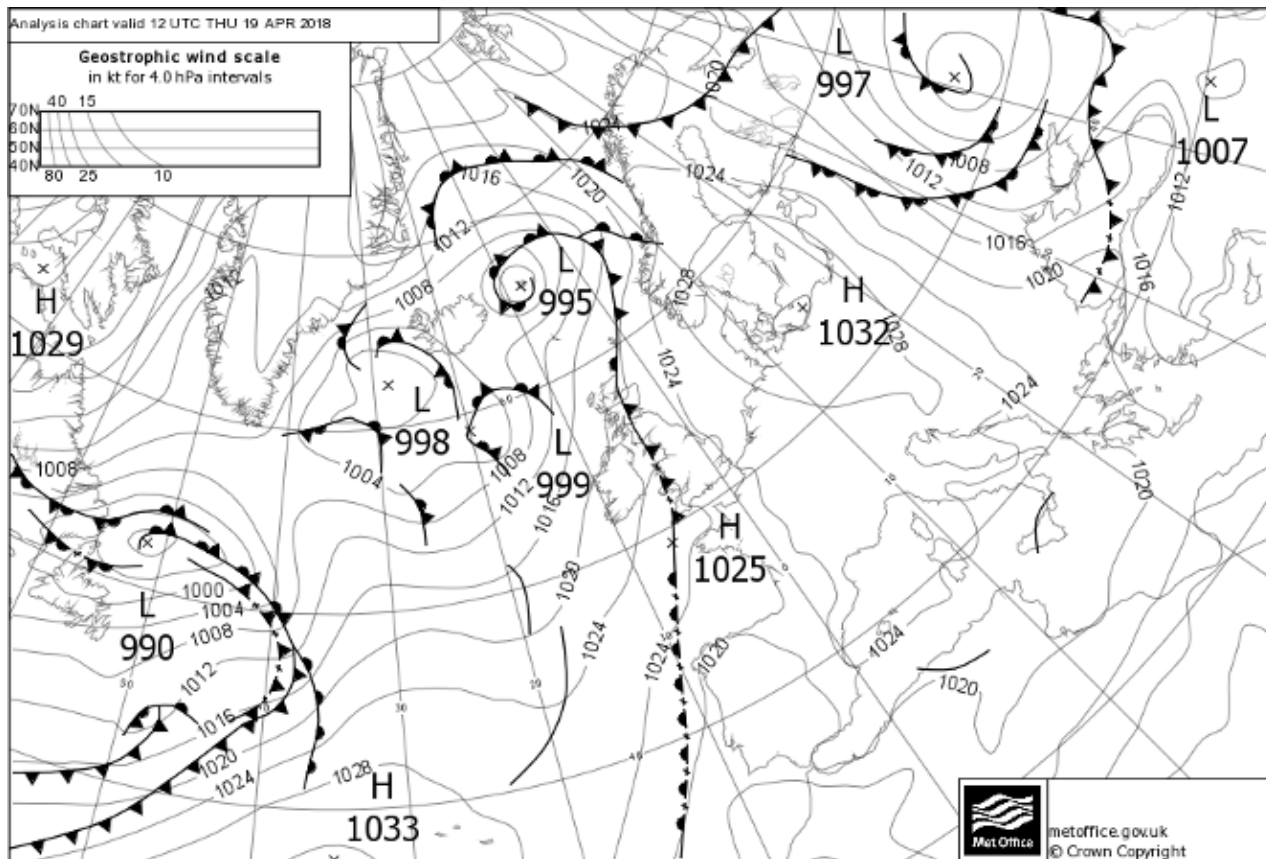


Exceptional warmth April 2018

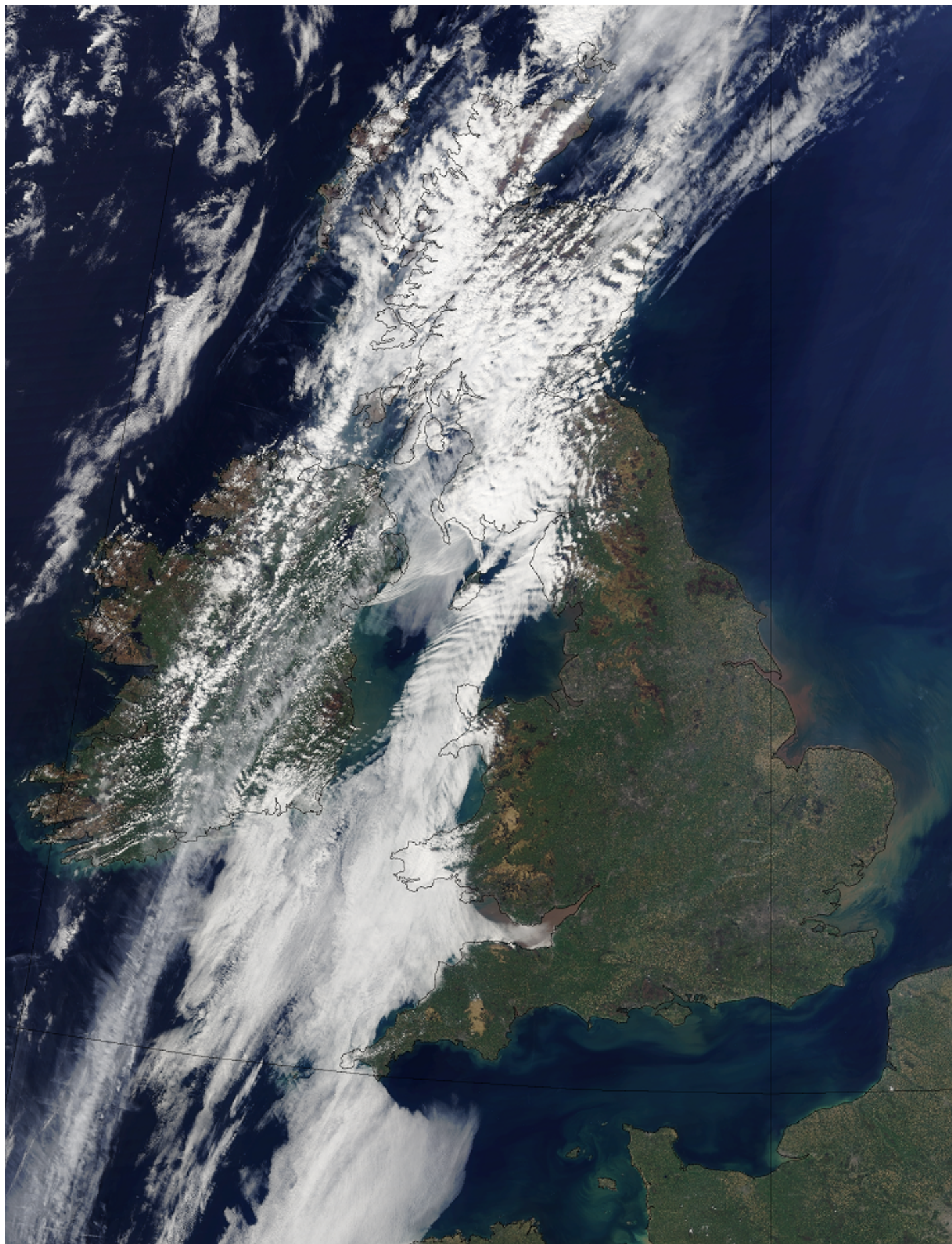
The UK experienced some unusually high temperatures for the time of year from 18 to 22 April, with high pressure over the near continent drawing very warm air from the south.

On 19 April, St James's Park (London) recorded a maximum temperature of 29.1 °C making this the UK's warmest April day since 1949. Many other stations also recorded their warmest April day on record. Kenley Airfield (Greater London) recorded a daily minimum temperature of 15.9 °C, a new UK April record.

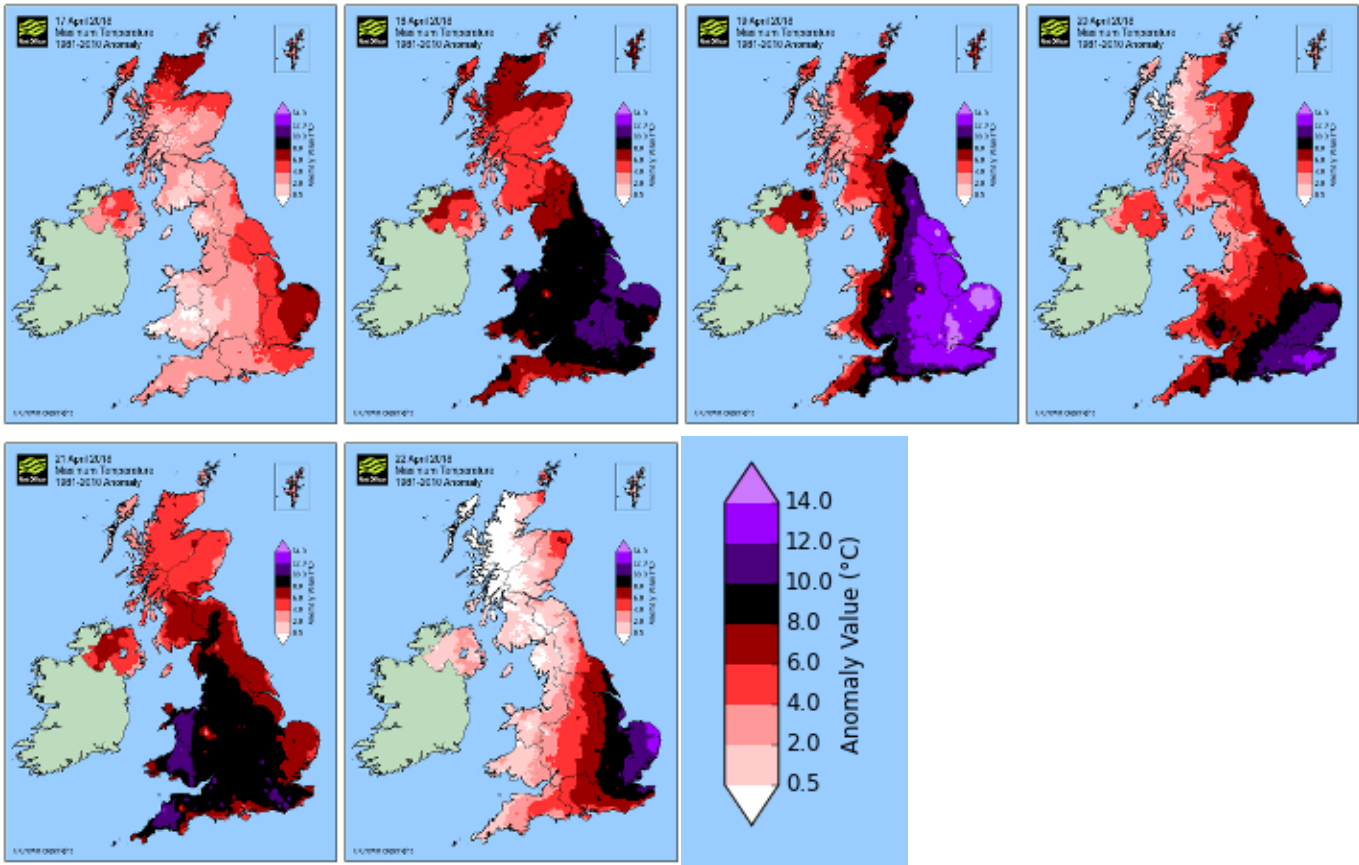
The analysis chart below at 1200 UTC on 19 April 2018 shows high pressure across the near continent drawing a hot southerly flow across central and eastern parts of the UK.



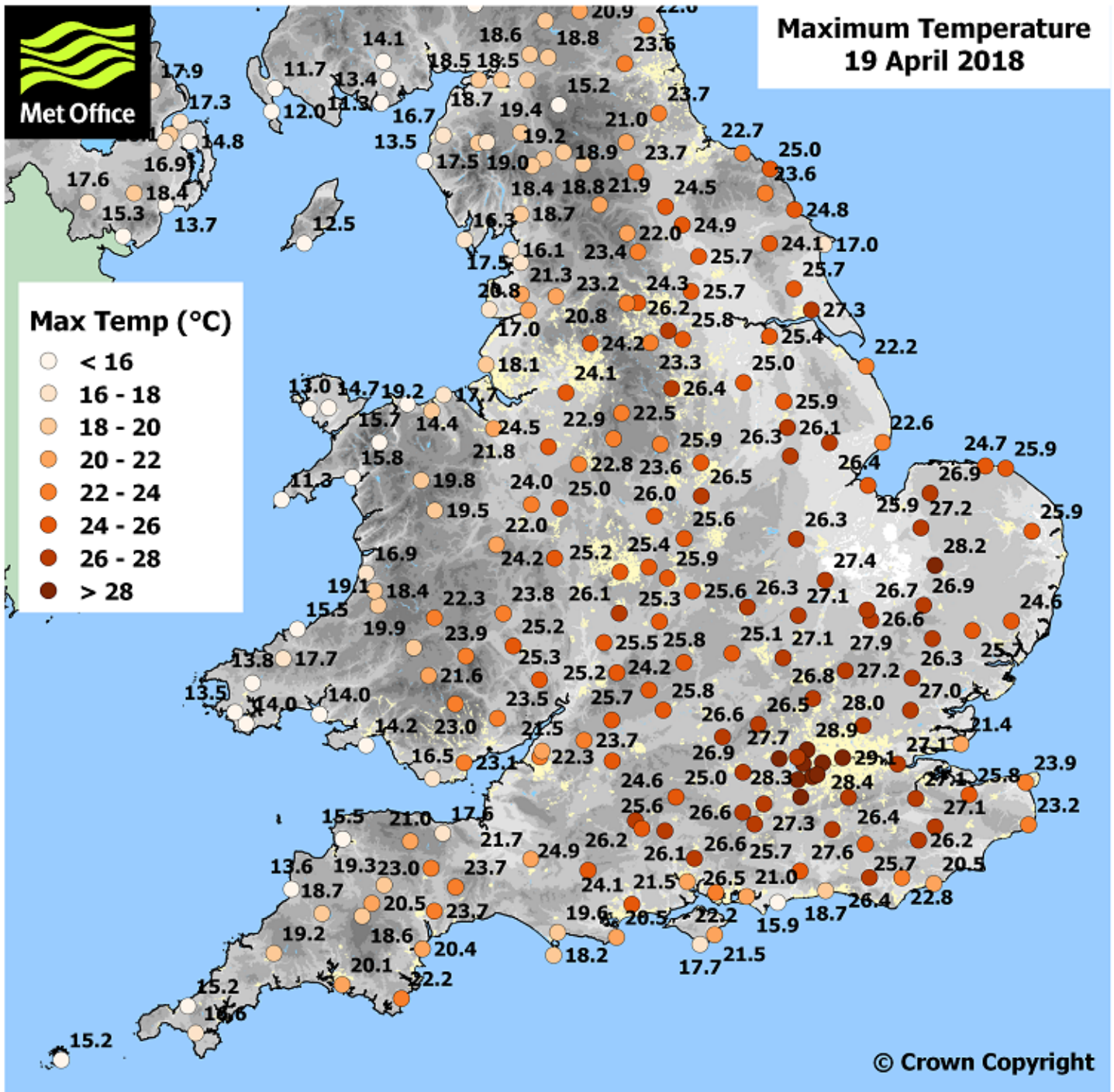
The satellite image below on 19 April 2018 shows much of the UK cloud-free with temperatures climbing rapidly in warm spring sunshine. Areas of low cloud affected coastlines of Wales and south-west England with cloudier conditions generally for the north-west. Image copyright Met Office / NOAA / NASA



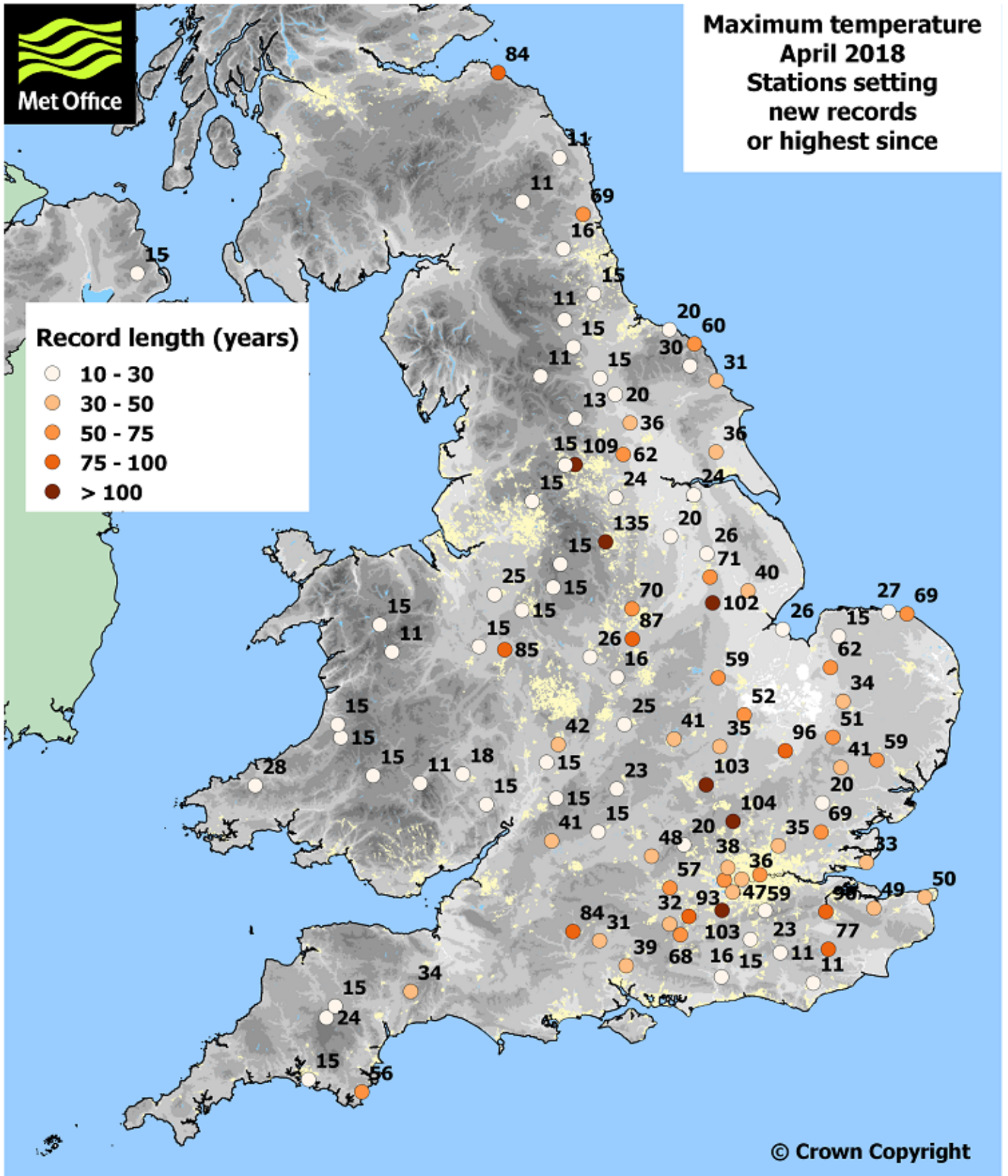
The panel of daily maximum temperatures below from 17 to 22 April 2018 shows the spatial extent of the warmth through this spell. The hottest day was 19 April with temperatures across south-east England widely 25 to 27 °C and locally above 28 °C - in places more than 14 °C above the long-term average for the time of year. The warmth also extended to much of northern and western England and Wales from 18th to 21st – examples including 22.6 °C at Porthmadog (Gwynedd) on 18 April, 25.0 °C at Whitby (North Yorkshire) on 19 April, and 24.9 °C at Bude (Cornwall) on 21 April.



The map below shows daily maximum temperatures on the hottest day, 19 April 2018. Temperatures exceeded 25 °C across most of central and eastern England from Hampshire and as far north as Yorkshire. Temperatures exceeded 28 °C in Greater London (influenced by the urban heat-island) although Santon Downham (Suffolk) also recorded 28.2 °C.



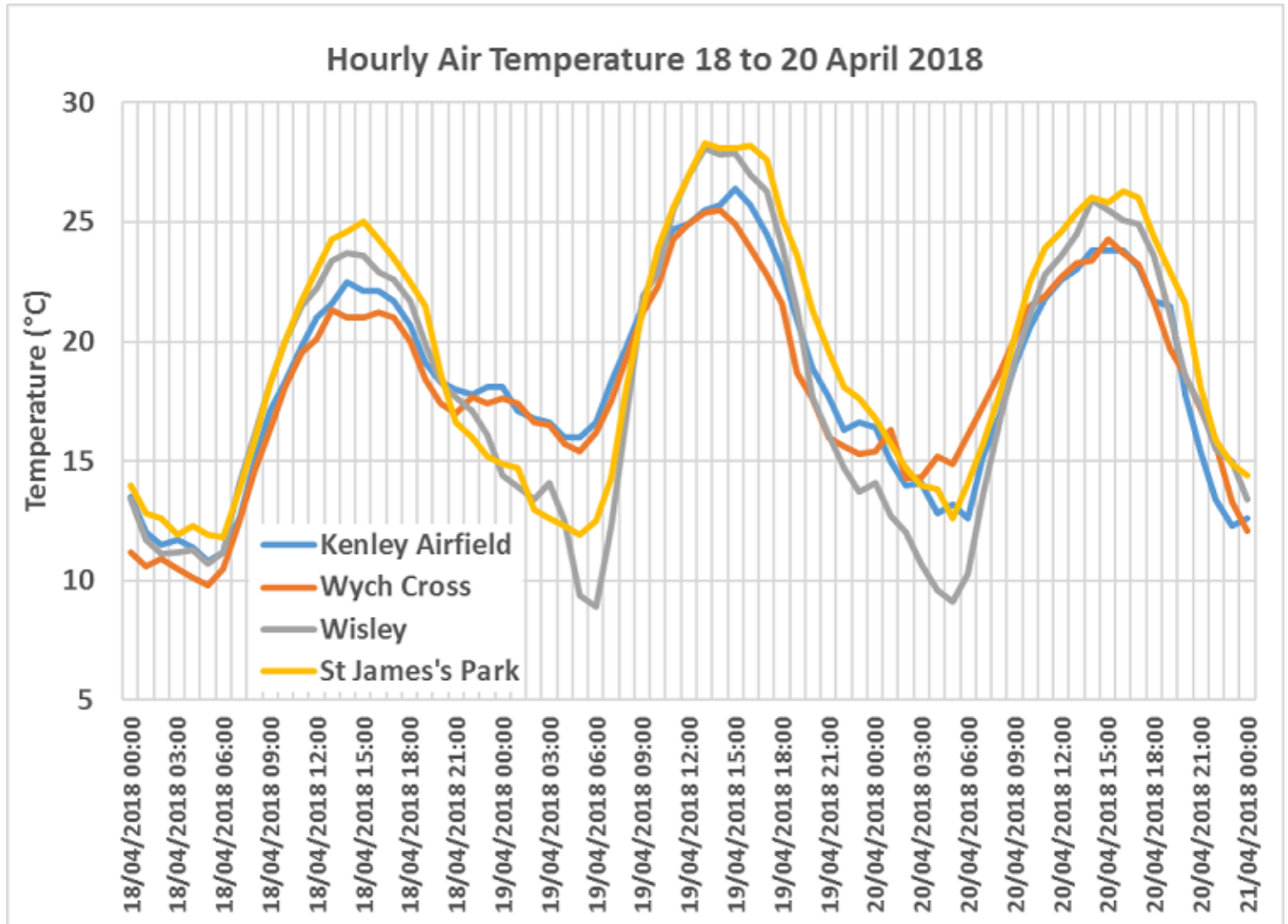
St James's Park, Greater London, recorded a maximum of 29.1 °C, making this the warmest April day for the UK since [April 1949](#); on 16 April 1949 Camden Square (London), recorded 29.4 °C (note some reservations about this value due to station exposure). In a recent hot spell during April 2011 Wisley, Surrey recorded 27.8 °C. However, although the hottest conditions were across the south-east, many individual weather stations elsewhere also recorded their warmest April day on record. The map below shows the spatial extent of these records.



The table below lists long-running stations with 100+ year records setting a new April daily maximum temperature record on 19 April 2018.

Location	Max Temp	Previous Record	Previous Date	Record Length (years)
Sheffield, South Yorkshire	26.4	24.8	16 April 2003	135
Bradford, West Yorkshire	24.3	23.9	15 April 1949	109
Rothamsted, Hertfordshire	26.8	26.1	16 April 1949	104
Woburn, Bedfordshire	27.1	26.1	16 April 1949	103
Wisley, Surrey	28.3	27.8	23 April 2011	103
Cranwell, Lincolnshire	26.3	25.3	23 April 2011	102

On 19 April, Kenley Airfield (Greater London) recorded a daily minimum temperature of 15.9 °C, a [new April record for the UK](#), breaking the previous record of 15.2 °C at Inverailort (Highland) on 15 April 2007 and at Eastbourne (East Sussex) on 23 April 2011. The chart below shows hourly air temperatures Kenley Airfield, Wych Cross (East Sussex), Wisley (Surrey) and St James's Park from 18 to 21 April 2018. Overnight temperatures 18/19 April at both Kenley Airfield and Wych Cross did not fall below 15 °C in contrast to Wisley and St James's Park. Kenley Airfield and Wych Cross are both located at around 200 metres elevation on the North Downs and Weald; these high minimum temperatures would have been associated with a temperature inversion as cooler air drained into the valleys overnight.



The spell of hot weather was in marked contrast to much colder conditions earlier in the month; daily maximum temperatures on 12 April 2018 across much of central England reached only 6 to 7 °C. This difference of almost 20 °C in little over a week nicely illustrates the highly variable nature of the UK's spring weather.

Last updated: 25 April 2018