

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 The forecast for May will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 29 April 2016.

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

SUMMARY - PRECIPITATION:

Predictions for UK precipitation show a slight increase in the probability of above-average rainfall for May. For May-June-July as a whole, the forecast for UK precipitation suggests that the chances of above- and below-average rainfall are fairly balanced.

The probability that UK precipitation for May-June-July will fall into the driest of our five categories is between 20% and 25% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is 25% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Climatologically the late spring and early summer period is one of the driest times of year across the UK, as can be seen in figure P1. As discussed in the temperature section, global climatic factors and long-range prediction systems only weakly favour certain types of weather patterns above others.

Therefore, while the signal for lower-than-normal pressure near and to the north of the UK suggests an increased chance of wetter-than-average conditions, this shift is small, as shown in both graphs in figure P2. We similarly expect the likelihood of weather-related risks to be close to normal during this period.

Fig P1

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

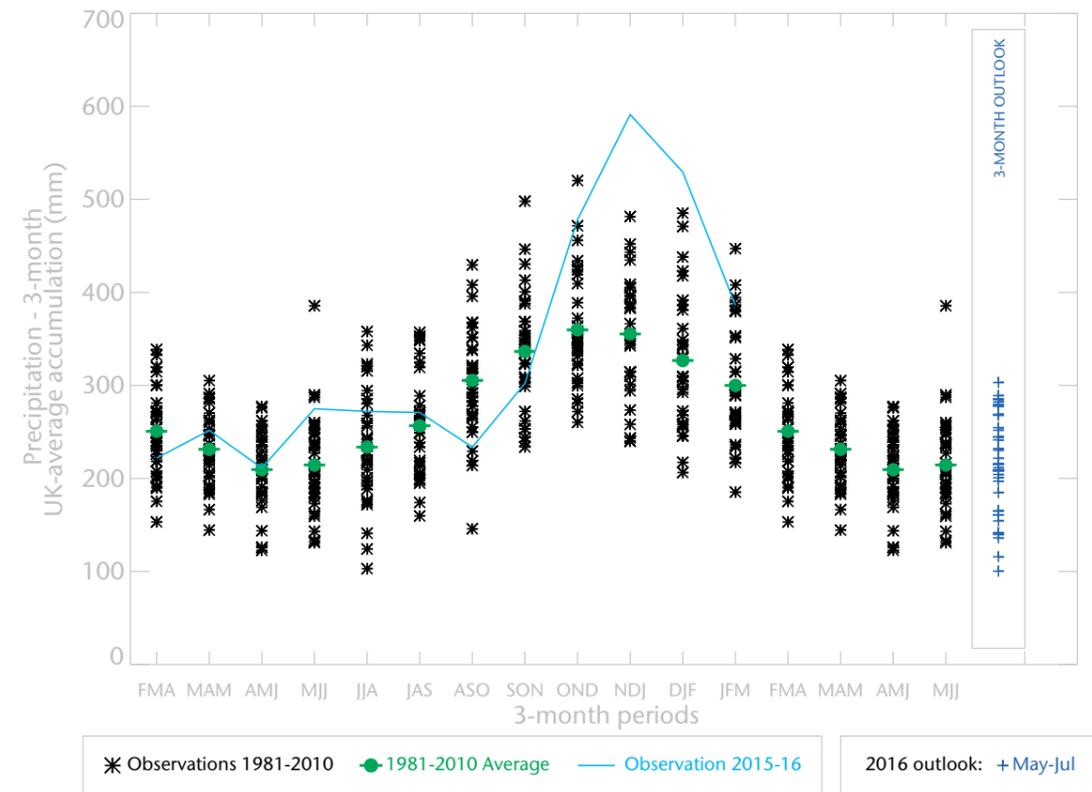


Fig P2

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

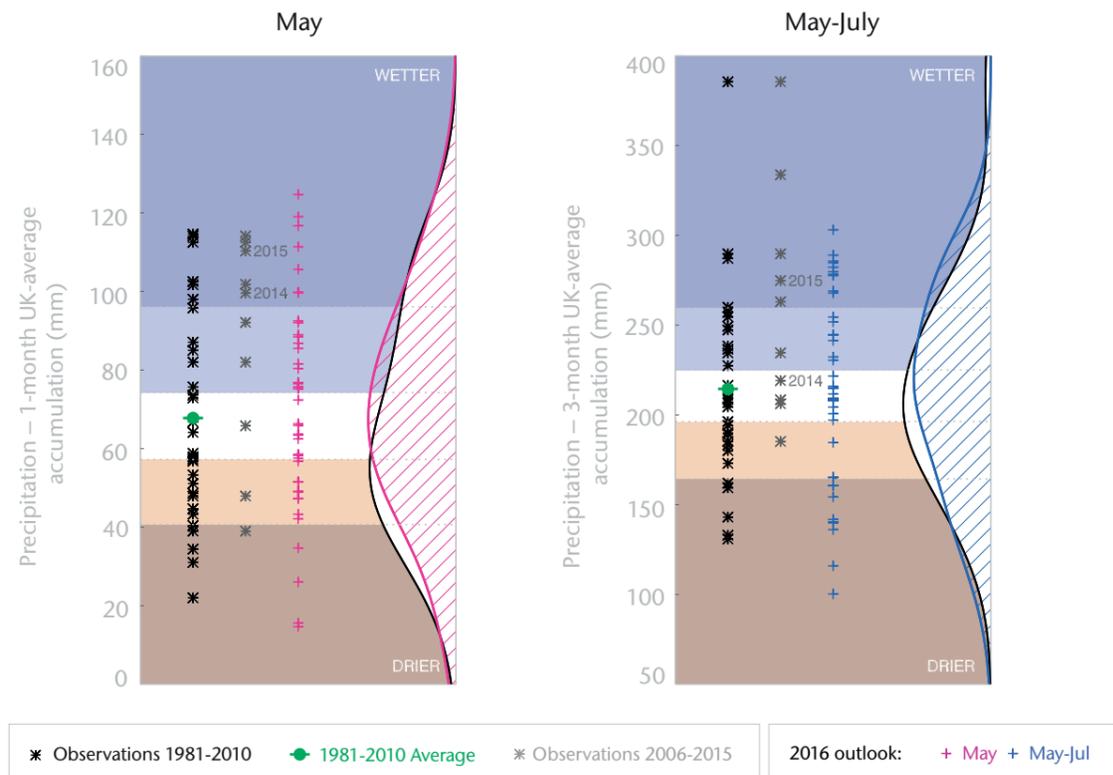
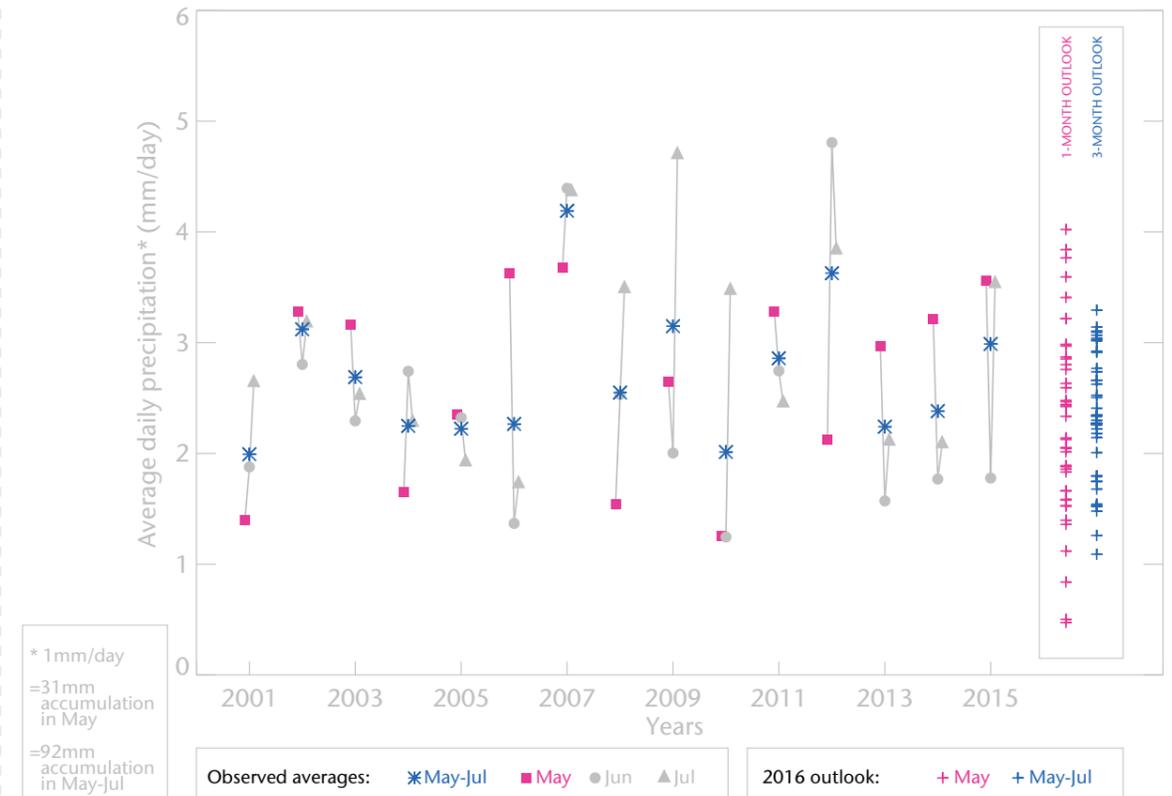


Fig P3

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.