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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 October 2010 08:57  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Assessment for winter

[REDACTED]

As discussed a paragraph on our initial thoughts for winter, please ring if it is not what you were after.



Met Office Initial  
Assessment ...

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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See our Chief Executive reflect on his first year at the Met Office and consider what the future has in store at [http://uploads.metofficeab.co.uk/video/MetOffice\\_Annual\\_Rep\\_Final.wmv](http://uploads.metofficeab.co.uk/video/MetOffice_Annual_Rep_Final.wmv)



## **Met Office Initial Assessment of Risk for Winter 2010/11**

This covers the start of winter: November, December and January 2010/11. This will be updated monthly through the winter and so probabilities will change.

### **Temperature**

3 in 10 chance of mild conditions

3 in 10 chance of average conditions

4 in 10 chance of cold condition

### **Precipitation**

3 in 10 chance of wet conditions

3 in 10 chance of average conditions

4 in 10 chance of dry conditions

**Summary: There is an increased risk for a cold and wintry start to the winter season.**

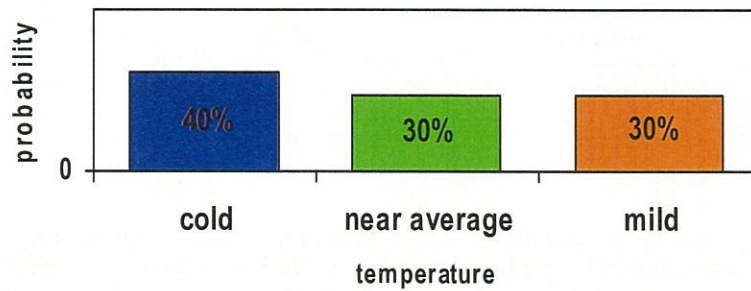
Looking further ahead beyond this assessment there are some indications of an increased risk of a mild end to the winter season.

Issued 25 October 2010

## Outlook for November 2010 – January 2011

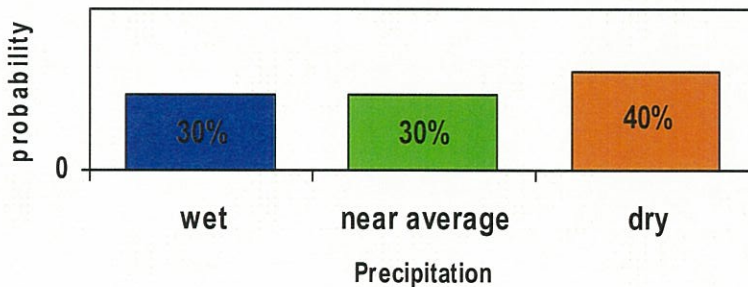
For the period November 2010-January 2011, there is a 30% chance of mild conditions, a 30% chance of near-average and a 40% chance of cold conditions over northern Europe.

Forecast probabilities for mean temperature over northern Europe: November 2010-January 2011



For precipitation, there is a 30% chance of wet conditions, a 30% chance of near-average and a 40% chance of dry conditions over northern Europe.

Forecast probabilities for mean precipitation over northern Europe: November 2010 - January 2011



## UK and historical context

The outlook gives the likelihood of temperature and precipitation categories for the broad Northern European region.

The tables and figures below put these categories into a UK context. They show the typical range of temperatures and rainfall experienced in the UK for each Northern European category, based on what happened in past years. Occasional years regarded as atypical are omitted in deriving the ranges shown in the tables. This analysis is not a means of 'converting' the Northern European outlook into a UK forecast, but can be used as an approximate guide to the range of UK conditions expected if a particular Northern European category is realised.

(a) Temperature

Observed Northern Europe Temperature Category	Typical lower limit of average UK temperature	Typical upper limit of average UK temperature	UK average temperatures for selected years
Mild (■)	4.4°C (-0.1°C)	5.8°C (+1.3°C)	<u>2006</u>
Near-Average	4.0°C (-0.5°C)	5.1°C (+0.6°C)	6.2°C (+1.7°C) <u>2009</u>
Cold (■)	3.0°C (-1.5°C)	4.9°C (+0.4°C)	3.4°C (-1.1°C)

Table 1. November-January UK temperature ranges. Typical lower and upper limits for UK temperatures in each Northern European category are shown in the left and central columns. Temperatures in a selection of years are shown in the right-hand column for reference. Figures in parentheses represent the difference in temperature from the long-term average value.

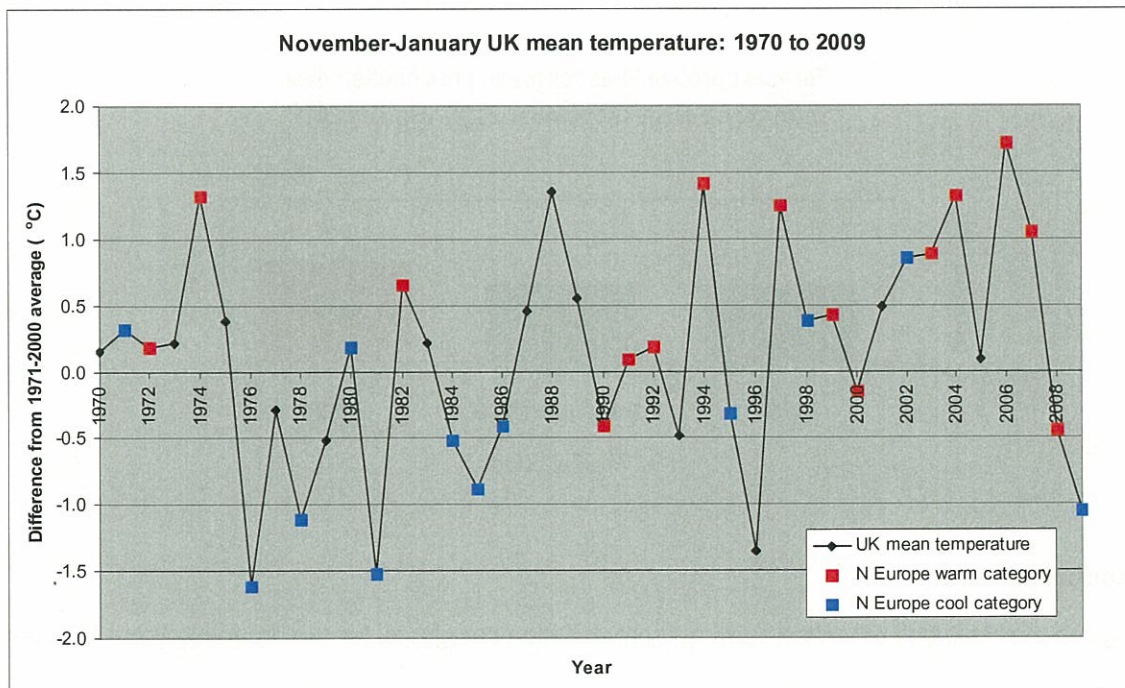


Figure 1. November-January UK average temperatures as the difference from long-term average values. Blue squares indicate years for which the observed Northern European temperature is in the 'cool' category. Red squares indicate years for which the observed Northern European temperature is in the 'warm' category.

(b) Rainfall

Observed Northern Europe Rainfall Category	Typical lower limit of average UK rainfall	Typical upper limit of average UK rainfall	UK average rainfall for selected years
<b>Dry (■)</b>	239 mm (68%)	387mm (110%)	<u>2006</u>
<b>Near-Average</b>	299 mm (85%)	384 mm (109%)	482 mm (137%) <u>2009</u>
<b>Wet (■)</b>	398 mm (113%)	450mm (128%)	393 mm (112%)

Table 2. November-January UK average rainfall ranges. Typical lower and upper UK rainfall limits (millimetres) in each Northern European category are shown in the left and central columns. Rainfall in a selection of years is shown in the right-hand column for reference. Figures in parentheses express the rainfall as a percentage of its normal value.

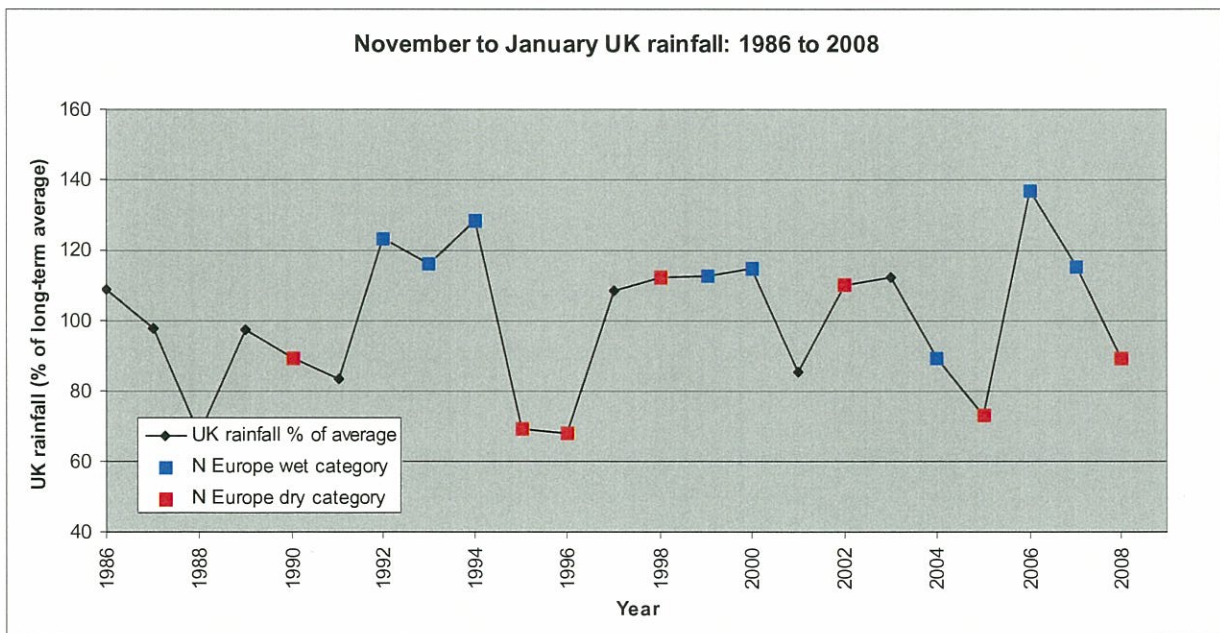


Figure 2. November-January UK average rainfall as a percentage of the long-term average. Red squares indicate years for which the observed Northern European rainfall is in the 'dry' category. Blue squares indicate years for which the observed Northern European rainfall is in the 'wet' category.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 October 2010 13:10  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Assessment for winter

[REDACTED]

That is fine.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** 25 October 2010 10:37  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Assessment for winter

[REDACTED]

Many thanks for this. I'm going to use the following sentence in the Forward Look;

The Met Office seasonal outlook for the period November to January is showing no clear signals for the winter. The forecast suggests that there is an 70 per cent chance of near average or colder conditions over northern Europe during this period, but there is a 60 per cent chance of near average or milder conditions. Rainfall amounts are less certain, with roughly equal signals for the chance of wet or dry conditions. In summary there is a slightly increased risk for a cold and wintry start to the winter season, but looking further ahead beyond this assessment there are some indications of an increased risk of a mild end to the winter season. The Met Office update these forecasts every month and it is important to check these for more accurate forecasts closer to the event.

Please let me know any comments or changes you would like made before it goes in.

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**From:** [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** 25 October 2010 08:57  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Assessment for winter

[redacted]

As discussed a paragraph on our initial thoughts for winter, please ring if it is not what you were after.

<<Met Office Initial Assessment of Risk for Winter 2011.doc>>

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