

The forecast presented here is for April and the average of the April-May-June period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for April will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 01 April 2016.

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

SUMMARY - PRECIPITATION:

For April, and April-May-June as a whole, above-average precipitation is considered more probable than below-average.

Overall, the probability of the UK-average precipitation for April-May-June falling into the driest of our five categories is between 15 and 20%. The probability of UK-average precipitation falling into our wettest category is around 25% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Predictability of UK precipitation is low during this season. Additionally, as we approach summer, precipitation becomes increasingly difficult to predict due to its convective and localised nature and there is often more regional variability.

As mentioned in the temperature outlook, however, the recent Sudden Stratospheric Warming event may lead to increased blocking of the normal westerly flow. Seasonal prediction

systems suggest an increased likelihood of this blocking occurring near Greenland, while the UK has an increased chance of a wetter-than-normal cyclonic flow, during April (Fig P2, left). For the April-May-June period as a whole wetter-than-average conditions are slightly more likely than drier-than-average (Fig P2, right).

Fig P1

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

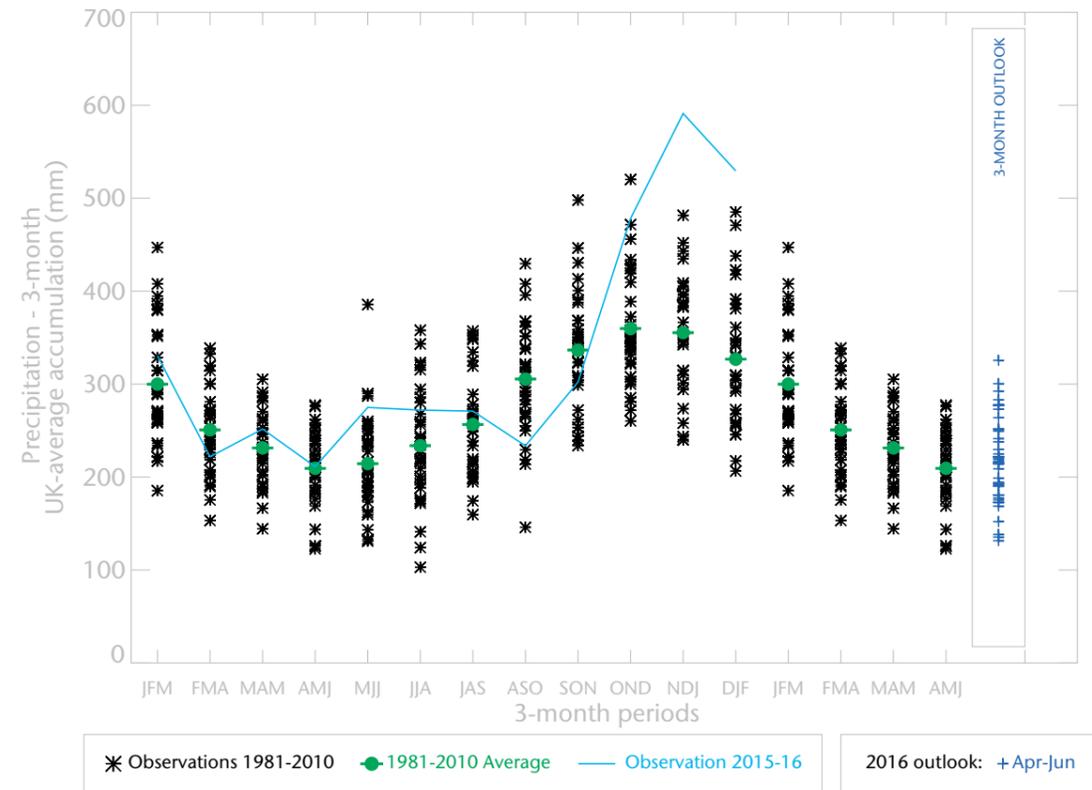


Fig P2

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

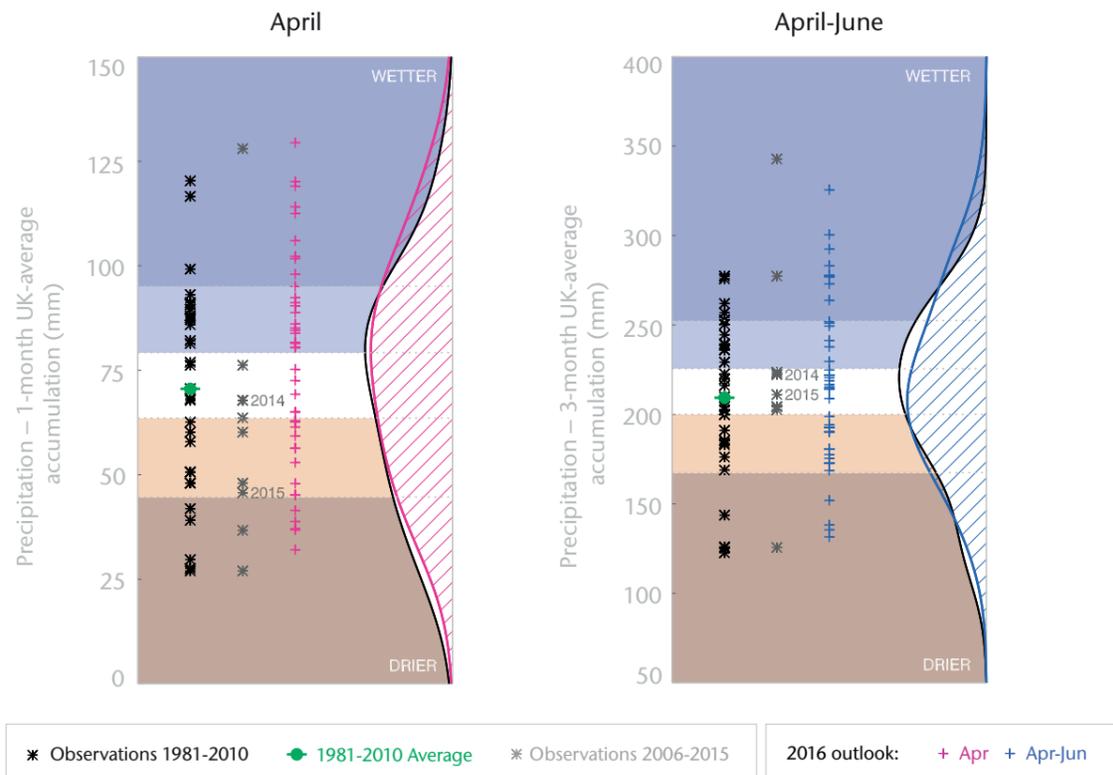
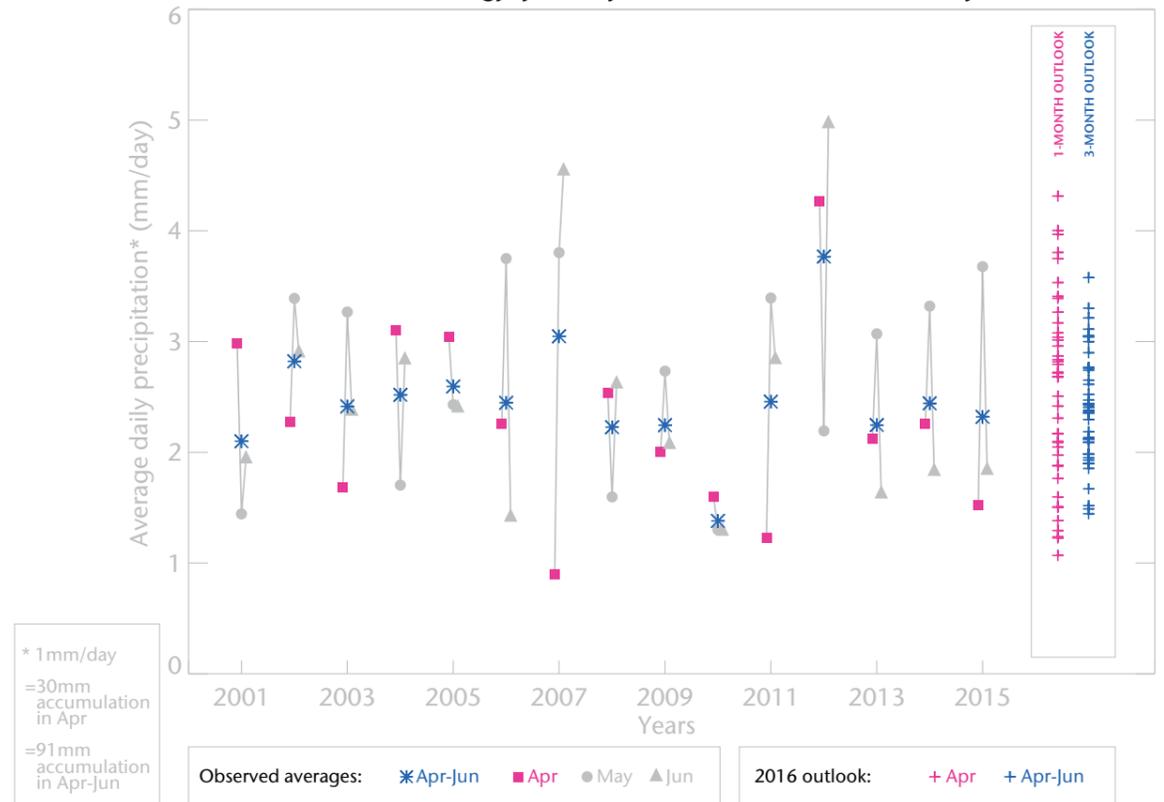


Fig P3

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.