

## March 2022

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1991-2020.

**The weather during the first half of the month was rather unsettled, and the first week was cold. The second week was milder, and after mid-month there were some notably mild days but cold frosty nights as high pressure took control with plenty of sunshine. The last four days were rather less settled and noticeably colder.**

The provisional UK mean temperature was 6.7 °C, which is 1.0 °C above the 1991-2020 long-term average. Maximum temperature anomalies were higher than this, up to 3 °C in parts of north-west Scotland. Most areas had less rainfall than average, the exceptions being parts of Aberdeenshire and some southern and central counties of England, and there was less than half the average rainfall for many western areas, with the far north-west of Scotland especially dry. The UK overall had 58% of average rainfall. Sunshine was above average in all areas, most especially in Northern Ireland and western Scotland, with an overall figure of 152% of average, provisionally the second sunniest March in a series from 1919 (only 1929 was sunnier).

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: Maximum temperatures of 20.8 °C were recorded at St James's Park (London) on the 23rd and Treknow (Cornwall) on the 25th. A minimum temperature of -9.1 °C was recorded at Aboyne (Aberdeenshire) on the 2nd. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 UTC on the 2nd, 51.6 mm of rain fell at White Barrow (Devon). A wind gust of 63 knots (72 mph) was recorded at St Marys (Scilly) on the 12th. A snow-depth of 10 cm was measured at Copley (Durham) on the 31st.

### Weather impacts

As high pressure played a dominant role in the month's weather, impactful conditions were limited, with few warnings issued during the month and none of these being linked to rainfall. It was an especially dry month across NW Scotland, and the fine clear weather did ensure some chilly nights, especially over the northern half of Scotland. Only at the very end of March did an incursion of Arctic air bring a temporary return to wintry hazards. High temperatures, brisk winds and low relative humidity between the 19th and 22nd probably contributed to localised wildfire outbreaks across Northern Ireland, parts of northern England and Wales. The cold air outbreak at the end of the month generated some localised snow accumulations, especially to the eastern half of the UK, and several road traffic collisions were reported from counties including Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Norfolk on the morning of the 31st.

### England diary of highlights

**The first few days of the month were rather cold, and the first half was generally unsettled, but it became milder, and high pressure took charge from mid-month with sunshine becoming plentiful. The end of the month was less settled and much colder.**

As it was mild for the majority of the month, mean temperatures were 1.1 °C above average. Maximum temperatures were well above average, especially in the north-west, while minima were only slightly above average. Rainfall was near average in some areas, but rather below normal in the far south-east and the north-west, giving 72% overall. Sunshine was above average for all, especially away from the south, with 144% of average.

#### 1st to 8th

The 1st began clear and frosty in the north with patchy mist and fog, but much milder in the south with rain initially over south-eastern areas clearing early afternoon, then another band of rain,

heavy at times, spreading into all southern areas by evening, with White Barrow (Devon) recording 51.6 mm. Rain for central and southern counties moved slowly north and eastwards during the 2nd, with showers or patchy rain persisting over western parts, and a narrow band of locally heavy rain reaching the far south-west in the evening. Eastern areas were brighter on the 3rd, but other areas saw rain, patchy in the south, more persistent in the north. Slow-moving rain covered the spine of the country and some eastern areas on the 4th, with brighter weather and scattered showers further west. Rain continued over East Anglia and the south-east on the 5th, with some showers to the west of this, but with sunshine in westernmost counties. The 6th was sunny in the north after a frost, but cloudier for central and southern parts, with isolated showers in places. The 7th began very cold in the north, Redesdale Camp (Northumberland) recording a minimum temperature of  $-6.6\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; any showers for the Midlands and East Anglia died out by lunchtime, with the cloud thinning and breaking through the afternoon. Most areas were frosty early on the 8th, then mostly sunny for a time, but cloud soon increased from the west, with rain reaching the south-west by mid-morning making slow and erratic progress eastwards but tending to fizzle out through the afternoon.

### **9th to 13th**

The 9th started fine and bright, but rain arrived in the far south-west by late morning, spreading only slowly eastwards to cover all western counties by evening. Again, the 10th was brightest in eastern counties, with rain in a few places fizzling out by lunchtime, but patchy rain in the south-west continued at times through the day. Easternmost counties started sunny on the 11th, but rain already in the south-west spread steadily east and north to all areas by late afternoon, turning showery later in the south-west. Rain in the north soon moved away on the 12th, with some brightness elsewhere and a few showers in the south; rain, locally heavy, reached the south-west from lunchtime accompanied by strong winds with St Marys (Scilly Isles) recording a gust of 63 knots. Patchy rain for northern and central parts soon died out on the 13th, with showers developing over western counties, and the south-east and East Anglia turning wet during the afternoon.

### **14th to 17th**

The 14th was much brighter, after early frost and fog in south-western areas, with a few showers in the south-east, and locally heavy rain crossing the north during the afternoon. Some areas started frosty on the 15th, with fog in a few places, and rain in East Anglia clearing by lunchtime, otherwise it was fine. Bands of rain spread north-eastwards during the 16th, merging in the afternoon to affect most places with locally heavy downpours in the Midlands and south-east. A few places saw frost early on the 17th; apart from a few showers across the north-west during the morning, many areas were fine and bright.

### **18th to 28th**

This was a settled period, often sunny but with some chilly nights. The 18th was largely sunny, after a frost for some areas and slow clearance of fog in the Midlands and south-west. The 19th saw fog in the Vale of York soon clearing, and was generally sunny. The 20th was fine, brightest in the west, but showery rain spread into East Anglia from midday. All but the south-west started frosty on the 21st, with fog in central and south-eastern districts clearing by mid-morning, then most areas were fine, but the West Midlands was cloudier with some showers for a time. The 22nd saw some fog along eastern coasts for a time, but started much milder with St Marys (Scilly Isles) recording a minimum temperature of  $10.7\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , then many areas saw sunshine, but with a few showers at times in the north-west. The 23rd was broadly similar, albeit chilly in places to start, and it became quite warm again with St James's Park (London) recording a maximum temperature of  $20.8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . After a cold night in the south, the 24th was mostly sunny, but again cloudier in the north with a few showery outbreaks. Early morning mist and fog in a few spots on the 25th quickly

cleared, with frost in the south, then most areas were sunny and warm with Treknaw (Cornwall) reaching 20.8 °C. The 26th followed a similar pattern, with 11.7 hrs of sunshine at Shoeburyness (Essex). Again there was sunshine in many places on the 27th, after fog and low cloud for the north-east, Midlands, East Anglia and the south-east had taken a while to clear. The 28th was the last settled and mild day for most areas, but there was a slow-moving area of rain across the north, and more cloud and rain spreading east across southern counties during the afternoon.

### **29th to 31st**

Many northern, central and eastern areas began with fog on the 29th, slow to clear in places, and the day was cloudy, with a few showers over the north, and persistent but mainly light rain in the south. Rain for the south-east cleared by midday on the 30th, while further rain in the north spread steadily southwards to the Midlands, central southern and south-eastern parts, and the north turned brighter but colder with wintry showers and a maximum temperature of only 2.6 °C at Fylingdales (North Yorkshire). The 31st dawned clear and frosty for most places, with showers over the east from early on, these mostly wintry and occasionally heavy and thundery as they spread to most parts by mid-afternoon, Copley (Durham) reporting 10 cm depth of snow at 0900.

## **Wales diary of highlights**

**After some rain to begin with, there was some settled weather but it was rather cold. It then became unsettled and windy, but milder, until high pressure developed from mid-month giving settled conditions and some warmer days. It then turned much colder at month-end.**

Mean temperatures for the month were provisionally 1.1 °C above average, with warmth by day but overnight temperatures no higher than average. It was a dry month with only 50% of average rainfall. There was also plenty of sunshine, this totalling 144% of average.

### **1st to 7th**

The 1st began clear and cold in the north, cloudier in the south, with the cloud spreading northwards through the day, and rain moving into southern parts from late afternoon. After a milder night, the 2nd was mostly wet, the rain clearing away eastwards by mid-afternoon but with showers continuing until evening over northern and western parts. Further widespread rain on the 3rd turned heavy through central and northern parts during the afternoon. The next two days were much brighter, with scattered showers on the 4th and a cold start in the south on the 5th. The 6th was dry, but any sunshine was limited to the north. The 7th dawned clear and frosty, coldest in the north with Mona (Anglesey) recording a minimum temperature of -5.1 °C; it became cloudy, but the cloud tended to thin and break through the afternoon.

### **8th to 17th**

After a clear start, frosty in places, cloud increased through the morning of the 8th with a band of rain and showers crossing Wales during the afternoon, tending to fizzle out towards evening. The 9th was rather cloudy, with rain reaching western parts by lunchtime, spreading slowly east to most places by evening. The 10th was cloudy with a little light rain, but brighter in the south-west later. Rain on the 11th became widespread and locally heavy by midday, with Rhymney Bridge Reservoir (Mid-Glamorgan) recording 29.0 mm, this rain eventually clearing away northwards but followed by frequent showers. The 12th was brighter, with any showers dying out by lunchtime, ahead of rain, locally heavy, spreading from the south-west and becoming widespread by evening accompanied with strong winds, Capel Curig (Gwynedd) reporting a gust of 55 Knots. The 13th was cloudy with showers. A colder start on the 14th gave way to sunshine, but also a spell of rain across the north during the afternoon. After a frost inland, the 15th was fine with variable cloud, but occasional patchy rain or drizzle in the north. Bands of rain crossed the country during the 16th, eventually clearing east late in the afternoon. The 17th started clear and cold, but cloud increased, with scattered showers by the afternoon.

## 18th to 28th

After a foggy start for many, the 18th brought sunshine, and it continued sunny on the 19th and 20th. The 21st was frosty except in Pembrokeshire, then generally cloudy with scattered showers in the morning, turning brighter during the afternoon. After a milder night, minimum temperature 9.9 °C at Gogerddan (Dyfed), the 22nd was largely sunny, as was most of the 23rd, with just some cloud in the south towards evening. After a frost in sheltered spots, the 24th was generally sunny, and the 25th was similar with patchy cloud in places. The 26th was also sunny. The 27th was cloudier in eastern areas, after patchy fog cleared, but still fine with a maximum temperature of 20.7 °C reported at Porthmadog (Gwynedd) and 12.0 hours of sunshine at Aberdaron (Gwynedd). Mist and fog in central spots cleared by mid-morning on the 28th, then some sunshine, but the south clouded over with some rain reaching southern coasts by early evening.

## 29th to 31st

There was early fog around western coasts on the 29th, then it was fine, but cloudy in the south with persistent rain or showers, some thundery during the afternoon, and also lighter showers developing across the north later in the day. The 30th was cloudy, with rain or showers initially over the north but spreading steadily south, the showers turning thundery at times and merging into spells of rain through the afternoon, as cold air pushed down with Lake Vyrnwy (Powys) recording a maximum temperature of just 4.2 °C. The 31st was cold with some showers, wintry at times, after a clear and frosty start.

## Scotland diary of highlights

**The first half of the month was rather unsettled, and cold initially, with rain on some days especially during the second week. The second half was much drier and settled, with some notably warm days in certain areas, although it turned much colder and rather less settled at the end.**

The provisional mean temperature for the month was 0.9 °C above the long-term average, and it was particularly mild relative to average by day, most notably in the north-west, while minimum temperatures were just below average. Rainfall ranged from just above normal in parts of Aberdeenshire to well below normal in the far north-west, with an overall figure of 50%. Sunshine was above normal, especially further west, with a figure of 164% of average making it provisionally the sunniest March in a series from 1919.

## 1st to 7th

The 1st began clear and frosty for most places, and was largely sunny but with isolated showers for central and north-western parts. After a widespread frost on the 2nd, moderate in places in the north with Aboyne (Aberdeenshire) getting down to -9.1 °C, cloud increased from the south through the morning with rain reaching central and southern parts by early afternoon, and all areas by evening. The 3rd was generally overcast, with rain affecting all parts at times, most persistent in the south and east but more showery for the north and west. Cloud and rain lingered over the east on the 4th, eventually clearing early evening, with brighter weather and scattered showers further west. A frost gave way to a bright day on the 5th, with isolated showers over the north. The 6th and 7th were fine and bright after frosty starts.

## 8th to 17th

It started cold again on the 8th but clouded over from the west through the afternoon with rain, heavy and persistent at times, reaching central areas by evening; winds became strong in the far west with South Uist (Western Isles) recording gusts up to 62 knots. Rain in the west on the 9th spread slowly eastwards, turning persistent and very heavy at times with snow over the hills, becoming widespread by evening. During the 10th rain across the western half of the country

moved slowly and erratically eastwards, with the west then turning drier. The north-east was sunny on the 11th, with other areas seeing more cloud and a few showers, but rain, heavy at times, spread from the south-west to reach all parts by early evening with Forest Lodge Burnhead (Kirkcudbrightshire) recording 34.1 mm of rainfall. Widespread showers and spells of rain on the 12th affected all parts during the morning; it became drier and brighter from the south-west through the afternoon, but more rain reached the south-west by evening. Showers or longer spells of rain affected all parts at times through the 13th. The north-east remained fine on the 14th, with showers over the west and a longer spell of rain for central and southern counties. Rain on the 15th, occasionally heavy, persisting from early on in the north-west, also spread to other parts but was lighter and patchier here. A band of rain from the north-east to the south persisted through the 16th, eventually clearing all but the far east, while the west was drier and slightly brighter. The 17th started clear and cold for many, but rain, heavy at times, already over the west, moved quickly east, clearing by midday with bands of locally heavy showers affecting all parts during the afternoon.

### **18th to 28th**

After a frost in the south, the 18th was fine, with sunshine in the south, but with some patchy rain for the Northern Isles, and sea fog brushing the south-west coast during the afternoon. The 19th followed a similar pattern, but sunshine extended further north, helping the temperature at Kinlochewe (Ross & Cromarty) to reach 20.2 °C. After isolated inland frost, the 20th was sunny again, but cloud increased in the west with rain into western coasts by late afternoon. A frosty night followed, then the 21st was fine, though cloudier in the west with scattered showers. The 22nd saw further sunshine, after a frost in the north-east, but with isolated showers for the south during the morning, and further showers developing over the Borders in the afternoon which also reached central parts by evening. The 23rd was mild, after a minimum temperature of 9.4 °C at South Uist (Western Isles), and fine again for most but with showers persisting over the north-east. There was more cloud than of late on the 24th, with light showery rain in some areas. The 25th was generally fine, with 12.1 hours of sunshine recorded at Kinloss (Morayshire), but cloudier over western areas with isolated showers. Many areas saw some sunshine on the 26th but the far north was cloudier. The 27th started frosty for some areas, with any fog clearing quickly for most but lingering for a while along the east coast, then mostly sunny with Kinloss (Morayshire) reporting 12.1 hours of sunshine. Frost and fog over central parts began the 28th whereas other areas had more cloud, with slow-moving rain over the Borders; the day was mild again.

### **29th to 31st**

The Borders saw fog on the 29th, clearing late morning, cloudy generally, with rain moving southwards down the eastern side, and showers or longer spells of rain developing through central and southern parts from early afternoon. The 30th started frosty in northern areas, with rain across central and southern parts moving southwards, turning to snow on the northern edge and with frequent showers, mainly wintry with hail, sleet and snow, reaching all parts by evening. A widespread frost on the 31st gave way to sunshine, but with showers, mostly wintry, over the east from early on, spreading to all parts by afternoon, Aviemore (Inverness-shire) reporting 5 cm of snow lying at 0900 and Braemar (Aberdeenshire) recording a maximum temperature of only 3.3 °C.

## **Northern Ireland diary of highlights**

**After a mostly fine but at times cold start to the month, the second week was unsettled and milder. The second half of the month was settled and anticyclonic, and warm at times before turning much colder for the last couple of days.**

The mean temperature was 0.7 °C above the 1981-2010 average, with maxima well above average. It was a rather dry month, with 57% of average rainfall. Sunshine was plentiful, totalling 190% of average, provisionally making it the sunniest March in a series from 1919.

## **1st to 7th**

After a frost, the 1st was sunny. The 2nd was much cloudier, with rain, moving up from the south through the morning, becoming widespread in the afternoon, persisting into the evening with Trassey (County Down) reporting 34.4 mm. The 3rd was brighter with isolated showers, with sunshine and scattered showers on the 4th too. The 5th and 6th began frosty, with Katesbridge (County Down) recording -6.5 °C on the 5th, both days becoming sunny. The 7th was rather cloudier, but remained fine and cold, with a maximum temperature of only 4.1 °C at Killylane (County Antrim).

## **8th to 15th**

On the 8th showers or longer spells of rain crossed the country from mid-morning, turning heavy and thundery at times through the afternoon accompanied by strong winds with Magilligan (County Londonderry) recording a maximum gust of 51 knots. Rain was widespread and occasionally heavy on the 9th, clearing from the west but persisting in the east into the evening, with Orlock Head (County Down) and Magilligan recording maximum gusts of 51 knots. Frost and fog in the west soon cleared on the 10th, while the east was milder with patchy light rain for a time before turning drier and brighter. Rain became widespread during the morning of the 11th, but more sporadic and showery towards evening. Remnants of overnight rain soon cleared the north-east on the 12th, to leave some sunshine with any showers dying out in the afternoon, but rain reached the south by early evening. The 13th was wet and windy with widespread showers or longer spells of rain, these easing during the afternoon. A band of showers and rain on the morning of the 14th for all parts, cleared east to allow a drier and brighter afternoon. The 15th was cloudy, with patchy light rain in places during the morning, but more general rain spread slowly from the west and became widespread by early evening.

## **16th to 28th**

The 16th was mainly fine, with a few showers over the west late in the afternoon. Remnants of overnight rain cleared the east mid-morning on the 17th, then it was dry for a time ahead of bands of showers moving across during the afternoon. It was largely settled and mild over the next few days, except for a frost in a few places on the 18th, with sea fog brushing the east coast at times during the afternoon but Aldergrove (County Antrim) reporting 11.2 hours of sunshine. The 19th was sunny with Aldergrove again having 11.2 hours of sunshine. The west was cloudier on the 20th with isolated showers. A few morning showers on the 21st gave way to brighter skies by the afternoon. After a mild night, 9.3 °C at Magilligan, the 22nd was fine, if a little cloudier in the far west with isolated showers. Most of the 23rd was sunny, with more cloud towards evening. The 24th was cloudier, a few showers over the east in the morning soon clearing away to allow some sunny intervals. Patchy fog in the west on the 25th soon cleared, leaving most areas sunny. The 26th began colder, any fog for western and northern districts clearing by mid-morning, then it was sunny with 11.2 hours of sunshine at Aldergrove, and Giants Causeway (County Antrim) recording a maximum temperature of 18.7 °C. There was further sunshine on the 27th. Some places began the 28th with fog, slow to clear in sheltered spots, apart from which it was fine and mild.

## **29th to 31st**

The 29th was cloudier than of late, after fog cleared western and southern parts, with scattered showers developing in the afternoon. Patchy light rain on the 30th moved away southwards as colder air arrived, bringing sunshine and wintry showers. A clear and frosty start on the 31st gave way to sunshine and scattered wintry showers.