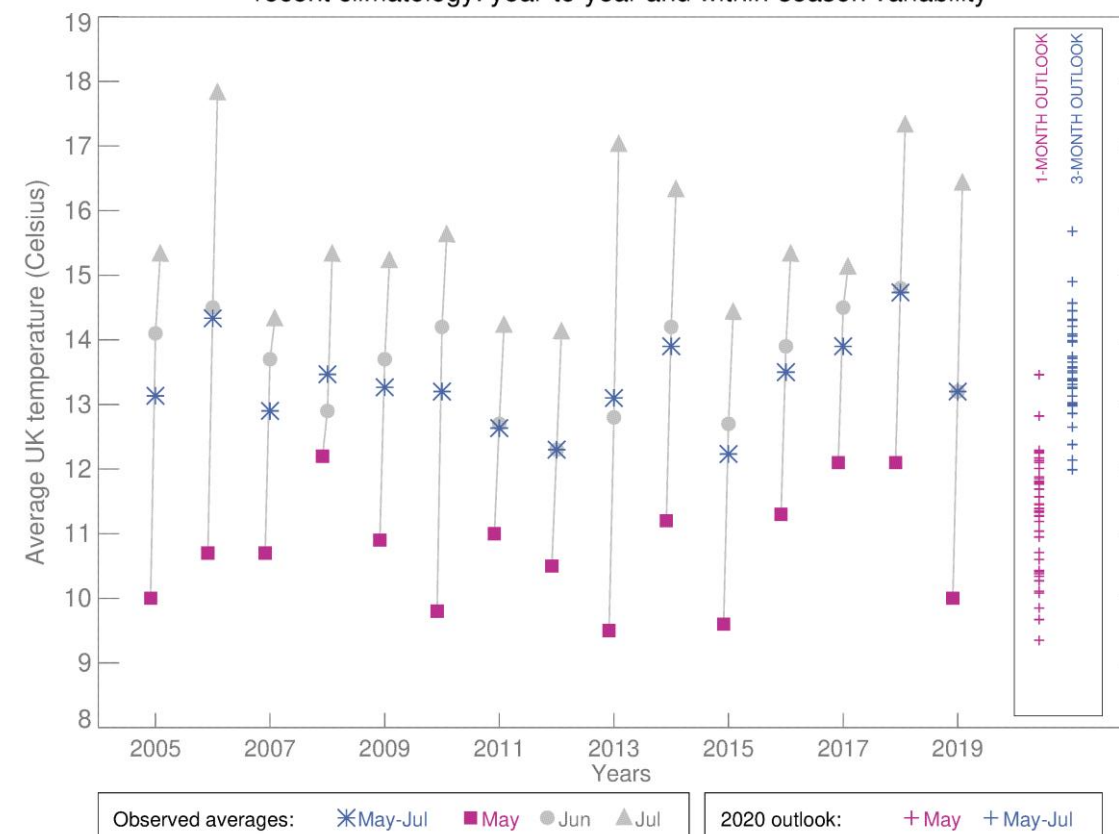


Fig T3

1-month and 3-month UK outlook for temperature 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.