

February 2022

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

The weather at the beginning of the month was quite settled and mild, but it soon became much more unsettled, with a succession of depressions bringing rain across much of the country, and a particularly stormy spell between the 16th and the 21st which included three named storms. It remained mostly mild, however, especially in southern areas, with few frosts.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 5.6 °C, which is 1.5 °C above the 1991-2020 long-term average, making it the 7th mildest February in a series from 1884. The far north of the UK was close to average, whereas southern areas were around two degrees above average for the month; frosts were fewer than average in almost all areas. All areas saw more rainfall than average, with the exception of the southern coastal strip of England, and there was double the average rainfall for many areas. The UK overall had 152% of average February rainfall, provisionally the 8th wettest February in a series back to 1836. Sunshine was above average down the eastern side of the country, but below average in western areas, giving an overall figure of 102% of average.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 17.2 °C was recorded at Pershore College (Hereford & Worcester) on the 16th. A minimum temperature of -8.1 °C was recorded at Braemar (Aberdeenshire) on the 11th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 UTC on the 20th, 86.6 mm of rain fell at Seathwaite (Cumbria). A wind gust of 106 knots (122 mph) was recorded at Needles Old Battery (Isle of Wight) on the 18th, a new all-time record for a low-level site in England. A snow-depth of 12 cm was measured at Aviemore (Inverness-shire) on the 10th.

Weather impacts

Most of this month's impacts centred around the very disturbed spell from 16th to 21st; Storm Dudley was the first of three named storms. ScotRail closed 95% of its network as a precaution measure from 16:00 on the 16th, with trees falling onto overhead wires. Sailings from Larne and Cairnryan were cancelled. Fallen trees blocked roads across southern Scotland, and after snowfall vehicles were losing traction on the A9 around Tain. Around 5,000 customers lost their electricity supply. In Northern Ireland about 150 obstructions were dealt with, and there were some flooding incidents, with about 1,700 properties losing power. Fallen trees blocked roads in Cheshire and Lancashire, while trains between Oxenholme and Penrith were disrupted due to a tree across the track, and overhead line damage affected trains from Carlisle. Electricity NorthWest reported that nearly 1,700 homes in Wigan were without power. Parts of the Tyne and Wear Metro were stopped due to storm damage. Northern Powergrid reported around 14,000 customers losing power. In Yorkshire, rail services from Leeds and other stations were delayed, with some disruption on the roads too and the Humber Bridge closed. In the East of England 30,000 customers lost power, with police reporting over 700 emergency calls. A number of rural and A roads were blocked by fallen trees both here and across the south-east.

Storm Eunice was the next named storm to cross the UK. On the 18th in Scotland snow brought travel disruption to the road network, with parts of the M8, A82, and A83 closed, and stranded vehicles blocking other roads. Ferry services from Cairnryan were cancelled. There were widespread school closures across Angus and Aberdeenshire. Northern Ireland had 37 incidents of severe flooding, fallen trees and snow across the road network, and around 400 properties lost power. There was widespread disruption on the road network in Wales too, with many incidences of trees down and minor damage to buildings. Schools, colleges, and local authority buildings were pre-emptively closed, with pre-emptive cancellations to trains and buses. Both Severn

Bridges and other bridges were closed, and ferries and flights were delayed. Western Power reported that 89,000 customers lost power. There was a fatality in Netherton, Merseyside when debris hit a van windscreen. Roads were blocked by fallen trees, and trains were delayed or cancelled around Preston and Manchester due to high winds and fallen trees. Many Electricity NorthWest customers were without power. In the East Midlands minor injuries arose after an articulated lorry was blown over onto a car on the A6. Difficult driving conditions on the M1 led to parts of it being closed to high-sided vehicles, and a number of trees blocked roads in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. East Midlands Trains reported delays and cancellations due to trees and overhead line issues. About 1,000 homes suffered power loss. In the East of England there were school closures and rail cancellations, with trees blocking roads and disruption to the Greater Anglia rail network, as well as numerous power outages. In London the QEII Bridge was closed, nearly all overground services were delayed or cancelled, and a 'do not travel' warning was issued by London rail operators with the Mayor of London urging people to stay at home. Several buildings lost part or all of their roof, including the O2. In south-east England there were reports of a fatality and one serious injury in Alton, Hampshire; roads were blocked by fallen trees, and widespread disruption arose across the railway network. Dover ferry services were suspended, and there was an overturned lorry on the M2 Medway Bridge. There were reports of damage to a number of buildings including a hanger roof at RAF Brize Norton, some schools in East Sussex, and apartment buildings in Gosport and Portsmouth. In the south-west, road, rail, sea, and air transport was disrupted, with cancellations at Bristol and Exeter airports. Network Rail issued a 'do not travel' warning.

Storm Franklin affected Northern Ireland, with some road closures and over 330 incidents of flooding and obstructions. Around 7,000 homes were without power, and some buildings were damaged in Coleraine and Dungannon. There was also disruption in north-west England, with part of the M60 closed due to an overturned vehicle. In Yorkshire there were reports of some evacuations due to flooding, and Rotherham Central station was under water. Two people and two dogs were rescued after driving into flood water. Trains were impacted across northern areas and the Midlands due to strong winds and flooding. Flood defences were deployed in Ironbridge. Numerous roads were flooded across the Midlands. Southern rail services implemented a 'do not travel' notice, with speed restrictions on all routes. The QEII bridge was again closed, and several roads were blocked by fallen trees. Over 1500 homes in Surrey and Hampshire had no power.

Western Power Distribution restored 528,724 customers to power after both Eunice and Franklin.

England diary of highlights

The first few days of the month were relatively settled at times, though from the 12th onwards rain became more frequent, with an unsettled regime lasting for the rest of the month, and a particularly stormy spell between the 16th and 21st.

It was mild for most of the time, and the monthly mean temperature was provisionally 1.9 °C above the 1991-2020 long-term average, with central and southern areas warmest relative to average, and frosts were fewer than average. It was England's fifth warmest February in a series from 1884. Rainfall was well above average in most areas, with double the month's average in places, although close to the south coast rainfall was just below average; the overall figure for England was 146% of average. Sunshine was above average in eastern areas, but below normal in westernmost counties, with 110% of average overall.

1st to 11th

The 1st was fine and bright for most areas, but cloud in the south-west spread to other areas through the afternoon. The 2nd saw some brightness in the south, but other areas were cloudy, with patchy rain or drizzle over the north at times. The 3rd was again generally cloudy and mild, but with a few brighter spells, and also patchy light rain and drizzle over the north and in the south-

west. Rain, locally heavy, for the East Midlands, East Anglia and the south-east cleared away by lunchtime on the 4th, then there were showers, heaviest and most frequent over the north, and sunny intervals. Rain over northern areas on the 5th spread to the Midlands by dusk, with showers over the south-west, but brighter weather elsewhere. Widespread rain over central and southern counties on the 6th cleared away by midday, followed by widespread, locally heavy and thundery, showers or longer spells of rain, sleet or snow, and it was cold in the north-west with Spadeadam (Cumbria) recording a maximum of only 2.0 °C. Some places began with a frost on the 7th; morning brightness over the Midlands, East Anglia and the south-east gave way to increasing cloud, with patchy rain for the north-west extending into some midland and south-eastern parts. The Midlands and East Anglia had sunshine during the morning of the 8th, but northern and western parts had patchy rain during the day. The 9th was bright with scattered showers in the north, but cloudier further south with patchy light rain. Rain cleared away from southern counties by midday on the 10th, then it was brighter, but with scattered showers in some western and central areas. After a frost for many, Topcliffe (North Yorkshire) and Redesdale (Northumberland) both falling to -7.8 °C overnight, the 11th saw cloud increasing from the west, with a few showers over the north-west, and later over the south-west too.

12th to 22nd

This period became increasingly disturbed. South-eastern areas were bright for most of the 12th, but elsewhere showers or longer spells of rain spread into the north, the Midlands and the south-west. Rain on the 13th, occasionally heavy with associated mist and fog, spread steadily east to reach all parts by mid-afternoon, persisting in the east but easing in the west. The south-east started fine on the 14th, but rain and showers over other areas moved south and east through the day, mostly clearing by dusk, with scattered showers remaining. Rain over the north, the West Midlands and the south-west early on the 15th moved south and east through the day, clearing the south-east during the evening; northern areas brightened up for a time with scattered showers, but further rain spread in from the south-west late in the day. From the Midlands south-eastwards it was fine and mild for most of the 16th, with Preston Cove House (Dorset) having not fallen below 10.6 °C overnight, while cloud, wind and heavy rain from Storm Dudley spread from the west to affect mainly the Midlands and north, and Pershore College (Hereford & Worcester) recorded a daytime maximum of 17.2 °C. The 17th was bright and breezy, with showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Midlands and north-west. Storm Eunice produced hurricane-force winds over parts of the south on the 18th, with gusts widely exceeding 80 mph and reaching 122 mph at Needles (Isle of Wight), while bands of rain and showers, some wintry in the north, and isolated thunderstorms crossed the country through the day, Copley (Durham) reporting 11 cm of lying snow. After a fine start to the 19th, with just a few isolated showers over the north-west, rain, sleet and snow spread quickly from the west to all parts by early afternoon, but cleared away eastwards by evening to leave most places dry and clear, after Seathwaite (Cumbria) had recorded 86.6 mm of rain. After a dry start for East Anglia and the south-east on the 20th, rain, persistent and heavy in the Midlands and north, spread erratically south, with scattered thunderstorms breaking out over Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and East Anglia for a time, followed from the north by frequent, locally heavy and occasionally wintry showers. There was rain for the Midlands and south-east on the 21st, other areas being brighter with scattered showers. The 22nd started generally cloudy, with rain over the north, moving into the Midlands and south-west through the morning, becoming lighter and patchier in the process, and reaching East Anglia and the south-east after midday, while the north brightened up with scattered showers.

23rd to 28th

The 23rd brought early sunshine to eastern and south-eastern counties, with patchy frost and fog along the south coast, but cloud increased from the west, with showers spreading steadily east through the day, and heavy rain moving south into northern counties around dusk. Rain soon cleared away southwards on the 24th, leaving a cold windy day with some sunshine, showers and

isolated thunderstorms. The 25th brought sunshine to many areas, with isolated showers in the north-west, but cloud increased in the north from mid-afternoon with some patchy light rain. After a frosty start on the 26th from the Midlands southwards, there was sunshine again, but with more cloud in the north by the afternoon. Some areas began cold on the 27th, with some sunshine developing, but the far south-west clouded over with patchy light rain. Western areas saw rain at times through the 28th, this spreading steadily east through the morning, followed by another area of rain, persistent and heavy at times, spreading east to all but the far south-east by evening.

Wales diary of highlights

The month began mild and mostly settled, but generally it was a very unsettled month with regular rainfall and some strong winds, especially from 12th to 23rd. Any colder spells and drier spells were both only brief.

Mean temperatures for the month were provisionally 1.9 °C above average, making it the equal-third warmest February in a series from 1884. Most places had a wet month, with around double the average rainfall in some eastern parts, and 165% of average overall. Sunshine was 84% of average, with only the north coast approaching the long-term average sunshine total.

1st to 11th

The 1st was mostly fine, with some cloud breaks in the morning, but the north had patchy light rain in the afternoon. After a mild night, Hawarden (Clwyd) going no lower than 10.2 °C, the 2nd was cloudy, with patchy light rain or drizzle in a few places. The 3rd was rather cloudy, with some patchy light rain or drizzle in the south. The 4th brought sunshine and scattered showers. It was wet and windy on the 5th; rain was occasionally heavy over the north, lighter in the south, but became widespread by late afternoon, Dolydd (Powys) recording 71.4 mm. Widespread rain on the morning of the 6th cleared away to be replaced with widespread blustery showers, wintry at times. The 7th, 8th and 9th were cloudy and mild with patchy light rain. The 10th was much brighter with scattered showers, followed by a clear frosty night, Llanfynydd (Dyfed) falling to -3.2 °C. The 11th started sunny, but clouded over by the afternoon, with a few showers developing over coastal areas later.

12th to 23rd

The 12th was wet and windy with widespread and occasionally heavy rain, albeit becoming lighter and patchier from late afternoon. The 13th was very wet, some of the rain heavy, with associated mist and fog. It was windy on the 14th with widespread showers or longer spells of rain, the showers becoming more scattered by late afternoon. Widespread and sometimes heavy rain on the 15th cleared away by lunchtime, but it remained cloudy, and more rain reached western districts by dusk. The 16th was generally cloudy, very windy and mild, Colwyn Bay (Clwyd) recording a maximum of 16.3 °C, with rain affecting most places during the day. After a bright and breezy start on the 17th, cloud increased, with showers for the rest of the day, and isolated thunderstorms in the north during the afternoon. Storm Eunice gave a wet and extremely windy day on the 18th, wind gusts exceeding 80 mph in the south at times, and Mumbles (West Glamorgan) reaching 87 mph, with widespread rain, sleet and snow in the morning, and widespread, locally heavy and wintry showers in the afternoon. Heavy rain spread from the west to all parts during the morning of the 19th, with sleet or snow over higher ground, clearing away in the afternoon to leave showers and isolated thunderstorms, then becoming dry and bright late in the day. The 20th was wet and windy, with widespread and heavy rain persisting until dusk, then frequent, locally heavy and occasionally wintry showers. Most areas were cloudy on the 21st, with rain in northern and central parts, but the afternoon became drier and somewhat brighter. A band of rain moved south during the morning of the 22nd, followed by brighter weather with a few showers. The 23rd was rather cloudy, with showers in places.

24th to 28th

Early rain cleared during the morning of the 24th, which became colder with sunshine and showers, Libanus (Powys) recording a maximum of only 3.9 °C. The 25th saw sunshine with just a few isolated showers. After a frost in parts of the east on the 26th, it remained fine. There was sunshine for most on the 27th, but more cloud in the far south-west later with patchy light rain. The 28th was wet, with rain spreading north-eastwards to all parts by early afternoon and persisting into the evening.

Scotland diary of highlights

The start of the month was mild, but through February it was generally unsettled, becoming stormy at times, with incursions of cold air on some days especially in the north.

The provisional mean temperature for the month was 0.7 °C above the long-term average, and it was mildest relative to average towards the south, with the far north near or just below average. Rainfall was well above average in most areas, but closer to average in Aberdeenshire, and Scotland overall had 153% of average rainfall, making it provisionally the tenth wettest February in a series from 1836. Sunshine was above average on the eastern side but below average in the west, with an overall figure of 96% of average.

1st to 12th

The 1st was mainly dry and bright in the south, but central and northern districts had frequent showers, with strong winds especially in the north, Lerwick (Shetland) reporting gusts to 78 mph. The 2nd was dull and overcast with rain and drizzle affecting most places throughout, turning very wet over the north-west towards evening. After a mild night, South Uist (Western Isles) not falling below 8.9 °C, the 3rd was dull and overcast once again, mild with Aboyne (Aberdeenshire) recording a maximum of 12.8 °C, but persistent light rain and drizzle covered central and western districts, ahead of an area of heavy rain reaching the north-west early in the afternoon and spreading south-east to reach most places by dusk. The 4th brought sunny intervals and widespread, locally heavy and persistent showers, with sleet or snow even to low levels, and isolated thunderstorms too. It was wet and windy on the 5th, the rain widespread, persistent and occasionally heavy, turning more showery into the afternoon, but still locally heavy and wintry in places. The 6th brought further widespread, heavy and blustery showers or longer spells of precipitation, with isolated thunderstorms over northern and western districts. After a frost in places on the 7th, a band of rain over the west moved erratically eastwards through the day, with patchy light rain persisting over central and western districts. The south and east saw some sunshine on the 8th, with more cloud in the west and north bringing blustery and locally heavy showers. Showers were widespread, locally heavy and blustery on the 9th, turning wintry at times. The 10th was very windy in the north, with frequent, heavy, blustery showers or longer spells of rain for most areas, and sleet and snow for some, Aviemore (Inverness-shire) reporting 12 cm of lying snow. After a widespread moderate frost, Braemar (Aberdeenshire) falling to -8.1 °C, the 11th saw increasing cloud, with showers in some areas, and rain reaching western areas in the evening. The 12th was wet and windy with widespread and sometimes heavy showers, wintry over higher ground, or longer spells of rain.

13th to 24th

The very unsettled theme continued, with rain, spreading across central and southern parts during the morning of the 13th, becoming heavy at times, but drying up in the south from late afternoon, while the north stayed drier with just a few coastal showers. Rain in the south on the 14th cleared before midday, but it remained cloudy, with scattered showers for central and northern parts, falling as sleet and snow over higher ground. Overnight rain cleared the far north-east around dawn on the 15th, then it was brighter with showers, locally heavy and blustery, and wintry over

the hills, before cloud spread in with rain reaching south-western parts by early evening. Storm Dudley gave a wet and very windy day on the 16th, with gales and locally heavy rain and blustery showers affecting most places throughout, and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. The 17th continued windy, with widespread, heavy and blustery showers, wintry in places. An early frost in the north on the 18th led into a generally cold day, with a slow-moving area of rain, sleet and snow over most places, only the north-west getting away with infrequent showers; Balmoral and Braemar (both Aberdeenshire) recorded maximums of only 0.9 °C. Another frost in the north gave way to a much brighter day on the 19th, with just a few showers over the north-east, some rain briefly skirting the Borders around lunchtime, and more general rain reaching western districts by evening, amounting to 54.6 mm at Forrest Lodge (Kirkcudbrightshire). The 20th remained windy and wet, with persistent and heavy rain clearing the Borders by mid-afternoon, followed by widespread, locally heavy and occasionally wintry showers, with only Aberdeenshire escaping the worst of the weather. The 21st was brighter in the south with only isolated showers, but cloudier further north and east with more frequent showers, falling as snow in the far north. Rain, occasionally heavy, in north-eastern, central and southern areas early on the 22nd, moved southwards to clear the Borders mid-morning, followed by showers, heaviest and most frequent over the north and west, and wintry at times. The 23rd was wet and windy once again, Fair Isle (Shetland) seeing gusts up to 78 mph, with frequent, heavy showers, and thunderstorms over the north, falling as snow or hail in places, merging into a band of heavy precipitation which spread south and east across all parts, clearing away by evening but with heavy and frequent showers continuing over central and northern areas. The 24th was cold and windy, with widespread, locally heavy and wintry showers and scattered thunderstorms, but fewer showers in the east.

25th to 28th

The month ended milder and less disturbed. The 25th brought some sunshine, but cloud increased through the afternoon, with rain spreading from the west, reaching all parts by dusk, heaviest and most persistent further north. The 26th was cloudy, with outbreaks of mainly light rain or drizzle, most notably through the central belt and across the north-west. The 27th was sunny for many, but cloudier over the north-west with some light rain. Showers or longer spells of rain affected most places on the 28th, with rain, heavy at times, spreading into the south during the afternoon, clearing eastwards in the evening.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

After a briefly fine start, much of the month was unsettled with regular spells of rain, if mostly rather mild, and around the 12th to 21st it was often stormy.

The mean temperature was 1.0 °C above the 1981-2010 average. Rainfall was well above average, especially towards the west, with 158% of average overall; this was provisionally the tenth wettest February for the Province in a series from 1836. Sunshine was below average, especially in the north, with an overall figure of 74%.

1st to 13th

The 1st was bright in the morning, but cloudier by the afternoon with patchy light rain. The 2nd remained mild, after a minimum no lower than 9.5 °C at Murlough (Down), an overcast day with patchy light rain and drizzle throughout. The 3rd was rather cloudy, with some brightness, but rain spread from the north-west later, reaching all parts by dusk. Frequent and locally heavy blustery showers on the 4th fell as sleet or snow at times, with isolated thunderstorms too. The 5th was wet and windy, the rain widespread and persistent, and heavy at times. Showers were widespread, blustery and wintry on the 6th. The 7th and 8th were cloudy, with patchy light rain or showers in places. The 9th saw bright spells and showers, some of the showers turning wintry at times. After a cold start, the 10th again gave sunshine and frequent, blustery showers, wintry at

times. After a frosty and clear start on the 11th, Katesbridge (Down) falling to -4.4 °C overnight, cloud increased by the afternoon with rain spreading to all areas by early evening. The 12th was windy, with frequent showers or longer spells of rain, heavy at times. Widespread and sometimes heavy rain spread north across all parts during the 13th.

14th to 23rd

The 14th brought some blustery showers, with sunshine between. After a bright start on the 15th with scattered showers, it clouded over by the afternoon, showers dying out but rain spreading from the west, becoming widespread and heavy at times by evening. Storm Dudley brought widespread rain and strong winds on the 16th, the rain very heavy at times but clearing mid-afternoon to brighter skies with scattered, blustery and locally heavy showers, mild though with Murlough (Down) reaching 15.1 °C. The 17th continued breezy, with showers for the north, and rain brushing western and southern districts during the afternoon. The 18th was wet and very windy with the influence of Storm Eunice, widespread heavy rain being followed by frequent blustery showers, wintry at times. Widespread rain on the 19th cleared away before noon, but further rain spread from the west late in the afternoon, becoming widespread by dusk, Lough Fea (Londonderry) recording 32.0 mm. The 20th was wet and windy again, and widespread, locally heavy rain in the morning was followed by frequent, locally heavy and occasionally wintry showers in the afternoon. The 21st saw sunshine and some blustery showers, with Storm Franklin's strongest gust being 78 mph at Orlock Head (Down). Overnight rain cleared after breakfast on the 22nd, leaving brighter skies but showers, locally heavy. Scattered showers at first on the 23rd were displaced by rain in all parts by early afternoon, which lasted for the rest of the day.

24th to 28th

The 24th started frosty and was a cold day, with widespread, locally heavy and wintry showers, Killylane (Antrim) recording a maximum of only 1.8 °C, and Lough Navar Forest (Fermanagh) seeing 10 cm of lying snow. Early sunshine on the 25th gave way to cloud with some light rain, becoming drier again in the afternoon but staying cloudy. The 26th was generally cloudy with outbreaks of patchy light rain or drizzle. The 27th started bright in the east, but soon became cloudy everywhere, with patchy light rain in some places. It was cloudy and showery on the 28th, but brighter through the afternoon with the showers becoming fewer.