Storm Claudia, 14 November 2025

Storm Claudia, the third named storm of the 2025/2026 season, brought extensive heavy rainfall across England and Wales on 14 November. The storm was named by the Spanish meteorological agency (AEMet), with heavy rain and strong winds affecting Spain and Portugal during the preceding days. Parts of England and Wales received the whole-month November average rainfall in six days from 9th to 14th, with the worst impacts in South Wales.

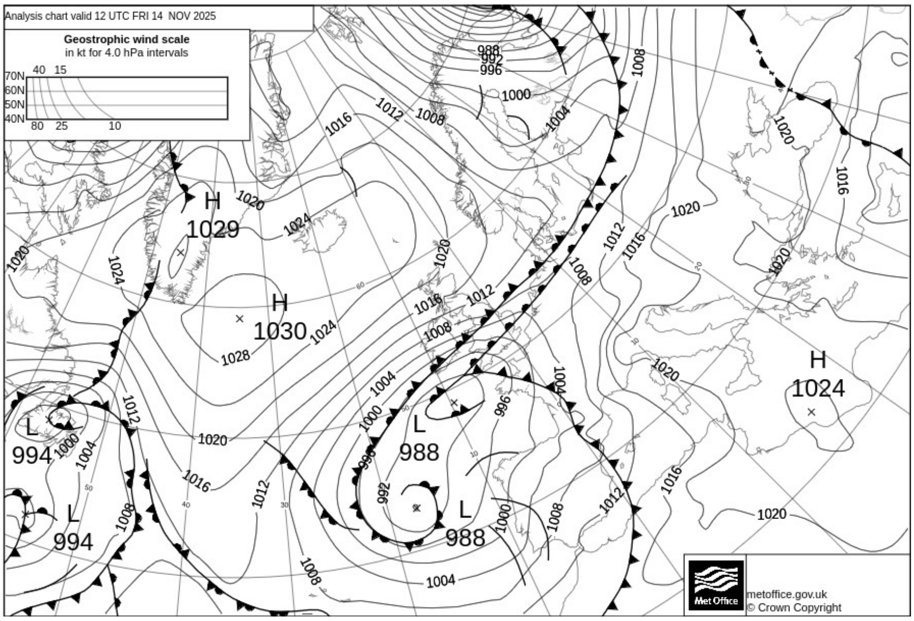
Impacts

Storm Claudia brought flooding to several areas. A major incident was declared in Monmouth, due to flooding from the River Monnow - a tributary of the River Wye. (This river marks the England-Wales border for much of its length). Several severe flood warnings – the highest category – were issued, and more than 50 properties were reported to be flooded. A further 18,000 were protected by flood defences.

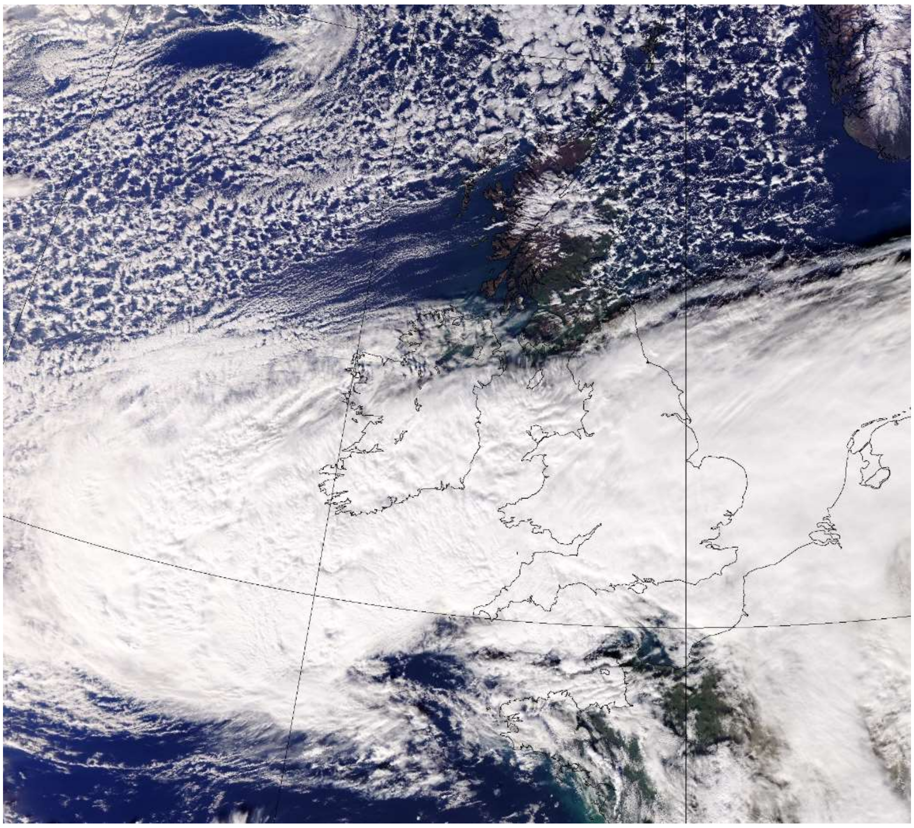
(The second named storm of the 2025/2026 season, Benjamin was named by Meteo-France on 22 October. This storm brought some strong winds and heavy rain to south-east England but impacts were generally fairly limited in the UK).

Weather data

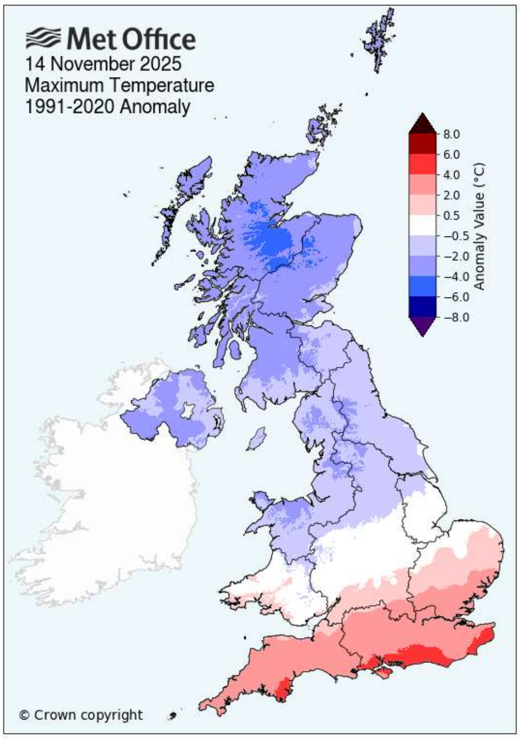
The analysis chart at 1200 UTC 14 November 2025 shows storm Claudia to the south-west of the UK. The associated fronts stretched west-to-east across Wales and England were slow moving, bringing persistent heavy rain in a south-easterly flow.



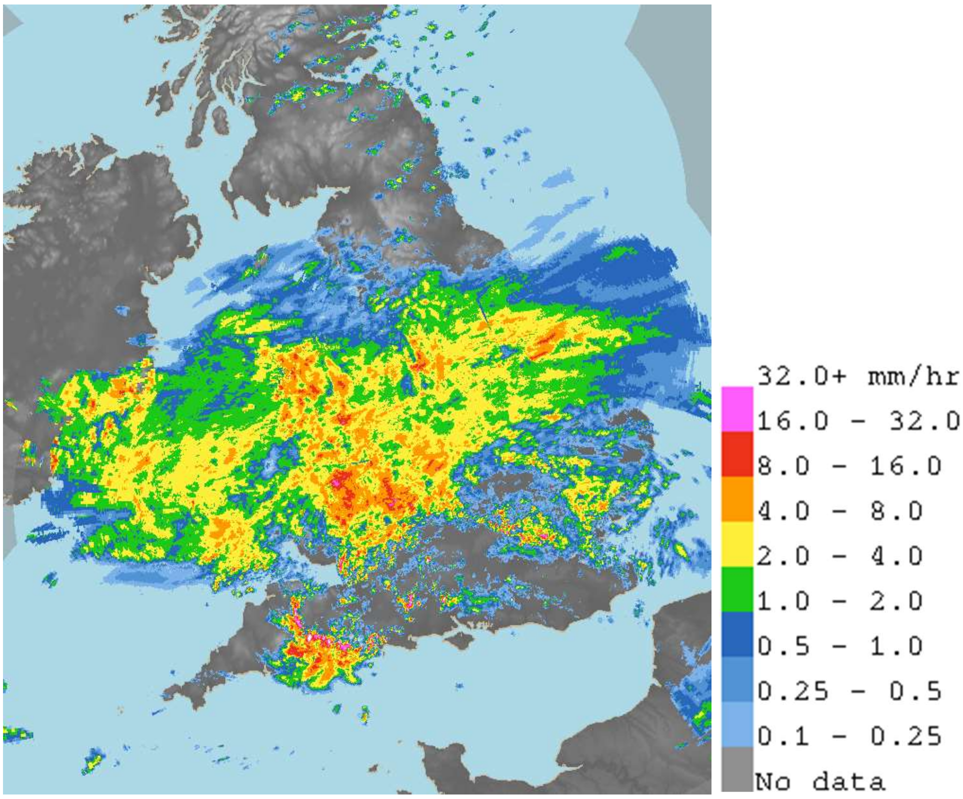
The visible satellite image of the UK on 14 November 2025 shows extensive cloud across England and Wales associated with these weather fronts. To the north, clearer, colder air is pushing south into Scotland and Northern Ireland with a northerly flow of showers in the North Sea. Lying snow can be seen in some places across Scotland's mountains – a sign of the colder weather to come. Image copyright Met Office / NOAA / NASA.



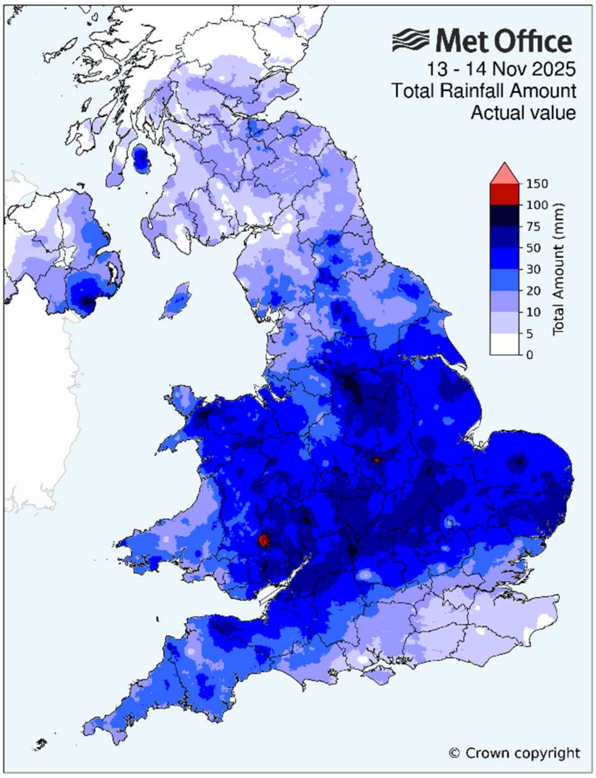
The map below shows daily maximum temperatures across the UK on 14 November 2025 as anomalies relative to the 1991-2020 November average. This shows the temperature contrast across the fronts. Maximum temperatures were as low as 7.3°C at Buxton (Derbyshire) but with much milder air still present in the far south - for example 16.5°C at Wiggonholt (West Sussex).



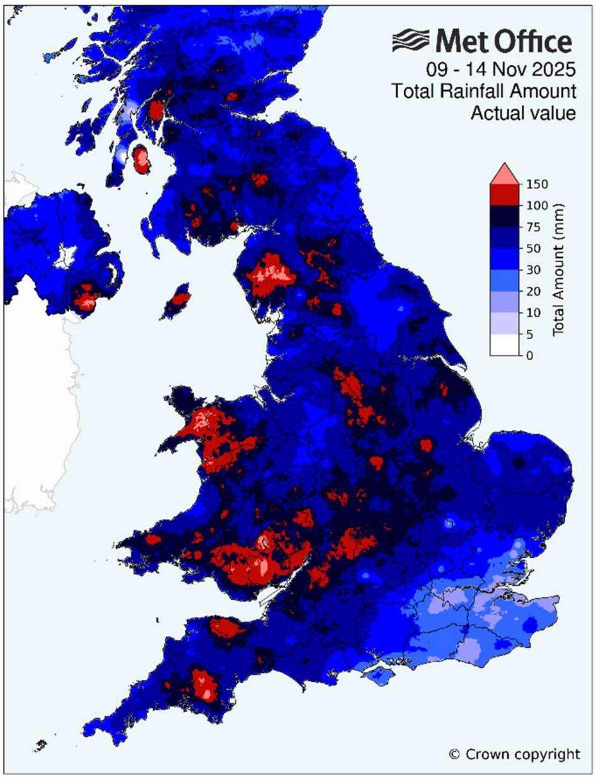
The rain-radar image at 1700 UTC on 14 November 2025 shows the extensive heavy rainfall associated with storm Claudia stretching across central England and Wales. The south-easterly flow resulted in a focus of the highest rainfall totals across upland areas of south-east Wales. More intensive bursts of convective rainfall are also present across south-west England, with rain-rates locally 16 to 32mm per hour.

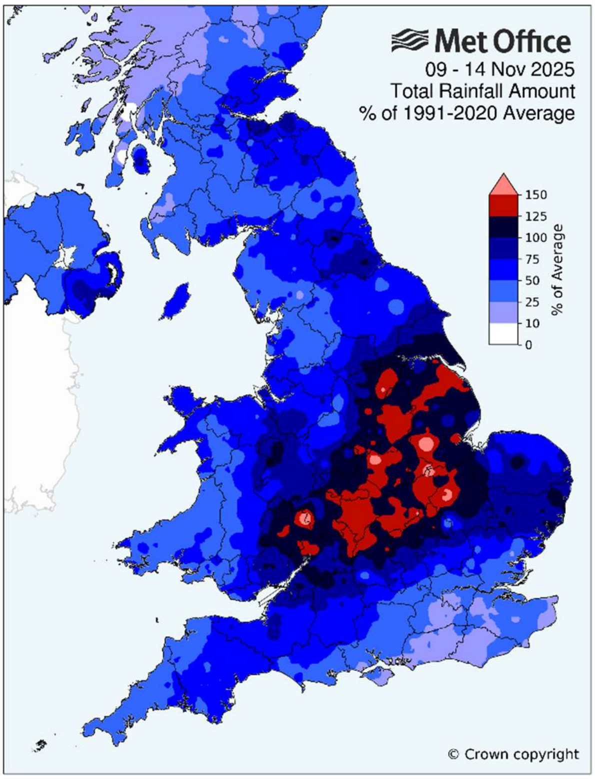


The map below shows rainfall totals across England and Wales from storm Claudia from 13 to 14 November 2025 (0900 13th to 0900 UTC 15th). 50 to 75mm of rain fell fairly widely across large areas of east Wales and central England, with 75 to 100mm locally. (This map is based on provisional data, some suspect values may be present).



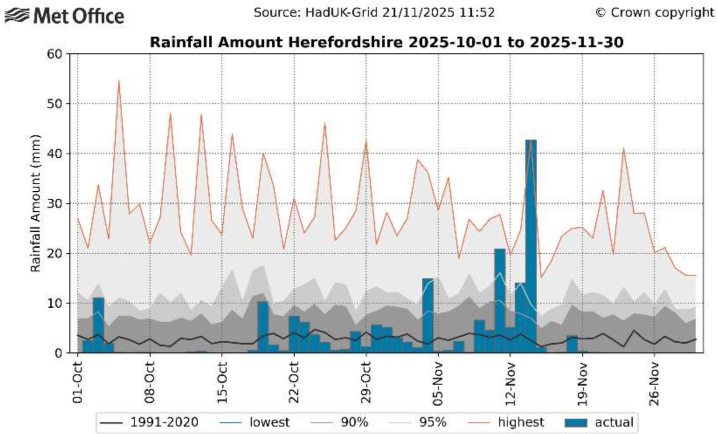
Storm Claudia was part of a longer spell of unsettled and very wet weather for the UK in the first half of November, with very mild, wet weather dominated by a succession of Atlantic low pressure systems and weather fronts. The maps below show rainfall totals across England and Wales for the six day period 9 to 14 November 2025 – as actual totals in mm (left) and as percentage of the November whole-month average rainfall (right). The wettest areas saw 100 to 150mm of rain during this spell, with the whole-month average rainfall for November across a swathe of England and Wales from South Wales to Lincolnshire, and some locations as much as 150%.





The upper catchment of the River Monnow, which flows through Monmouth, drains the Black Mountains of South Wales. A weather station at Tafolog, located in the Vale of Ewyas – in these mountains immediately west of the Offa's Dyke path forming the England-Wales border – recorded 119.6mm, 75% of the 1991-2020 November whole-month average rainfall from 13th to 14th. This station has reasonably complete observations (with a few missing months) from 2007, with this being the highest 2-day total on record at this station from 2007. The rain-gauge is located in the valley, but these mountains rise to over 800 metres elevation and there will have been a significant orographic enhancement across the high ground. This same rain-gauge recorded 174.2mm, 109% of the November whole-month average from 9th to the 14th.

The county of Herefordshire recorded a provisional total of 93.6mm for these six days from 9 to 14 November, (as an average across the whole county) – 112% of the November 1991-2020 whole-average – with over 40mm of this falling on the 14th. This was the wettest six day spell for this county since the major floods of July 2007. The chart below shows rainfall totals for Herefordshire for October and November 2025 (the Monnow catchment includes a significant part of western Herefordshire east of the England-Wales border, including the River Dore).



South Wales has experienced a number of significant flood events in recent years, including Storm Bert on 23 to 24 November 2024, storm Dennis on 15 to 16 February 2020, and other heavy rainfall events on 25 to 26 October 2019 and 11 to 12 October 2018. However, these were as a result of a more typical westerly or south-westerly airflow – with the corresponding wettest areas further west in the Brecon Beacons. What made Claudia unusual was the south-easterly direction of airflow. With the Black Mountains the first significant high ground an airflow from this direction would meet, this will have been the critical factor causing the very high rainfall totals in this area and consequent downstream flooding in Monmouth.

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Last updated 21/11/2025