

The forecast presented here is for November and the average of the November-December-January period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for November will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 1 November 2013.

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

SUMMARY - TEMPERATURE:

There is a strong signal in the forecast for above-average November-mean temperatures.

For November-December-January above-average temperatures are considered more likely than below, though this signal is likely strongly influenced by the expected mild November.

Overall the probability that the UK-mean temperature for November-December-January will be in the warmest of our five categories is close to 30% and the probability that it will fall into the coldest category is approximately 15% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

There are currently no significant sea surface temperature anomalies across the tropical Pacific and therefore neither El Niño nor La Niña conditions prevail. In this respect computer models favour a continuation of neutral conditions during the coming months, leaving the influence of this as a forcing factor weak and not expected to contribute predictive value for conditions across Europe during the next three months.

Across a large part of the North Atlantic sea surface temperatures remain largely above average, whilst further north Arctic sea ice has recently reached its annual minimum extent. Whilst well below the climatological average, this minimum extent was not as low as 2012's record minimum. The greatest deficit relative to average appears to be over the northern Barents and Kara Seas. Whilst this may play some part in determining late autumn and early wintertime conditions over northern Europe, the predictive associations are not yet entirely clear.

Tropical stratospheric conditions, meanwhile, are now in a strong westerly Quasi-Biennial Oscillation phase, which has an established link to autumn and

wintertime conditions over northwestern Europe, favouring positive North Atlantic Oscillation.

Latest computer model forecasts indeed favour westerly or southwesterly atmospheric flow over northwestern Europe, including the UK. At this time of year this is typically associated with milder-, wetter- and stormier-than-average conditions.

These influences are reflected in the forecast in Figure T2, which shows a strong signal for milder-than-average conditions in November. In fact the forecast indicates a high probability of a milder November than that of last year. This is likely to be associated with lower-than-average incidence of overnight frost.

Forecast curves for November-December-January indicate above-average temperatures more likely than below-average. However, even during milder winters occasional colder outbreaks can still occur more especially in December and January.

Fig T1

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

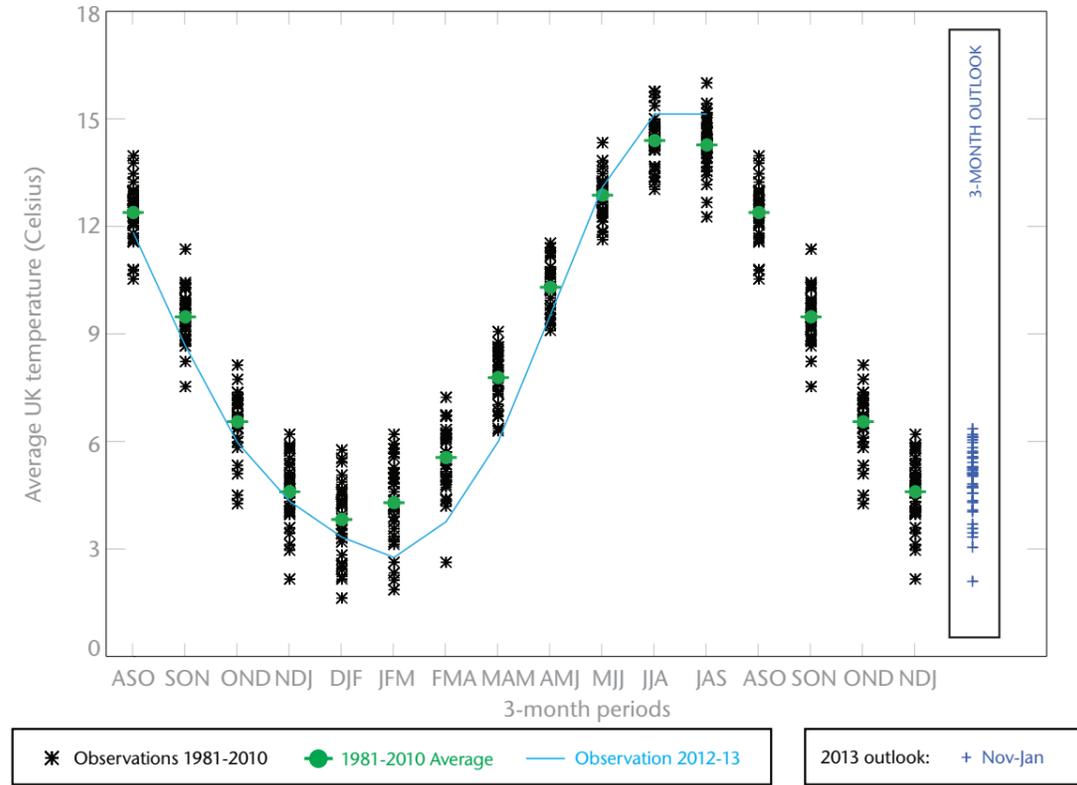


Fig T2

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

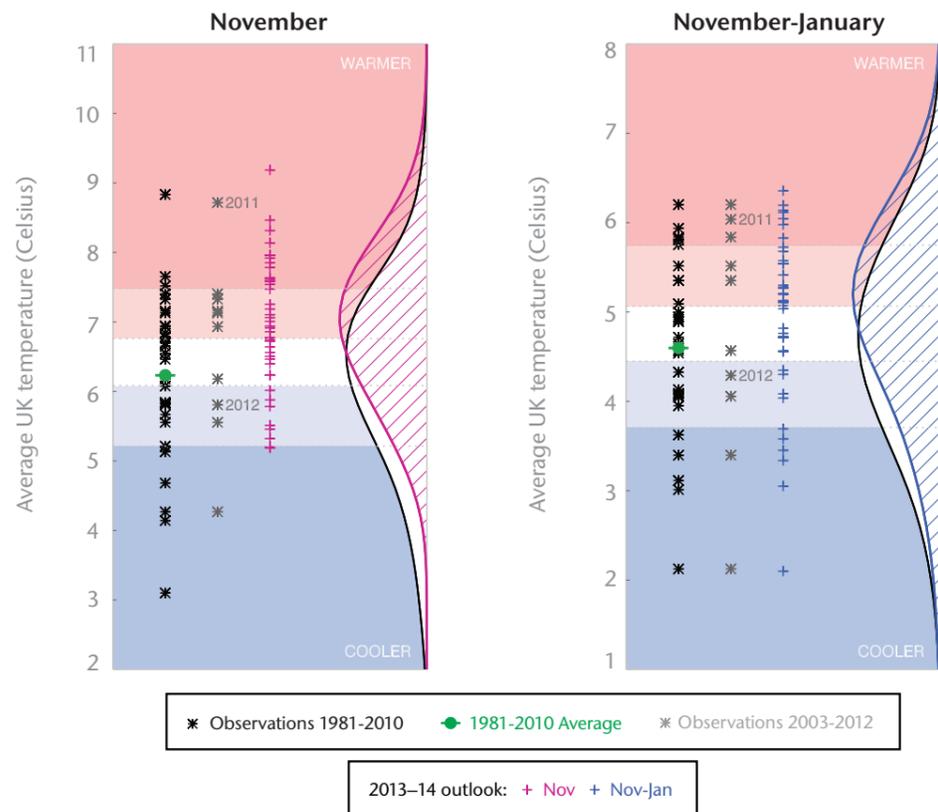
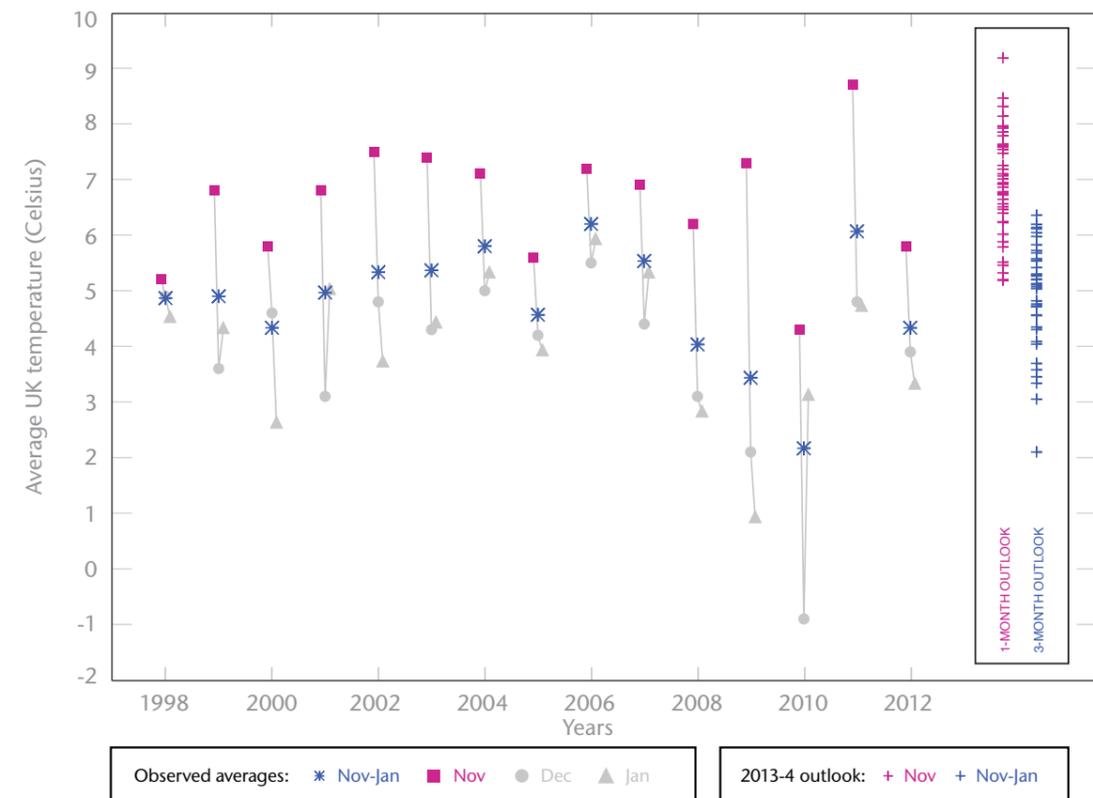


Fig T3

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



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.