



Met Office

Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: April – June 2020 Issue date: 26.03.20

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 The forecast for April will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 1st April 2020. This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement.

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For April, the likelihoods of above- and below-average precipitation are similar. For April-May-June as a whole, below-average precipitation is moderately more likely than above-average precipitation.

The probability that UK-average precipitation for April-May-June will fall into the driest of our five categories is 25% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is around 15% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

There are fewer global drivers of UK weather patterns at this time of year compared to the winter season, so predictability of precipitation amounts is lower. This means there are typically only small shifts in the likelihood of above- and below-average precipitation. As discussed in the Outlook for temperature, there is a greater-than-usual likelihood of a positive phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), particularly early in the Outlook period. This would favour above-average precipitation. Nevertheless, there are also signals for high pressure near the UK, which favour drier-than-average conditions.

For April, prediction systems show that the chances of above- and below-average rainfall are balanced, indicating the uncertainty over which of the factors above will exert more influence (see left-hand graph of figure P2). For the April-May-June period, below-average precipitation is moderately more likely than above-average precipitation, consistent with a greater likelihood that high-pressure will be more influential during the Outlook period overall (see right-hand graph of figure P2). This does not preclude spells of wet and windy weather occurring at times during the period.

Fig P1

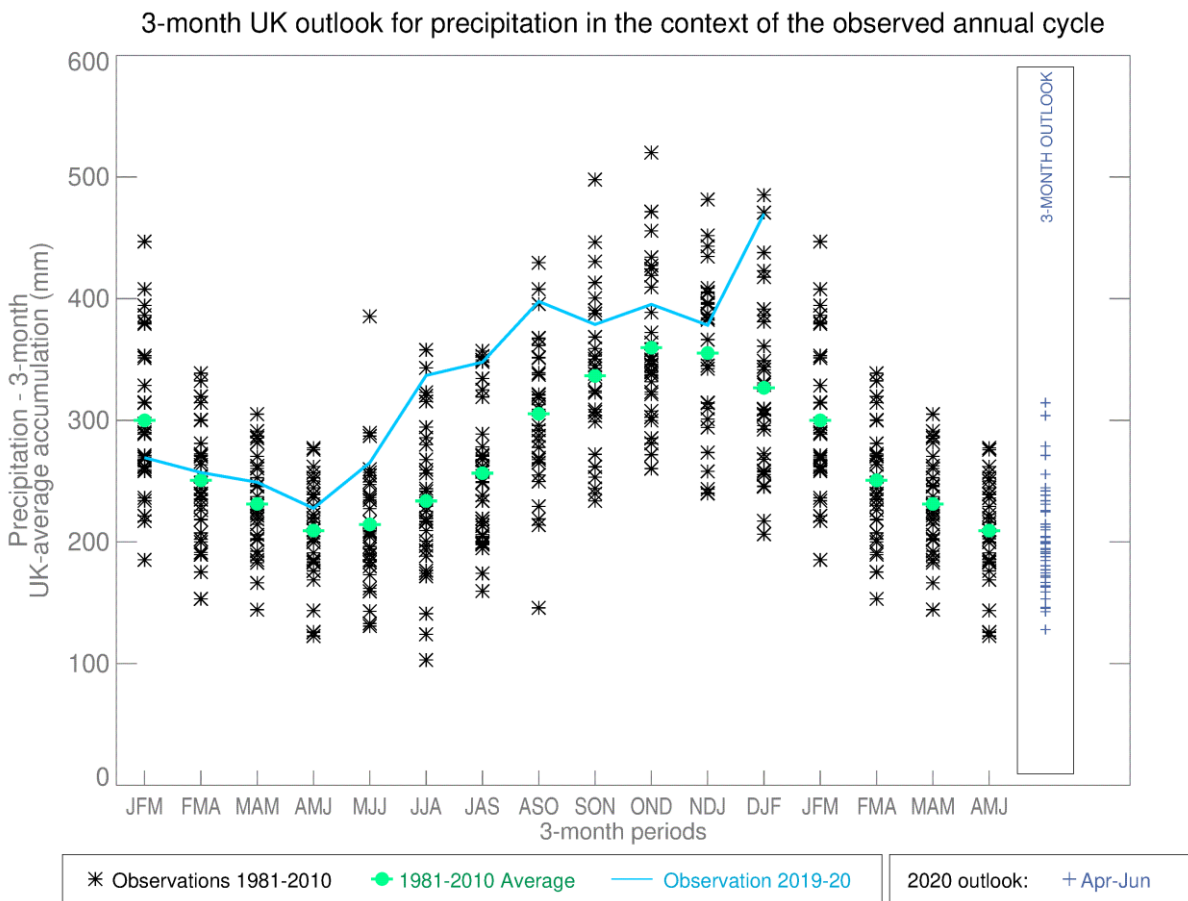


Fig P2

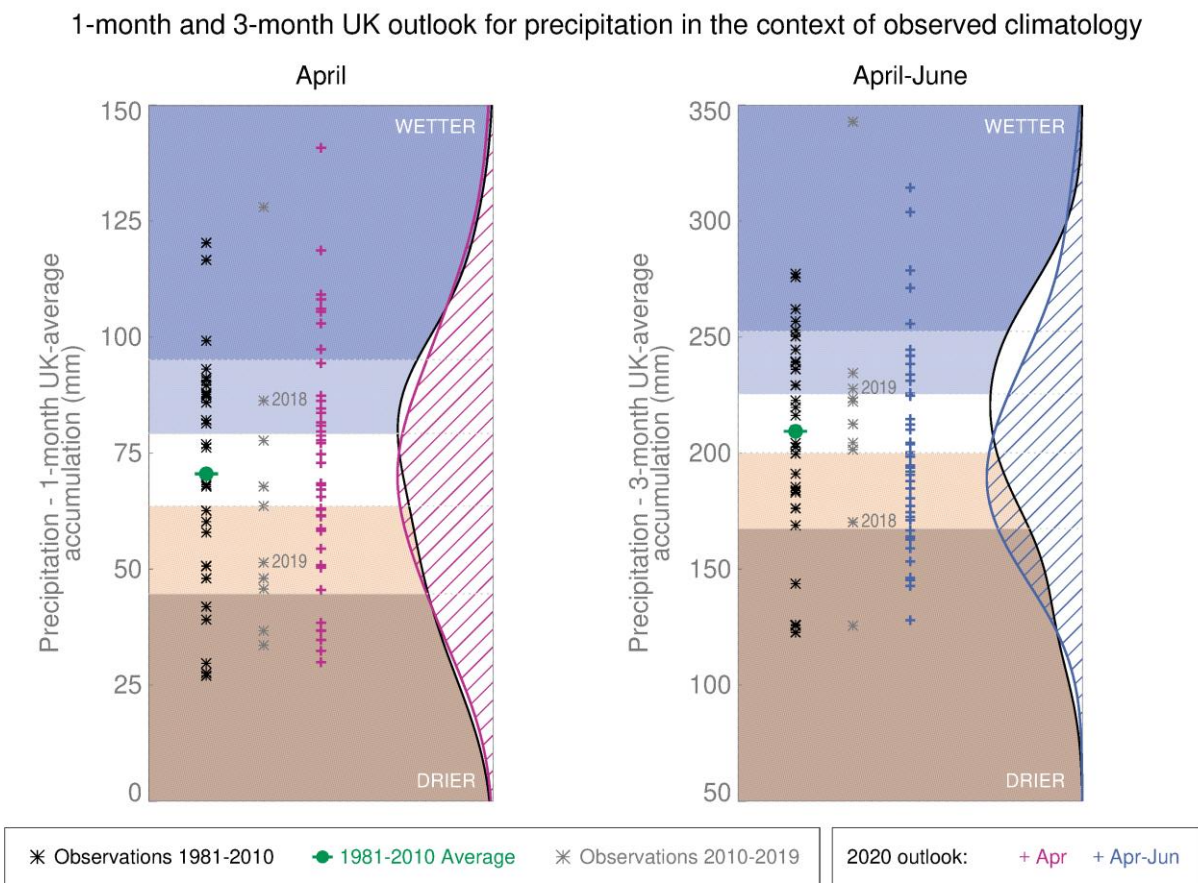
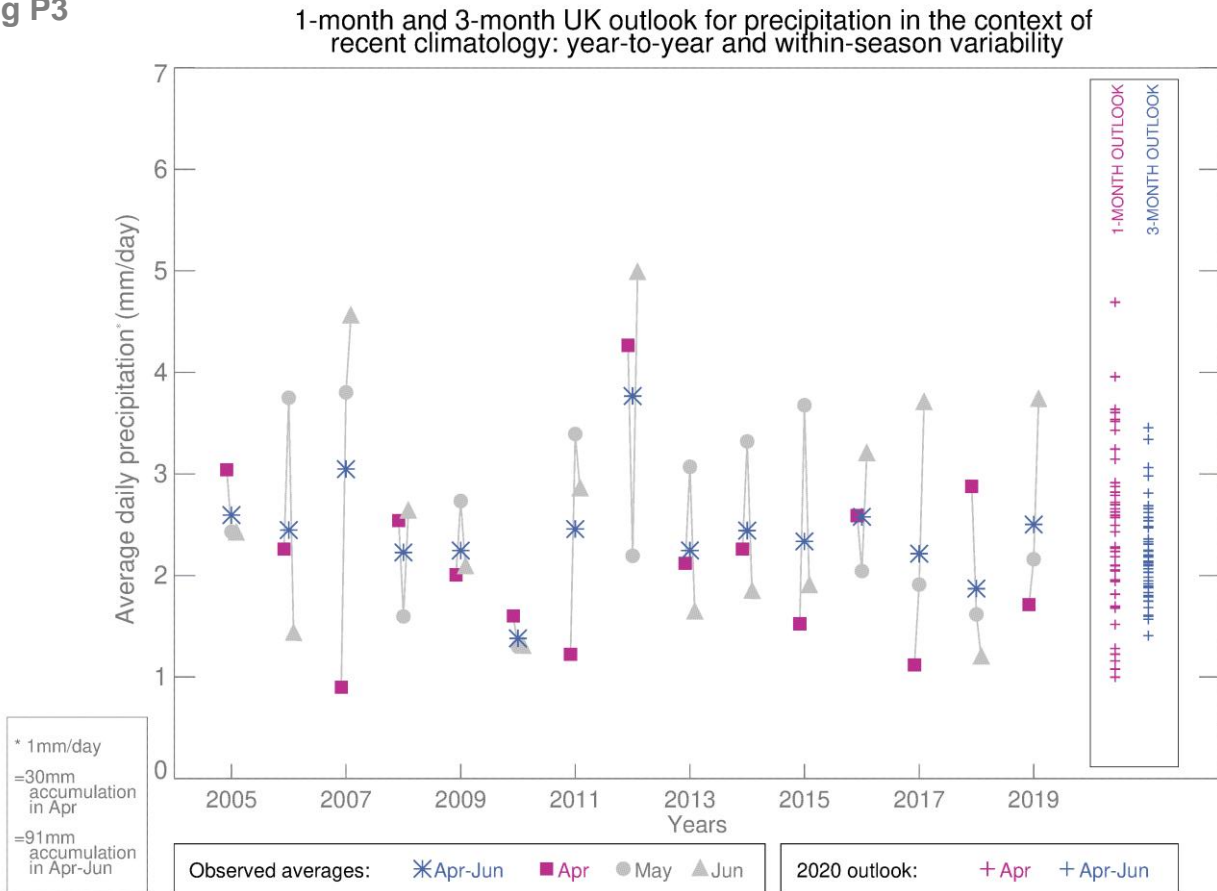


Fig P3



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.