

## April 2018

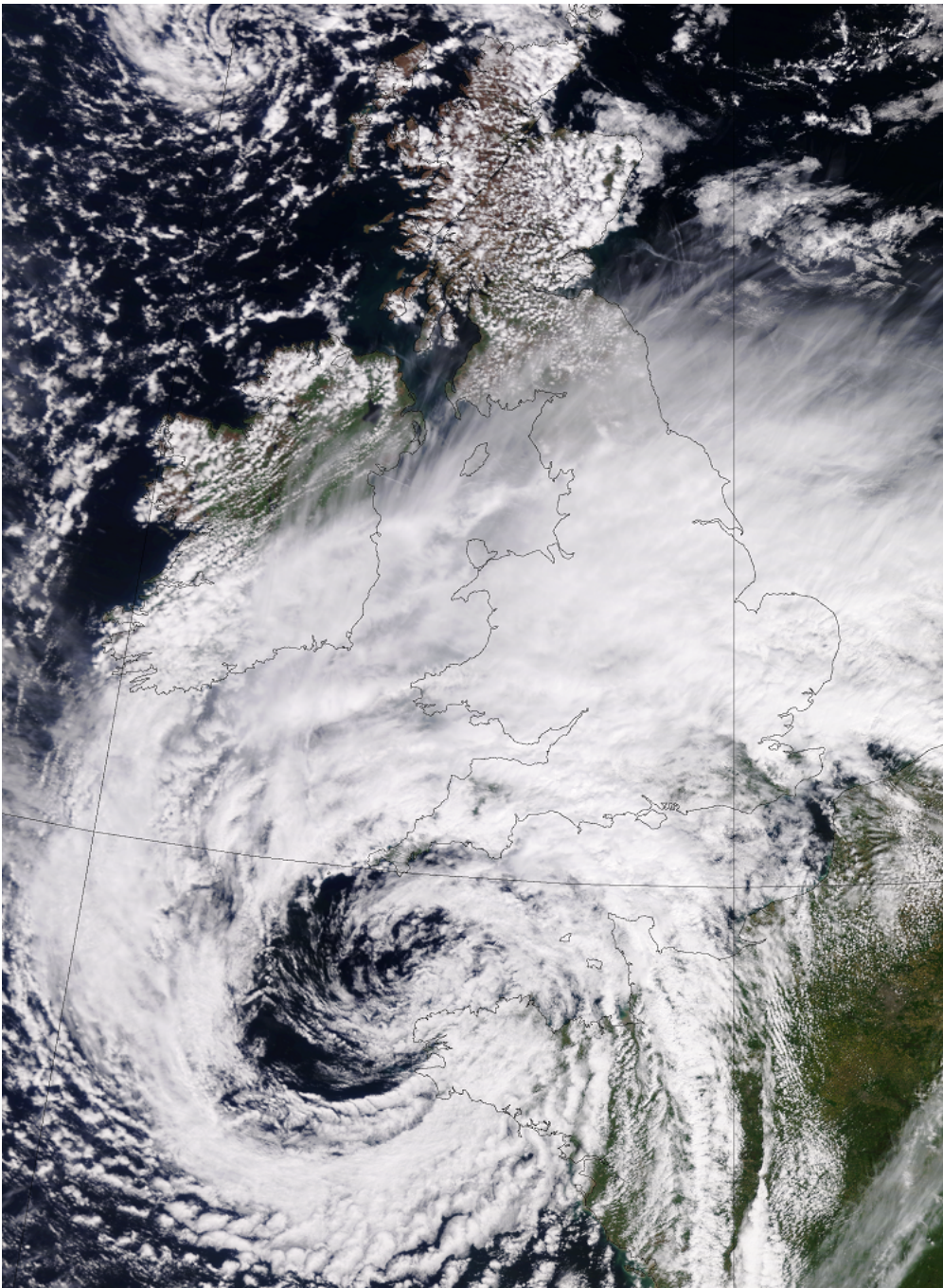
**The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1981-2010.**

April started off cold and wet with snow for some, mainly on high ground, and notably low daytime maxima, continuing the theme that was dominant through March. The first half of the month continued unsettled and generally cloudy, although it was generally less cold after the 5th, and there was a fair amount of dry sunny weather in northern Scotland. There was a brief but very marked hot spell from the 18th to the 21st which produced the highest temperatures in April since 1949. Progressively cooler, unsettled weather returned from the 22nd, and it was predominantly bright and showery in Scotland and Northern Ireland but with more general rain at times over England and Wales, and the 30th was unseasonably cool, wet and windy in East Anglia and the south-east.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 8.4 °C, which is 1.0 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. Mean maximum temperatures were between 0 and 1 °C above average in most areas, while mean minimum temperatures were also between 0 and 1 °C above in Scotland and Northern Ireland, but were more than 2 °C above in East Anglia, central southern and south-east England and parts of the Midlands. The mean minimum temperature for England was the second highest in a series from 1910. Rainfall was 119% of average, and most places had near or rather above average rainfall but it was drier than average in northern Scotland. Sunshine was 90% of average, and it was a sunny month in the northern half of Scotland but generally dull elsewhere, especially in the south-west.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 29.1 °C was recorded at London St James's Park on the 19th. A minimum temperature of -8.8 °C was recorded at Tulloch Bridge (Inverness-shire) on the 1st. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 GMT on the 3rd, 41.4 mm of rain fell at Capel Curig (Gwynedd). Wind gusts of 64 knots (74 mph) were recorded at South Uist (Western Isles) on the 17th. A snow depth of 18 cm was recorded at Nunraw Abbey (East Lothian) on the 5th.

The satellite image shows an area of low pressure to the south-west of the UK on Friday 27 April 2018. This brought some wet and unseasonably cold weather to parts of central southern and south-east England; on 29 April daily maximum temperatures across East Anglia were only 6 to 7 °C, around 20 °C lower than 10 days earlier. Image copyright Met Office / NOAA / NASA



## Weather Impacts

Heavy rain caused flooding in parts of Derbyshire and Yorkshire on 1st and 2nd, and the Foss Barrier in York was activated as levels rose on the River Ouse. Some roads became impassable, with three people and a dog rescued from a car in floodwater in Derbyshire. At the same time, northern parts of the country were dealing with snow, which was up to 10cm deep in some places, causing some roads to be closed. On the 4th, the A9 saw difficult driving conditions, with the A822 closed due to an abandoned vehicle, and a number of traffic accidents on the M90 and M80.

Some heavy rain warnings were issued on the 9th and 10th. Flooding was reported in Devon between Tiverton and South Molton. The railway between Redcar and Saltburn was blocked and roads in the Saltburn area were also blocked due to floodwater. Surface water on the A61 between Ripon and Harrogate and on the A64 in York caused travel disruption. A few heavy showers developed over the south-west during the afternoons of 12th and 13th, with lightning for a time, though no impacts were observed.

After a fine and warm spell, a thundery breakdown came on the 21st and 22nd. Southampton saw some flash flooding, with a number of roads blocked due to floodwater, and lightning damaged a house on the Isle of

Wight. Trains suffered delays between London St Pancras and Luton as lightning damaged some signalling equipment. A house in Bristol was struck by lightning, and a fire at Burley Fire Station (Hampshire) was started by a lightning strike.

Various impacts arose due to wind and rain in south-east England on the 29th and 30th, most notably across the transport network. Cross-channel ferry services were delayed due to strong winds, which also caused delays to some flights in the London area. Fallen trees caused disruption on both railways and roads, and numerous roads were blocked by floodwater, with firefighters rescuing some motorists from cars across Kent. In Ramsgate, three people were swept off the pier with one fatality.

## England diary of highlights

**April started unsettled and also cold at times, especially in the north, and this regime persisted for most of the first half of the month. There was a short warm sunny spell after mid-month which saw the highest maximum temperatures in April since 1949, but after the 21st it turned progressively cooler and more unsettled, and the month ended unseasonably cool and wet in East Anglia and the south-east.**

The mean temperature for April was provisionally 1.4 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average, but the positive anomaly was much greater by night than by day. Most of England had a wet month but not exceptionally so, with 138% of average rainfall overall. Sunshine was just 80% of average and it was a particularly cloudy month in the south-west, but sunshine was close to average in the far north-east.

### 1st to 5th

The 1st was cloudy and cold, with a maximum temperature of only 0.6 °C at Alston (Cumbria); showers in the east, starting dry elsewhere but rain spread from the south-west late in the day. It was wet almost everywhere on the 2nd with 39.4 mm at Pateley Bridge (North Yorkshire), and snow on higher ground with 11 cm lying at Copley (Durham), but it turned drier and warmer in the south during the afternoon. The 3rd was much warmer with sunshine everywhere, and showers which became thundery across the north-east from late afternoon, and the 4th was also warm with sunshine and showers in the south, but it was colder with rain, sleet and snow in the north. The 5th was a quieter day with sunshine, starting frosty in the north with -3.5 °C recorded at Spadeadam and Bewcastle (both Cumbria), but the south-east was cloudy at first and cloud increased from the south-west during the day.

### 6th to 10th

The 6th was dry and warm with some sunny intervals for most, but patchy rain and drizzle affected the north, and around midday the south-west saw some rain. On the 7th, rain over the south-west spread north reaching the Borders by evening. Rain persisted over East Anglia and the south-east on the 8th, spreading north into Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire. Widespread fog early on the 9th cleared by midday, and it was sunny in the north and west but cloud and rain over the south-east spread west and north. The 10th started off wet away from East Anglia and the south-east, drying up everywhere by mid-afternoon, but showers developed across the south during the evening.

### 11th to 17th

On the 11th, rain in central southern and south-western parts cleared by midday followed by sunshine, but it was cloudy elsewhere with persistent fog over eastern and northern regions. The fog continued to affect central and eastern parts on the 12th; early rain cleared the Midlands, but showers developed in the north, becoming widespread in the afternoon. Rain through the Midlands cleared by midday on the 13th, then it was cloudy with some mist and fog, but brighter in the south-east by evening. The 14th was generally sunny after early cloud burned away although fog lingered over the south coast, and the 15th started dry and bright for most but rain over the south-west spread steadily north and east, reaching most parts by evening. The 16th was generally dry, bright and very warm apart from some morning showers in the north, but rain arrived in the

west during the evening. The 17th was cloudy for most and windy with rain in the north and south-west, though this fizzled out by evening. Temperatures reached 20 °C in the brighter south-east, and winds gusted to 61 mph at St Mary's (Scilly).

### **18th to 21st**

The 18th started cloudy in the north with rain and drizzle, but dry sunny weather in the south spread northwards, with temperatures reaching the mid 20s Celsius, and 13.9 hours of sunshine recorded at East Malling (Kent). The 19th was generally sunny and hot except along western coasts, with an overnight minimum of 15.9 °C at Kenley (Greater London), and a maximum of 29.1 °C at London, St James's Park making it the warmest April day since 1949. The 20th and 21st continued mostly sunny and warm, but thundery showers developed across southern areas during the afternoon and evening of the 21st and spread north-eastwards.

### **22nd to 30th**

The 22nd was cloudier in the north with rain moving east, still sunny and very warm in the south-east until thunderstorms developed in East Anglia late in the day. The 23rd started sunny in the south-east but cloud soon spread from the west, and rain spread eastwards but it was mainly dry from the Midlands southwards. The 24th was cloudy with persistent rain across the Midlands moving north-east and another rain band in the south-west then moved eastwards across the south. After a dry bright start for eastern counties, the 25th was a day of sunshine and showers with hail and thunder in places. The 26th was bright with generally fewer showers, but cloud and rain spread from the south-west in the evening, and the 27th was generally wet except in the far north. The 28th had persistent rain in the Midlands and around the Wash; sunny in the far south-west and cloudy elsewhere with isolated showers. The 29th was bright and showery in the north but cloudy further south with rain moving into the south-east from late afternoon. The 30th was cold and wet all day in East Anglia and the south-east with sleet in some places, but dry and bright or sunny elsewhere.

## **Wales diary of highlights**

**April started cold, with an unsettled regime persisting for most of the first half of the month. There was a notable sunny warm spell between the 18th and 21st, before turning unsettled and gradually cooler again from the 22nd onwards.**

The mean temperature was provisionally 1.0 °C above the long-term average, mainly due to the brief but marked warm spell in the third week. Most of the country had a cloudy and wet month, with 135% of average rainfall and 82% of average sunshine overall.

### **1st to 5th**

The 1st started sunny, but cloud increased during the morning and rain spread from the south-west from mid-afternoon, falling as snow on higher ground, and it was cold with a maximum of only 1.4 °C and 1 cm of lying snow reported at Sennybridge (Powys). Cold and wet on the 2nd with rain, sleet, and snow on the hills, and 41.4 mm recorded at Capel Curig (Gwynedd), but it turned warmer from the south. The 3rd was much warmer, especially in the south, with sunshine and showers. Cloudy with frequent and locally heavy showers on the 4th, but drier by evening. The 5th had a bright frosty start with -3.5 °C recorded at Sennybridge (Powys), clouding over with patchy rain skirting Anglesey and the north coast in the afternoon.

### **6th to 10th**

The unsettled theme continued; after a dry and bright start to the 6th, a band of rain moved across Wales from midday. The 7th started wet everywhere but the rain cleared away northwards by midday, then it was dry and cloudy. The 8th was dry and bright, with just isolated showers breaking out in the afternoon. Fog persisted until late morning in many places on the 9th, then bright or sunny before rain arrived from the east later. A very wet morning on the 10th, much drier and brighter in the afternoon.

## 11th to 17th

The 11th started wet, becoming drier but remaining cloudy, with patchy fog in places, and it was cloudy again for most on the 12th with rain and showers crossing the north during the afternoon, but bright along western coasts. The 13th started misty or foggy with rain in the north but it turned drier and brighter in the afternoon. The 14th started cloudy but then became sunny by late morning. Rain quickly spread to all parts from the south-west on the 15th, turning showery in the afternoon, and the 16th had a mix of sunshine and showers, with a dry slot in the afternoon ahead of cloud and rain arriving in the west by evening. Wet and windy on the 17th, with gusts to 67 mph reported at Capel Curig (Gwynedd), but drier and brighter by evening.

## 18th to 21st

The 18th started cloudy and mild with rain and drizzle, and the temperature fell no lower than 12.0 °C at Rhyl (Clwyd) and Cardiff Bute Park, but it turned sunny and warm in the afternoon with temperatures into the low 20s Celsius. The 19th and 20th were warm and sunny inland, but cooler and cloudier in some western coastal areas with fog in places on the 20th. The 21st was another mainly dry and sunny day, with Trawscoed (Dyfed) reaching 24.7 °C, but thundery showers developed across the south-east mid-afternoon.

## 22nd to 30th

The 22nd was cloudier than of late, with a band of rain spreading eastwards, clearing in the afternoon. The 23rd was cloudy with patchy rain moving east from mid-afternoon and it was breezy across western areas, and the 24th was cloudy and wet with heavy rain clearing the north and east by late evening. The 25th was a day of sunshine and scattered, heavy showers, some with hail and thunder, becoming drier by evening. The 26th had some sunny spells, and a few showers mainly across the south-east and north-west. All parts were wet on the morning of the 27th, and it dried up in the afternoon but remained cloudy. Dry and bright in the north and west on the 28th, rain in the south and east clearing by noon, then widespread afternoon showers. The 29th started bright with a few showers then turned cloudier, and the 30th started cloudy away from the west coast, but the afternoon was sunny with Aberdaron (Gwynedd) recording 13.6 hours of sunshine.

## Scotland diary of highlights

**April began cold with wintry showers for some, and it turned wet in the first week with some sleet and snow in many places, especially but not exclusively over high ground. It turned milder by the 6th, and continued mostly changeable until mid-month but with a fair amount of dry sunny weather for the north. There was a marked warm spell between the 18th and 21st with sunshine away from the north-west. The month ended with a succession of bright showery days.**

The mean temperature for April was provisionally 0.5 °C above the long-term average. Rainfall was 95% of average, and it was drier than average in the north but wetter in the south and especially south-east. Sunshine was generally above average over the northern half of Scotland, but below normal in the south-west, with 109% of average overall.

### 1st to 5th

The 1st had a very cold start, with -8.8 °C recorded at Tulloch Bridge (Inverness-shire), then there were wintry showers over the north and south but it was mostly dry and bright elsewhere. Sunshine and wintry showers over the north on the 2nd, but rain over the south spread northwards and fell as snow over higher ground, with a maximum temperature of only 0.8 °C at Tulloch Bridge. Rain and sleet in most places on the 3rd, and snow on higher ground especially in the north; turning very wet from the south during the afternoon, with 28.0 mm at Salsburgh (Lanarkshire). Dry and bright over the north-west on the 4th, wet everywhere else with rain and sleet, and snow even to low levels during the afternoon. Following a widespread frost, and early wintry showers in the west, the 5th was dry and bright, and Nunraw Abbey (East Lothian) reported 18 cm of lying snow.

## 6th to 10th

The 6th was wet for most parts but became drier and brighter by late afternoon. Showers over the north on the 7th, dry and bright elsewhere, but rain spread north to all parts by evening. The 8th was sunny in the east, but showers in the west became more widespread during the afternoon. Bright or sunny with scattered showers on the 9th after the clearance of patchy fog in a few spots. It was mostly sunny over the Western Isles on the 10th, but rain in the south spread to all but the very far north by evening.

## 11th to 17th

The 11th and 12th were cloudy for most with some drizzle in the south, and rain reached the Borders late on the afternoon of the 12th, but it was brighter in the north and west. Rain for most parts on the 13th cleared away by mid-afternoon but it stayed dull, misty and foggy with occasional drizzle. The 14th and 15th were sunny in the north and east but cloudier elsewhere, and rain spread into the south and west later on the 15th. Sunshine and showers for most places on the 16th, then there was a dry interlude ahead of rain arriving in the west by evening. Most places were wet and windy on the morning of the 17th, but drier and sunnier by lunchtime, though heavy showers developed over the west during the afternoon, and winds gusted to 74mph at South Uist (Western Isles).

## 18th to 21st

The 18th started bright with a few showers in the north, but cloud and drizzle in the south spread northwards, and it became warm. Rain in the north-west died away on the 19th, otherwise generally sunny, and very warm away from the west coast with overnight temperatures not falling below 14.1 °C at Kinlochewe (Ross & Cromarty) and a maximum of 21.3 °C at Dunbar (East Lothian). The 20th was mainly cloudy in the north-west with scattered showers, drier and brighter further south and east, and warm in the sunshine. The 21st was another mainly dry and bright day before cloud and rain spilled across the north-west in the afternoon, slowly moving east; remaining warm and sunny further south and east.

## 22nd to 30th

The 22nd was cloudy with bands of rain. The 23rd was cloudy and breezy, with showers across the north-west Highlands and the south-west before a band of heavy rain moved in from the west mid-afternoon, moving north-eastwards, with showers following behind. A spell of generally bright showery weather followed, but the 24th and 25th stayed dry in the Shetland Isles. Showers were heavy in places with hail and thunder on the 25th, and again in the north-west Highlands on the 26th. Most places started off dry and bright on the 27th and 28th, but showers became widespread again. The 29th had generally fewer showers, with 14.3 hours of bright sunshine recorded at Kinloss (Morayshire). Generally dry and sunny on the 30th after a chilly start, though there were some afternoon showers across the north-west.

## Northern Ireland diary of highlights

**The month started cold with snow on high ground, but warmed up after the 5th. The weather was unsettled and cloudy for most of the time, but with a warm spell between the 18th and 21st, and the last week was mostly bright and showery.**

The mean temperature was provisionally 0.3 °C above the long-term average. Rainfall was 108% of average, and sunshine was 89% of average, and it was a cloudy month in the south but with closer to average sunshine in the north.

## 1st to 5th

The 1st started cold and sunny but clouded over in the afternoon with scattered showers. Cold and wet on the 2nd with rain and sleet, and snow on the hills, and a maximum temperature of only 2.2 °C at Altnahinch



(County Antrim) and 5 cm of lying snow reported at Trassey Slievenaman (County Down). Much milder on the 3rd with heavy rain in the morning, which cleared during the afternoon followed by showers. Cloudy with rain for the east on the 4th, brighter with showers in the west. The 5th had a sunny frosty start, -5.4 °C reported at Katesbridge (County Down), but rain spread from the west in the afternoon, with 21.6 mm at Banagher (County Londonderry).

### **6th to 10th**

Wet on the 6th with persistent rain for all parts, turning brighter but showery before evening. The 7th was cloudy, with showers developing during the afternoon, especially towards the south, and the 8th was similar but with more sunshine in between the showers. The 9th had a mix of sunshine and showers, following a foggy start in places. The 10th started cloudy with showery rain, and an area of more persistent rain moved north across the country from late afternoon.

### **11th to 17th**

The 11th to 13th were mostly dry and cloudy, but the 12th had occasional light rain and drizzle and the 13th also had some rain and drizzle over the east coast during the afternoon. It was also cloudy on the 14th with some rain and drizzle but turned drier and brighter by evening. Cloudy and wet on the 15th with showers or longer spells of rain. The 16th started off sunny but turned wet everywhere during the afternoon. Early rain in the east on the 17th cleared, and it turned warmer with sunshine and showers.

### **18th to 21st**

Cloudy and windy at times with rain or drizzle on the 18th, and gusts to 59 mph were recorded at Castleterg (County Tyrone). Very mild on the 19th with overnight minimum temperatures no lower than 12.4 °C at Magilligan (County Londonderry), and there was a high of 20.4 °C at Giants Causeway (County Antrim), but it was also rather cloudy with occasional light rain or drizzle. The 20th was brighter, dry and warm with some sunny spells. The 21st was another dry and mostly sunny day; cloud increased later, but not before Katesbridge (County Down) had recorded 12.8 hours of bright sunshine.

### **22nd to 30th**

The 22nd was mostly cloudy, with a band of rain clearing in the morning followed by scattered showers. The 23rd was also cloudy, and an area of rain spread east across the whole country from midday, followed by isolated showers. The 24th began dry and bright, then rain moved east across southern counties with heavy, scattered showers across the rest of the Province. The period 25th to 28th had a mix of sunshine and showers, and some of the showers on the 25th and 26th were heavy with hail and thunder. The 29th was mostly sunny with just a few showers in the west. After a cool start, the 30th was also mostly sunny with a few afternoon showers.

Last updated: 2 May 2018