Met Office

Storm Bram, 9 to 10 December 2025

Storm Bram was the fourth named storm to affect the UK during the 2025/2026 season. It was named by the Western European storm naming group, which includes the UK. Previous storms Benjamin and Claudia were named by Meteo-France and AEMet, the French and Spanish meteorological agencies, which are not part of this naming group.

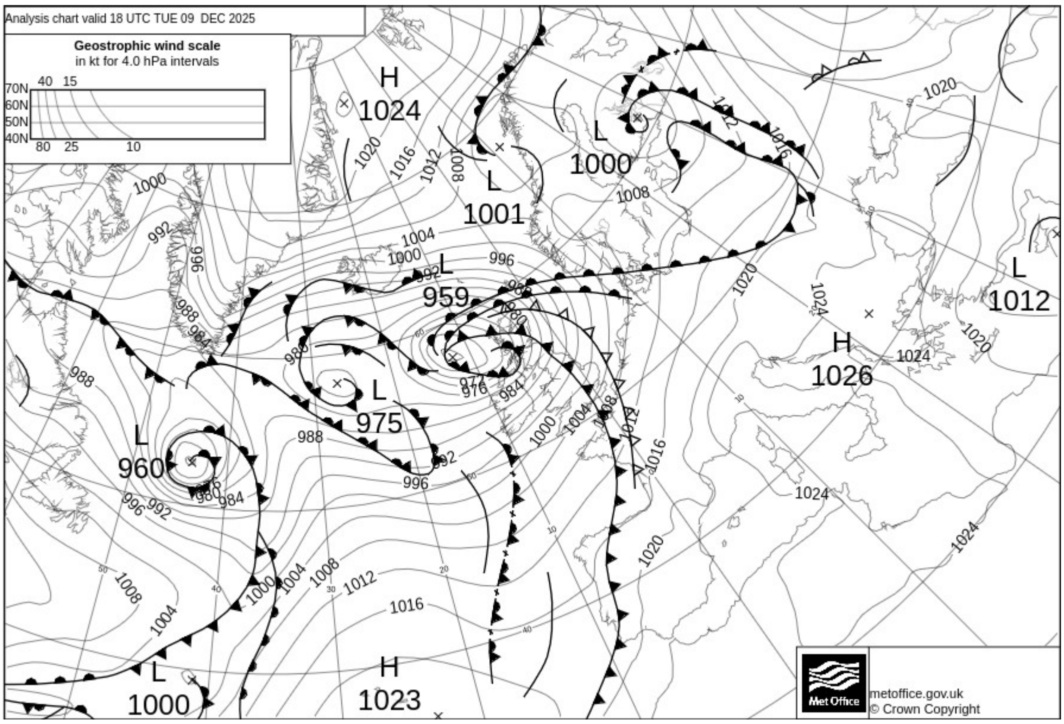
Bram brought winds gusting at over 60Kt (69mph) in the worst affected locations, and up to 100mm of rain in the wettest areas falling on saturated ground. Overall this was a notable but not exceptional Atlantic winter storm.

Impacts

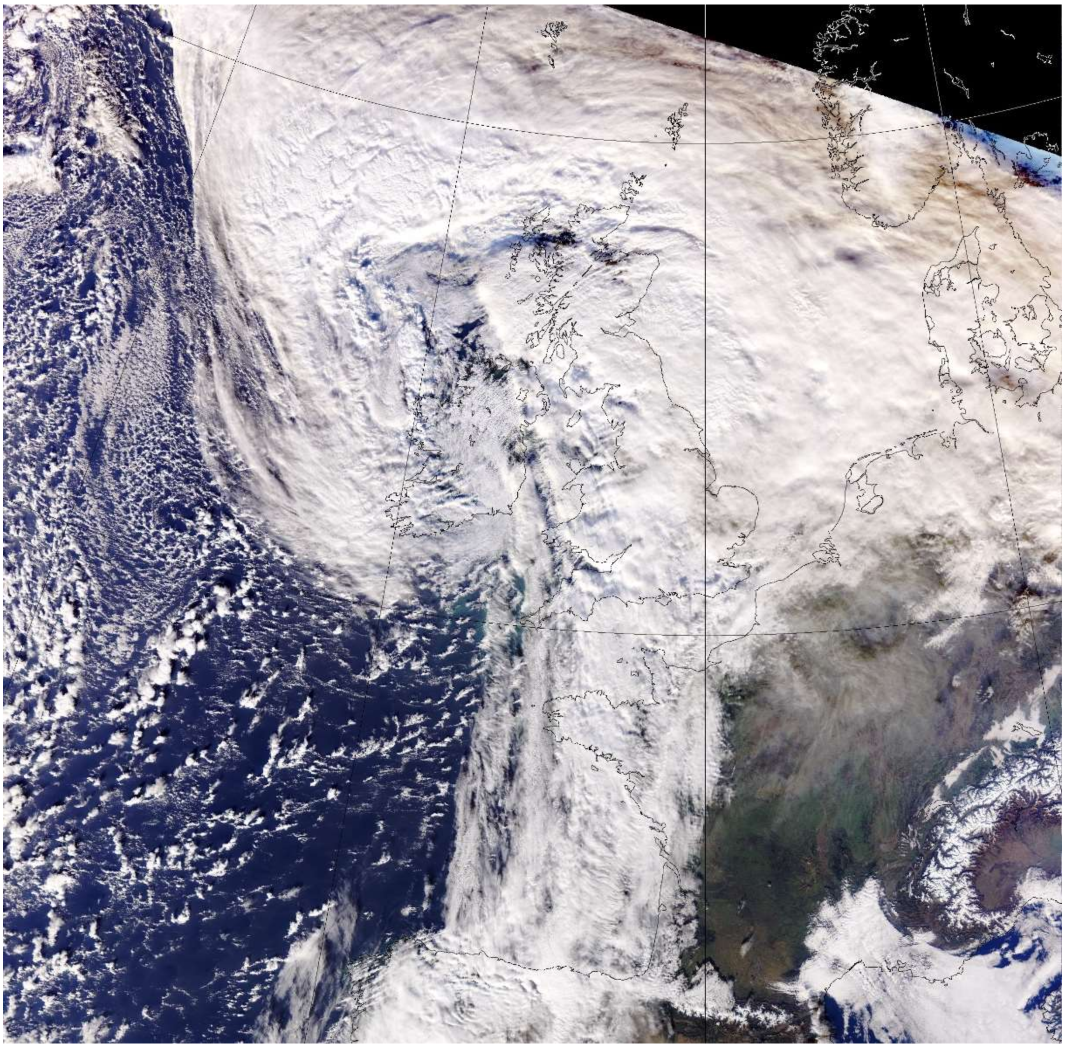
Storm Bram brought widespread transport disruption, power outages and some flooding. Many rail services were cancelled or faced speed restrictions, including Great Western Railway and Scotrail, while in Wales a train was reported to have hit a tree on a line between Blaenau Ffestiniog and Llandudno. On the roads, a section of the M74 was closed with several HGVs overturned, and the M48 Severn Bridge was closed due to high winds. Several ferry routes on the west coast of Scotland and across the Irish Sea were cancelled or disrupted, and dozens of flights between the island of Ireland and Great Britain were also cancelled. Several thousand properties in England, Wales and Northern Ireland experienced power cuts. There were numerous widespread flood warnings issued, and a number of properties flooded in Totnes, Devon from the River Dart. In Plymouth, a section of the West Hoe Pier collapsed due to large waves and in Carrickfergus, near Belfast, part of a sea wall was washed away.

Weather data

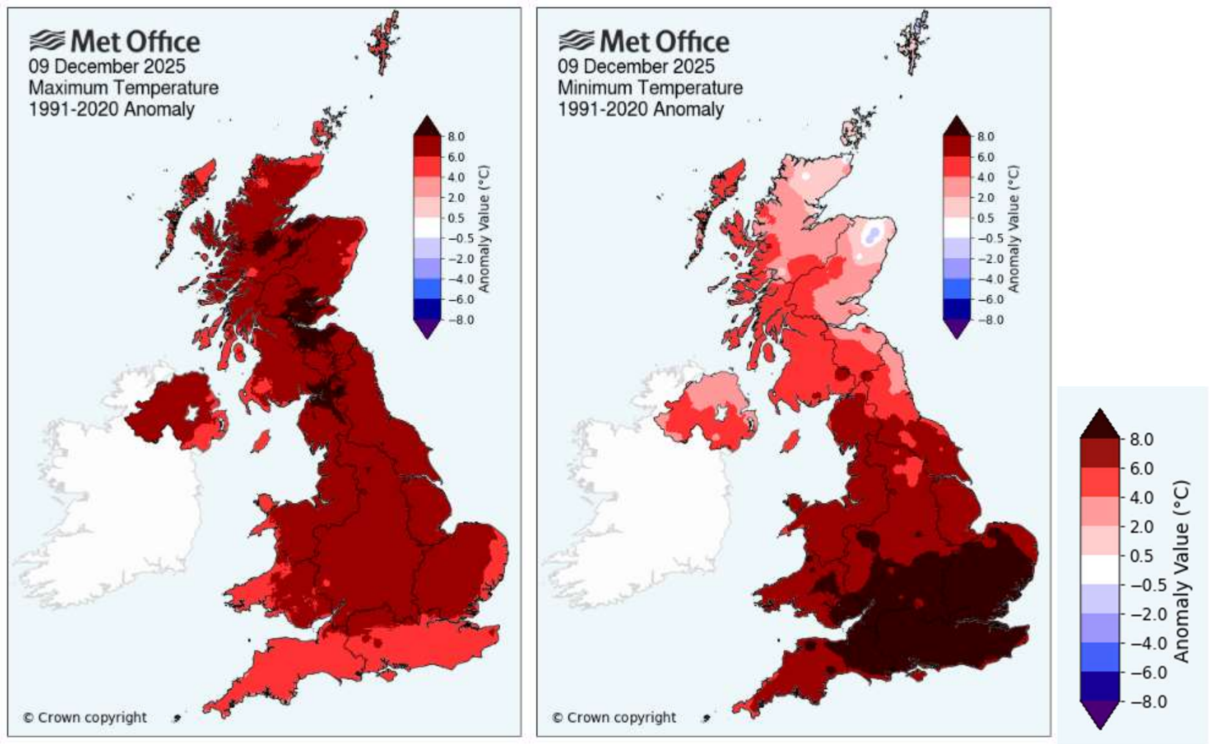
The analysis chart at 1800 UTC 9 December 2025 shows storm Bram with the low pressure centre west of Scotland and associated fronts stretching across the UK.



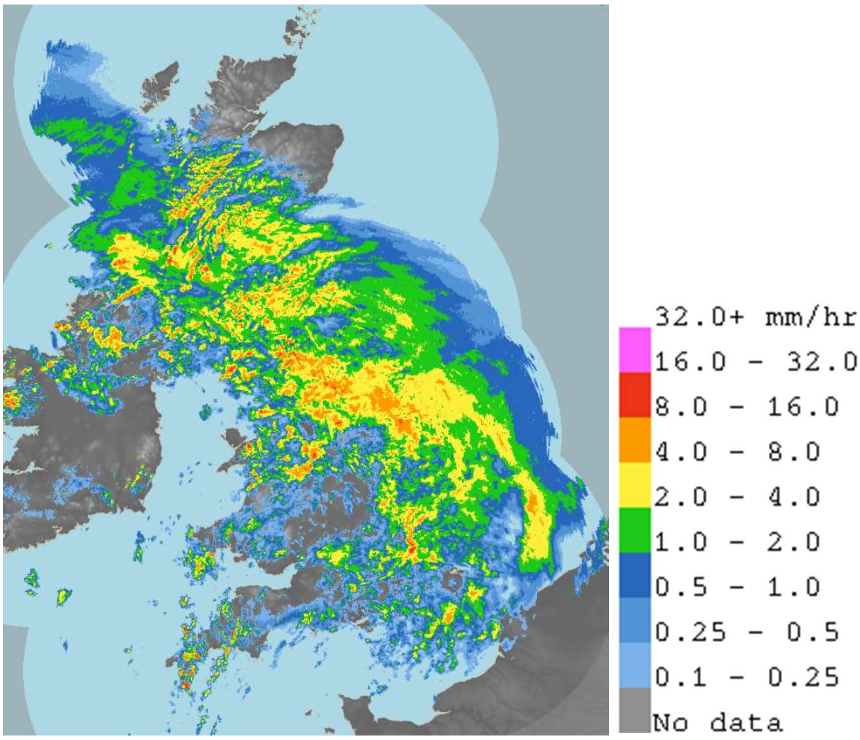
The visible satellite image of the UK on 9 December 2025 shows the UK entirely swathed in cloud from fronts associated with storm Bram. The low pressure centre at this stage is to the west of Ireland. Note the snow-covered Alps and Pyrenees toward the bottom of the image. Image copyright Met Office / NOAA / NASA.



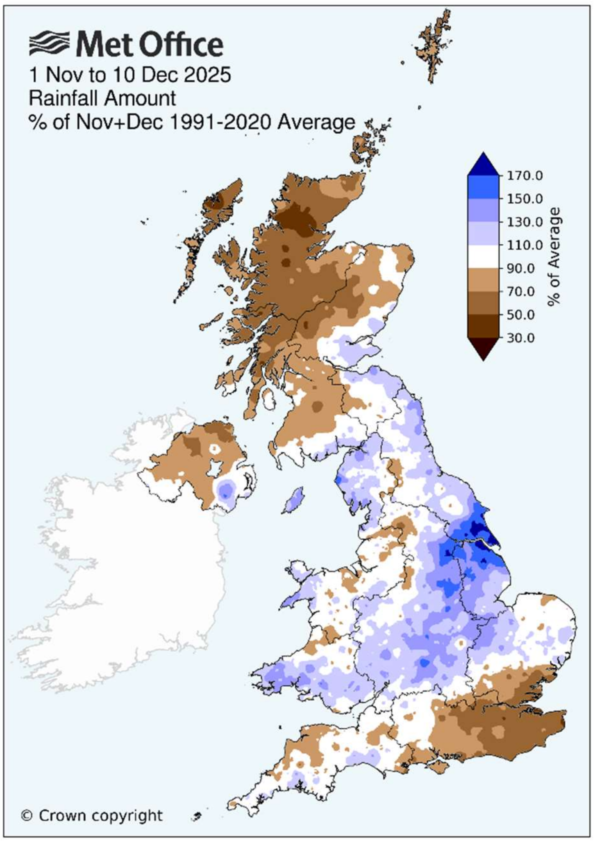
Storm Bram drew in some exceptionally mild Tropical Maritime air across the UK. The maps below show daily maximum and minimum temperatures on 9 December 2025. Daily maximum temperatures on 9th reached as high as 16.8°C at Carlisle, compared to a 1991-2020 December average of 7.4°C at this station. Daily minimum temperatures on 9th were also extremely mild across southern England, widely exceeding 11°C: Hurn, Dorset recorded a daily minimum of 11.7°C, compared to a 1991-2020 December average of 2.0°C at this station.



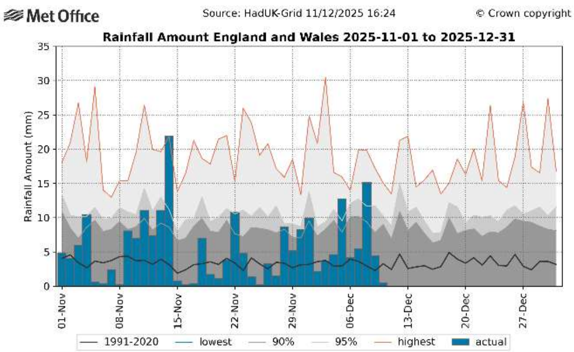
The rain-radar image at 0600 UTC on 9 December 2025 shows an area of heavy rain stretched across northern England, North Wales, Northern Ireland and southern Scotland as warm fronts associated with storm Bram moved north across the country. Rainfall totals on 8th (0900 UTC 8th to 0900 UTC 9th) included 104.7mm at White Barrow, 86.2mm at Princetown Prison and 85.1mm at Holne, Priddons Farm (all Dartmoor, Devon). Totals in South Wales also locally exceeded 60mm, for example 62.0mm at Abergorlech, Carmarthenshire and 61.6mm at Treherbert, Mid Glamorgan.

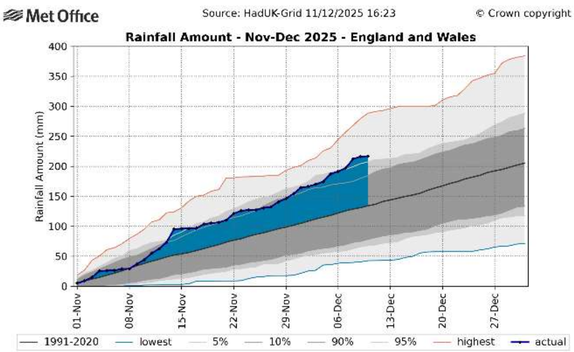


While rainfall totals from this event were not exceptional, there were concerns over possible flooding impacts due to the prolonged spell of unsettled weather during November and early December resulting in saturated ground and rivers running high. The map below shows rainfall totals from 1 November to 10 December 2025 as a percentage of November + December 1991-2020 average, with much of central England and parts of Wales having already received more than the average for these two complete months. Parts of the Welsh hills and Cumbrian fells recorded over 600mm of rain for this period (for example 783.0mm at Treherbert, Mid Glamorgan – almost 20mm per day, on average, and 1081.8mm at Honister Pass, Cumbria – 27mm per day, on average).

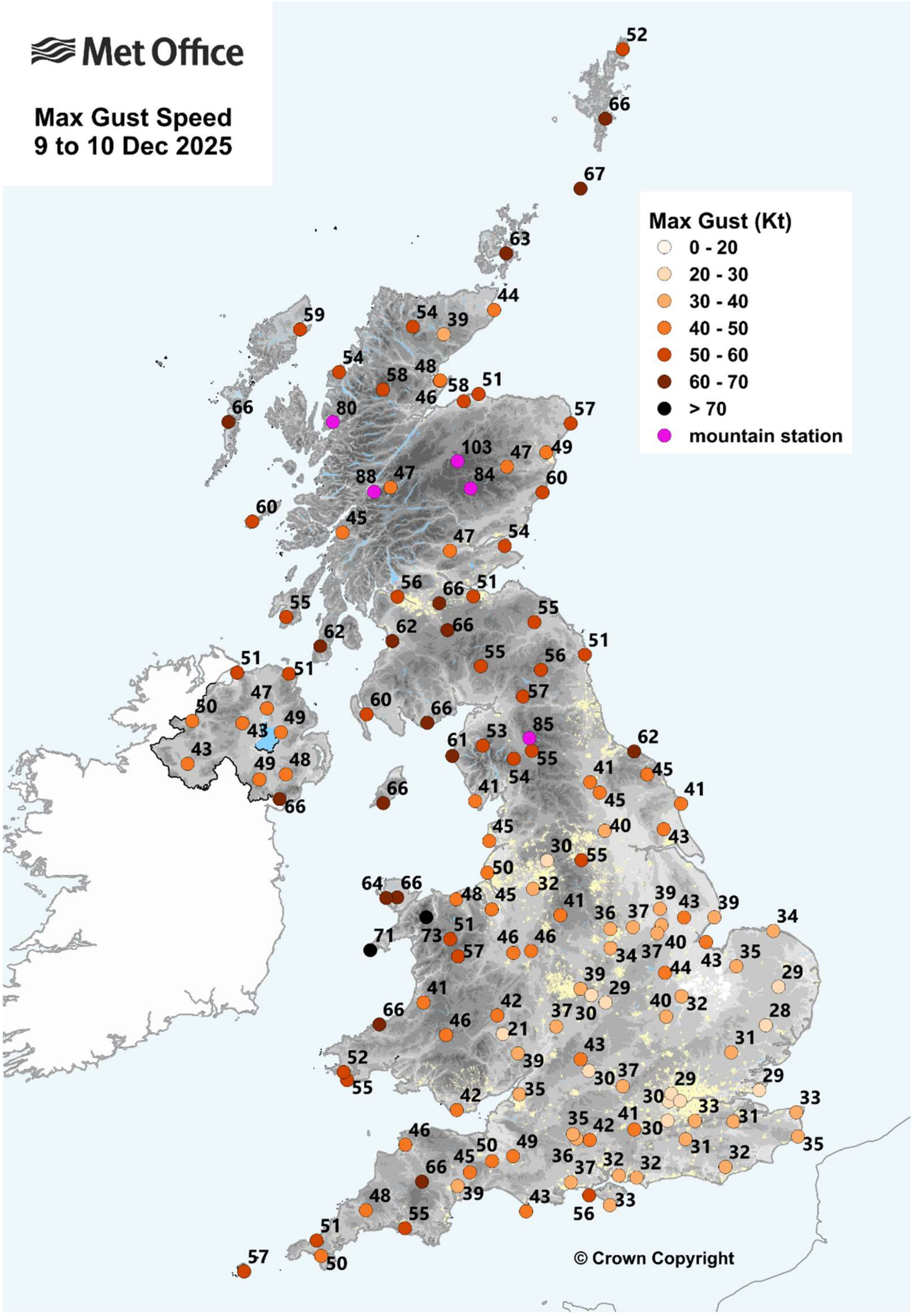


The charts below show daily rainfall totals (left) and accumulations (right) for England and Wales combined from 1 November 2025 to 10 December, with the two highest daily values from storm Claudia on 14 November and storm Bram on 8 December.





The map below shows maximum gust speeds from 9 to 10 December 2025 from storm Bram. The strongest winds were in the Western Isles, around Irish Sea coasts, southern Scotland, Northern England and North Wales, with gusts of over 60Kt (69mph) recorded fairly widely. The highest gusts were 73Kt (84mph) at Capel Curig, Conwy and 71Kt (82mph) at Aberdaron, Gwynedd. 66Kt (76mph) was recorded at ten stations including North Wyke (Devon), Killowen (County Down), Ronaldsway (Isle of Man), Mona (Anglesey), and Salsburgh (Lanarkshire), among others. This was not an exceptional storm for the time of year, however several stations recorded their highest December gust speed since 2013, while at North Wyke, 66Kt was the highest December gust speed in a 25-year record.



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