

The forecast presented here is for November and the average of the November-December-January period for the United Kingdom as a whole.

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

SUMMARY - TEMPERATURE:

For both November and November-December-January, the balance of probabilities favours UK-mean temperatures slightly below the 1981-2010 average.

The probability that the UK-mean temperature for November-December-January will fall into the coldest of our five categories is around 25% whilst the probability that it will fall into the warmest of our five categories is around 15% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

In recent weeks El Niño conditions in the tropical Pacific have weakened further and predictions are now equally balanced between neutral and El Niño over the next three months. Sea surface temperatures in the northwest Atlantic are higher than normal though the anomaly has decreased in the last couple of weeks and typically change quickly at this time of year. Consequently the influence of these forcing factors is weak and not expected to have predictive value for conditions over Europe over the next three months.

After record low Arctic sea ice extent in September, coverage is increasing but is still well below average for the time of year, and close to the 2007 value. However, any links with European early winter climate are yet not clearly established.

Indications from the models favour slightly higher than average pressure to the north of the UK and slightly lower pressure over southern Europe. This would suggest a weakened westerly tendency which could allow a greater than average incidence of cold blocking patterns. This is more marked in the forecast for November than for the November-December-January period.

However, the lack of strong influences suggests that predictability for this year is likely to be low. Therefore confidence in the forecast is relatively low.

The curves in Figure T2 show a small shift towards colder than average values for November and November-December-January, slightly increasing the probability of well below average temperatures from the climatological level.

Fig T1

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

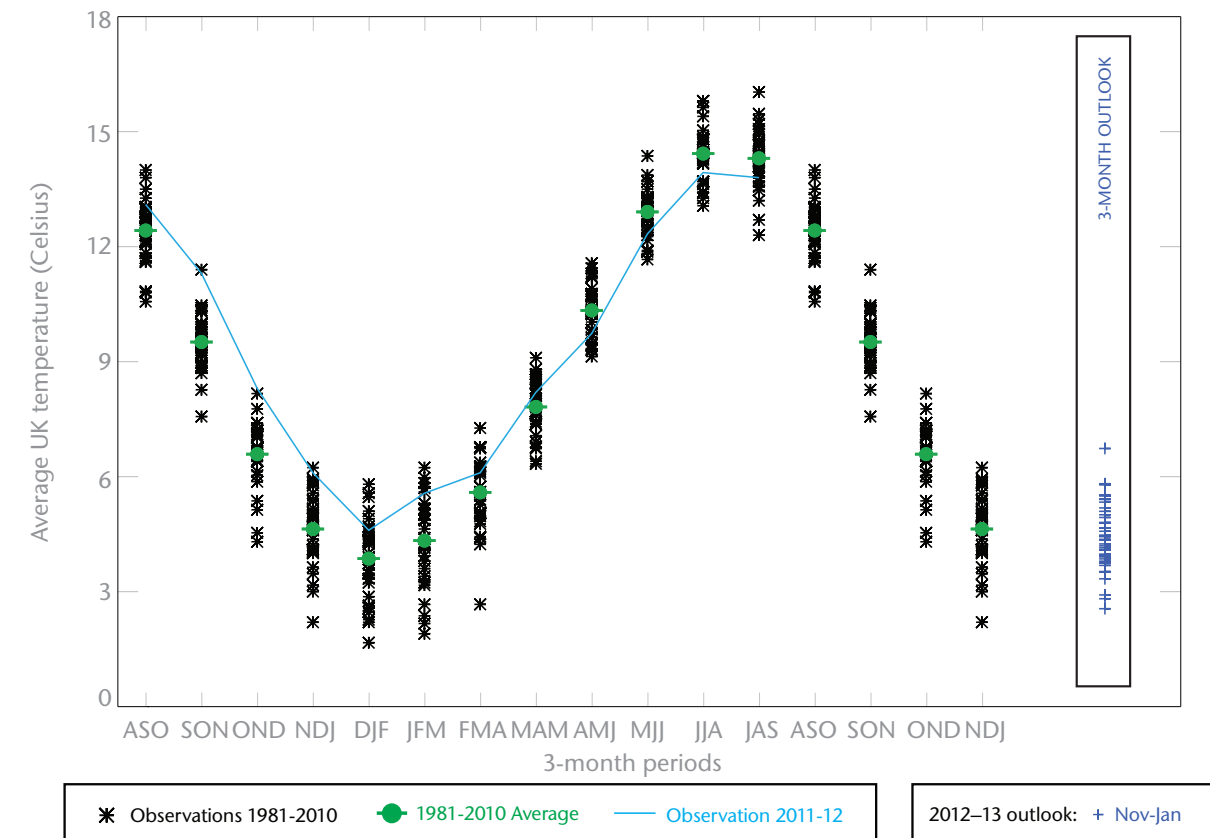


Fig T2

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

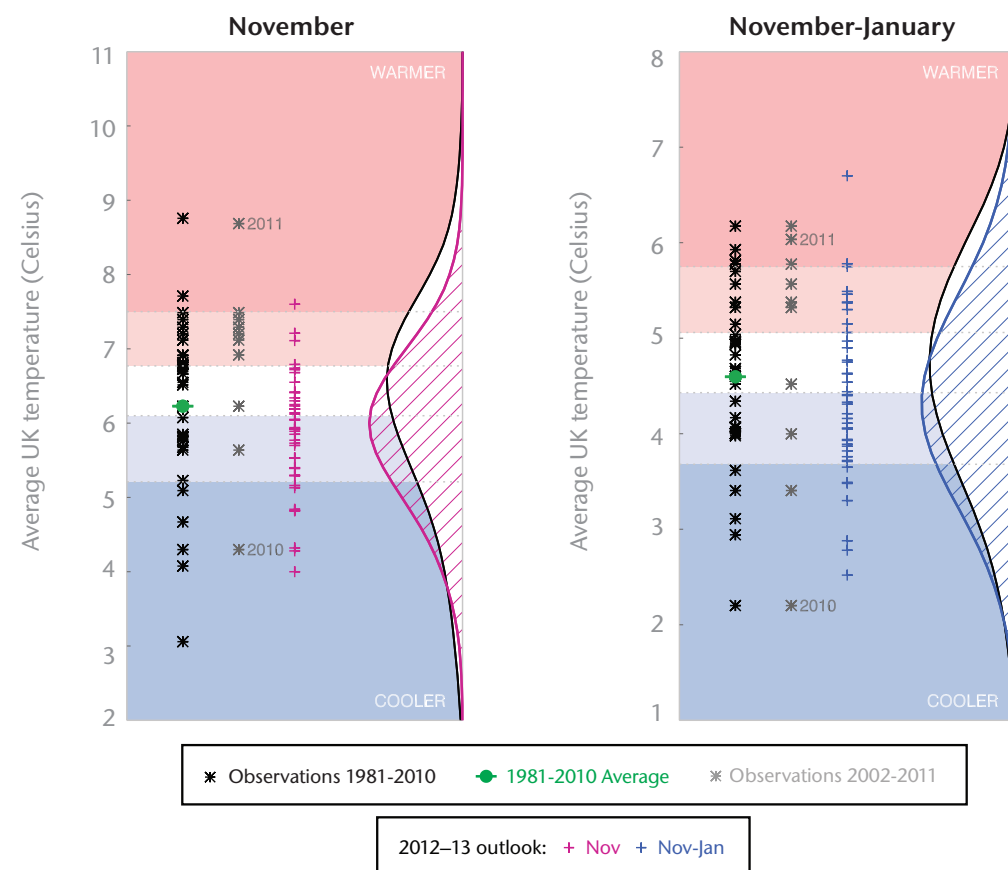


Fig T3

1-month and 3-month UK outlook for temperature in the context of recent climatology: year-to-year and within-season variability

