# Storms Austen 22 to 23 October and Boelo 24 to 25 October 2026

**Two deep Atlantic low-pressure systems, named storms Austen and Boelo, affected the UK over a four-day period from 22 to 25 October 2026, driven by a powerful jet stream. These storms brough strong winds and heavy rain, with Austen bringing gusts of 50 to 60Kt (58 to 69mph) or more across Cornwall, parts of Devon and west Wales, including a maximum gust of 66Kt (76mph) on the Isles of Scilly.**

**Storm Boelo brought widespread heavy rainfall across the UK, particularly in Scotland where more than 50mm rainfall fell across many western areas. In Inverness-shire, over a quarter of the county's average October rainfall fell in a single day on 24th, with wettest October day records broken at Dalwhinnie and Tulloch Bridge. Further south, Liscombe (Somerset) recorded 66.2mm of rain on 24th, a new October daily rainfall record, surpassing the previous record set in 2000. Strong winds caused disruption across Scotland, with maximum gusts exceeding 70Kt (81mph) along the western coast.**

**The widespread heavy rainfall on 24 October made this provisionally the joint 6th wettest day on record for the UK in a daily series from 1891.**

## Impacts

Storm Austen, the first named storm of the season, brought widespread disruption across southern England and Wales. Tens of thousands of homes were left without power, including around 13,000 homes in Cornwall on 23 October. Large waves made conditions on the coast extremely dangerous, and in Brighton, part of the West Pier collapsed into the sea.

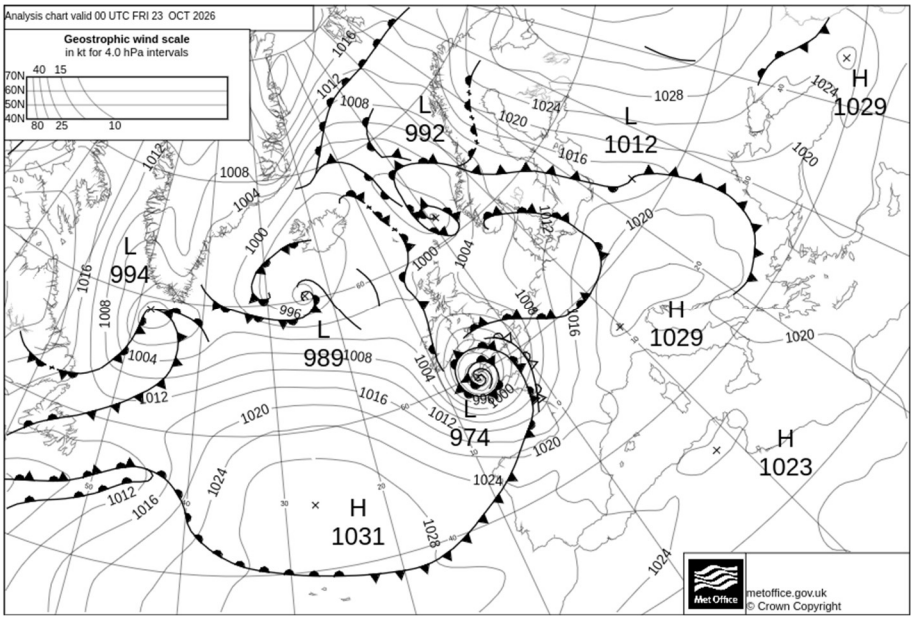
The strong winds caused significant travel disruption across southern parts of the UK, with railway lines blocked by fallen trees and debris, and multiple flights cancelled at Exeter and Jersey airports. Several ferry services between the UK and France were also cancelled on 23rd. In Poole, Dorset, one man was lucky to survive after an oak tree collapsed and crushed his car while he was still inside.

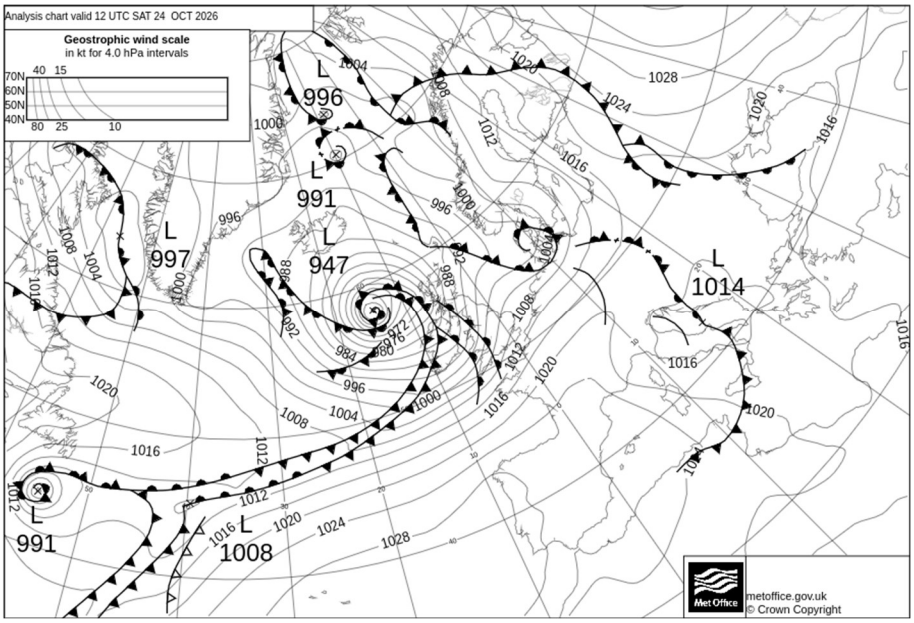
Following closely behind storm Austen, storm Boelo made landfall on Saturday 24 October, bringing further widespread disruption from strong winds and heavy rain, this time to northern parts of the UK. Tragically, two men lost their lives after being struck by falling trees, while many other incidents of falling trees were also reported. Flash flooding hit parts of Scotland and Wales. In Largs, Ayrshire, shops in the town centre were flooded, while to the west of Glasgow in Inverclyde, a boat was washed up onto a pavement by the high winds and floodwater. In Cardiff, the River Ely burst its banks causing widespread flooding and leaving several roads and paths impassable.

These two storms, arriving in quick succession, caused widespread transport disruption across the UK, with rail networks, airports and the London Underground all affected and numerous services cancelled or delayed.

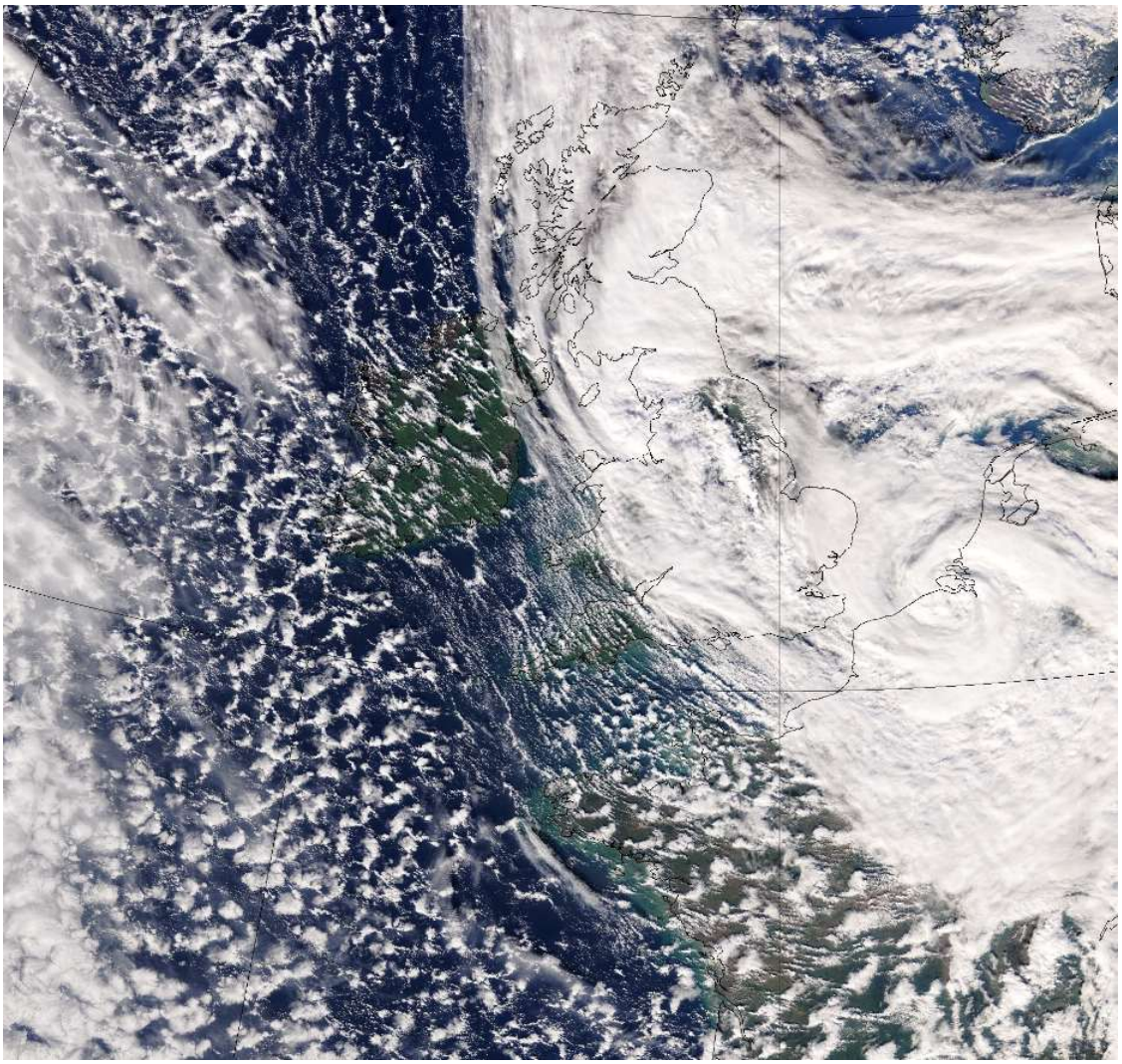
## Weather data

The analysis charts at 0000 UTC on 23rd October 2026 show Storm Austen tracking across southern parts of the UK, while the chart at 1200 UTC on 24th October 2026 shows Storm Boelo approaching from the north-west bringing multiple fronts and heavy rainfall across the country.

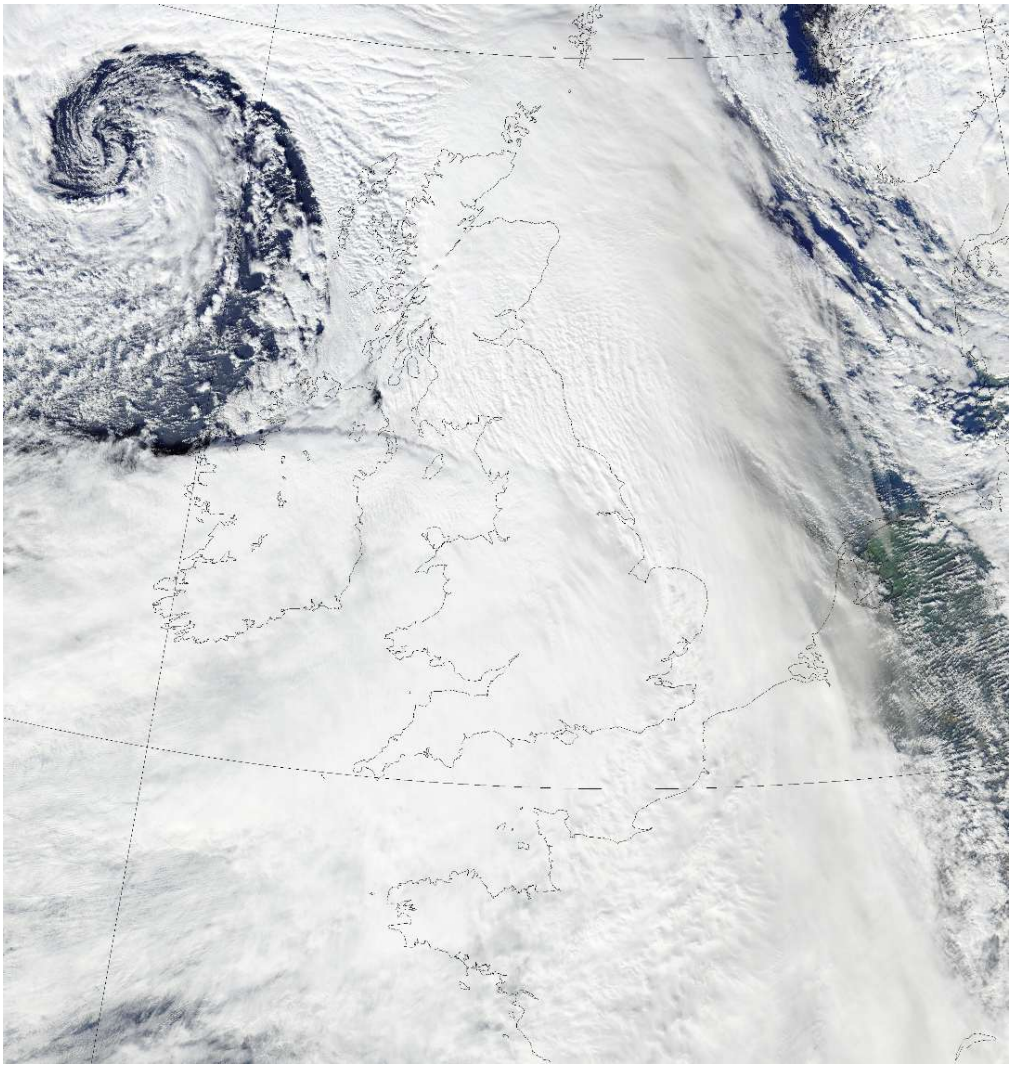


The satellite image below on 23rd October at 13:00UTC captures the low-pressure centre of Storm Austen over the Netherlands after it tracked across the southern part of the UK during the early hours of the morning, bringing with it high winds along coastal areas. Image copyright Met Office / NOAA / NASA.

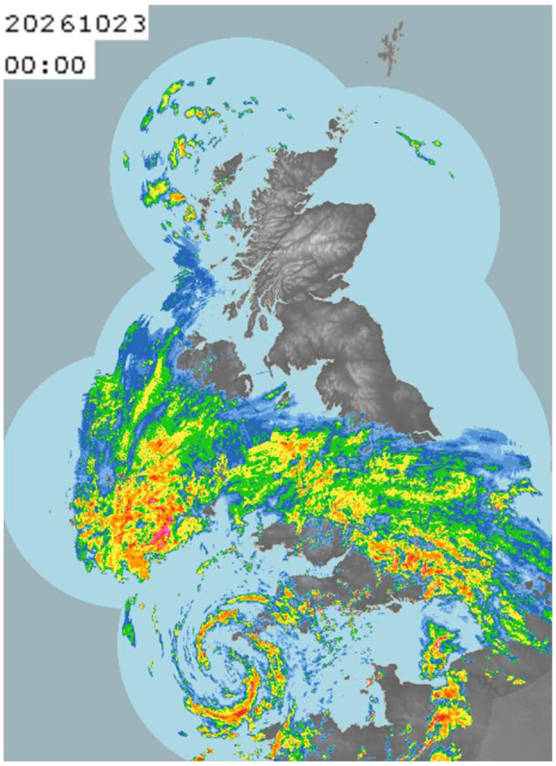


The satellite image below on 24th October captures the deep low-pressure centre of Storm Boelo over the North Atlantic to the northwest of Scotland. Heavy cloud coverage associated with the storm's frontal systems can be seen across the UK, highlighting the extensive area affected by the heavy rainfall. Over the southern part of the North Sea, the remnants of Storm Austen remain visible as it passed across the UK on 23rd October. Image copyright Met Office / NOAA / NASA.

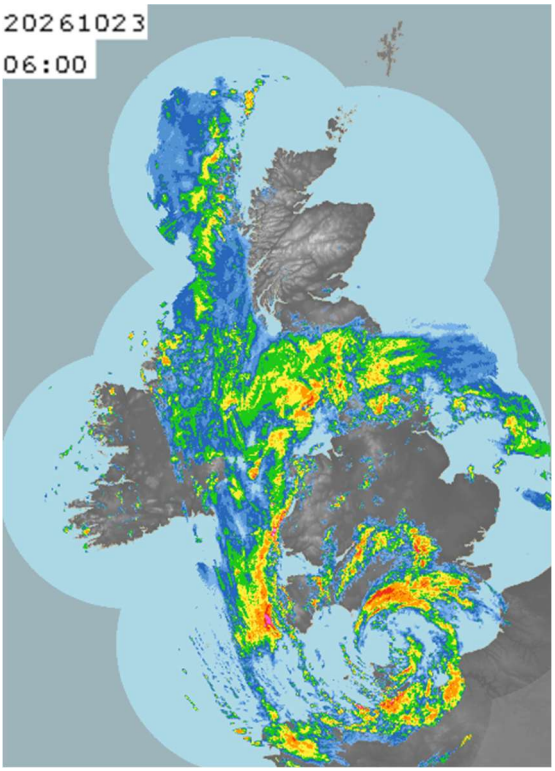


The rain-radar images at 6 hourly intervals from 0000 UTC on 23 October to 1800 UTC on 24 October illustrate the persistent and extensive nature of the rainfall across the UK.

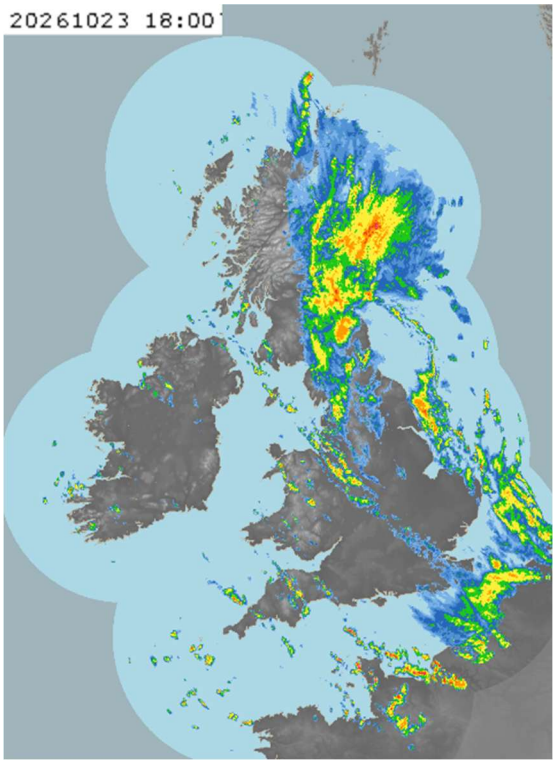
0000 UTC 23rd



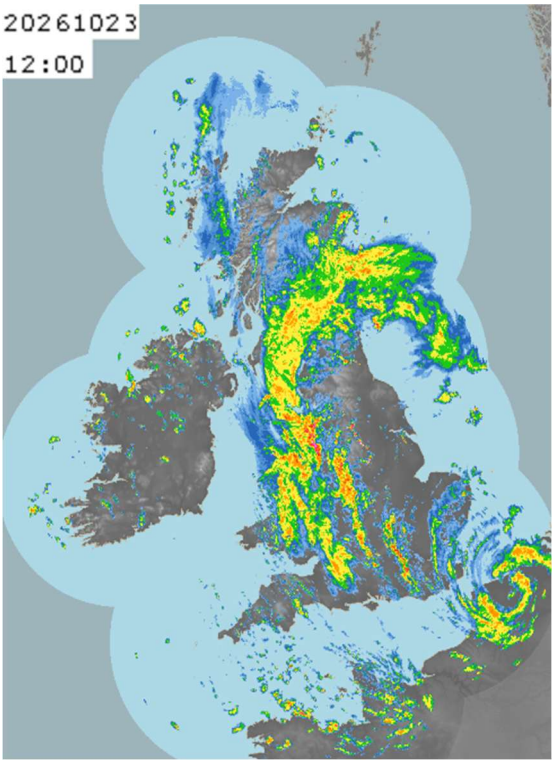

0600 UTC 23rd



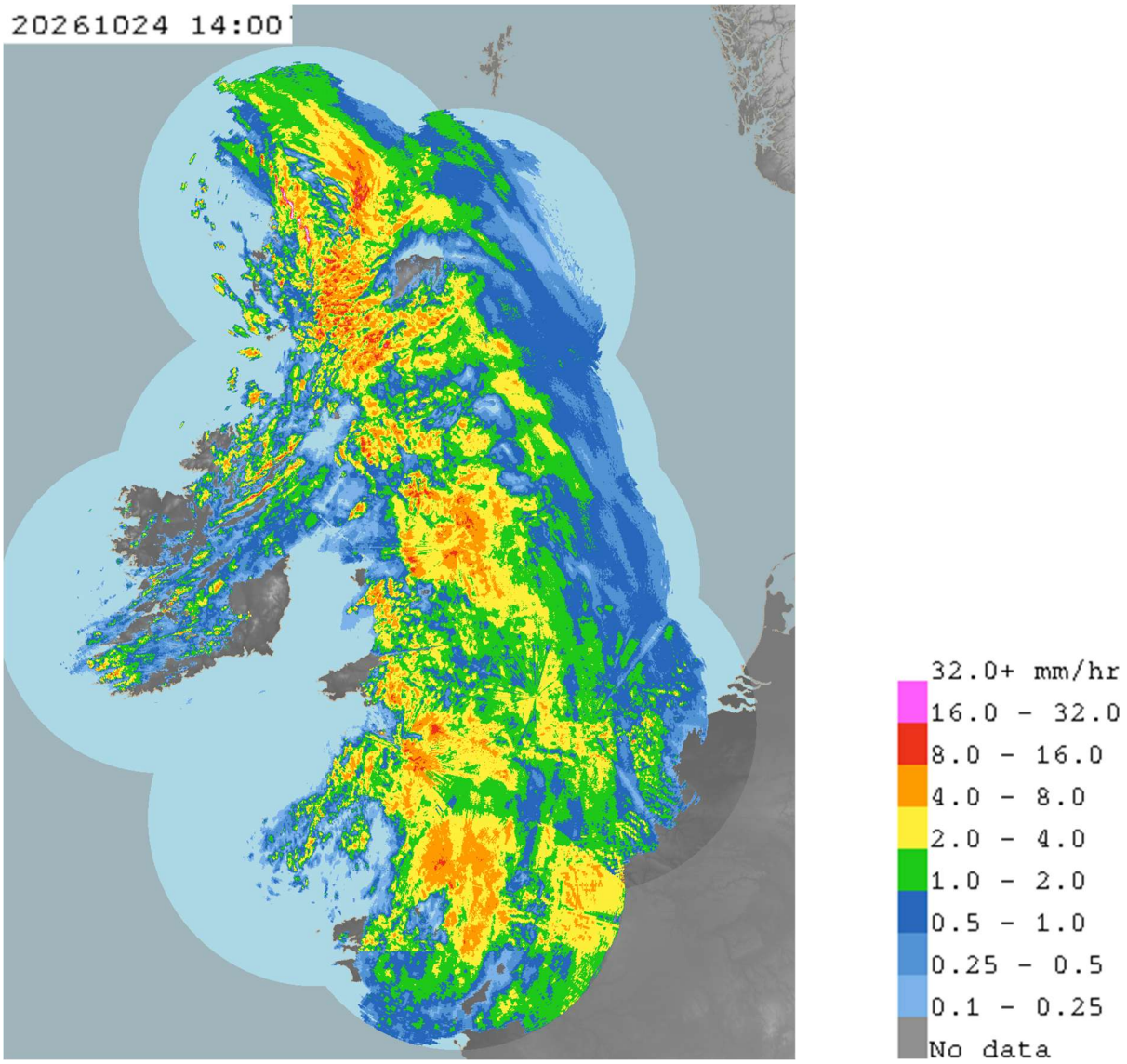

1200 UTC 23rd




1800 UTC 23rd

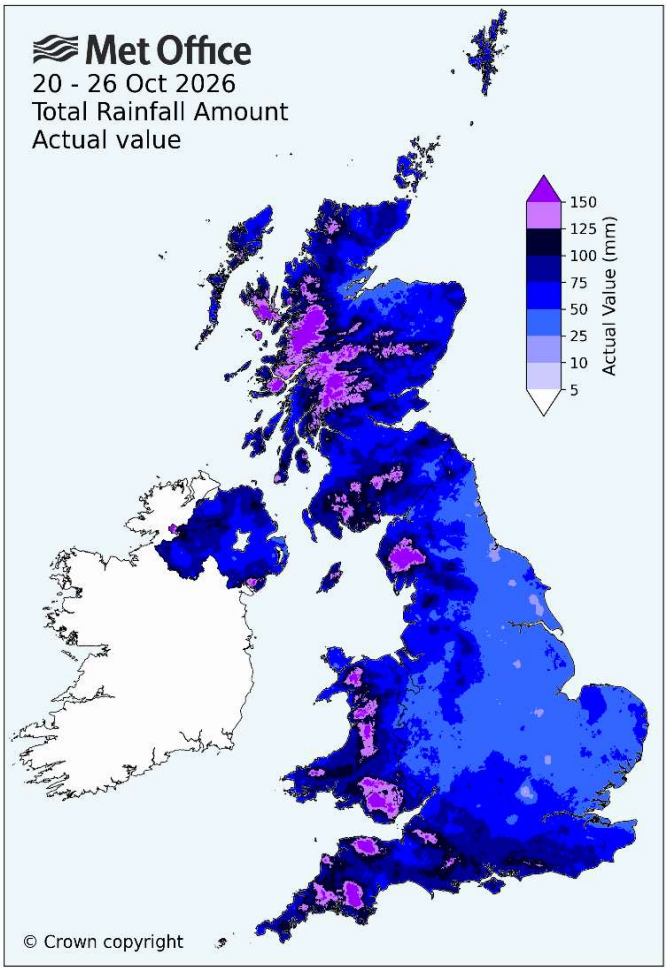


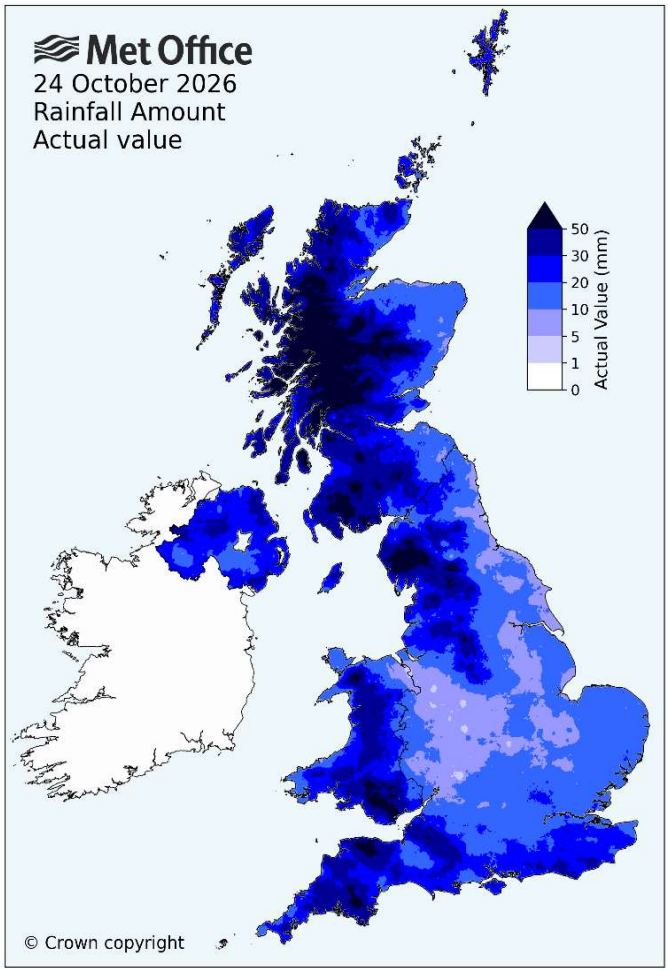
This radar image at 1400 UTC on 24 October 2026 illustrates the widespread and heavy nature of the rainfall associated with storm Boelo across the country. A broad swathe of heavy rainfall extends from south-west England through Wales and north-west England and across most of Scotland, including some particularly heavy rain across upland areas.



The multi-day map below shows accumulated rainfall across the UK over the seven-day period from 20 to 26 October 2026 (0900 UTC 20th to 0900 UTC 27th) covering the period in which both storms Austen and Boelo affected the UK. Accumulations exceeding 75 mm were widespread across western regions, particularly over coastal and upland areas, with some locations receiving over 150mm.

Much of the rainfall during this period fell on the 24th as Boelo swept across the UK, bringing widespread flooding and significant impacts. The map for 24 October shows widespread totals of 30 to 50mm on this day in western and northern areas.



The table below shows the ten wettest days on record for the UK, with 24 October 2026 during storm Boelo, ranking provisionally joint sixth overall with an average rainfall total of 25.9mm in a daily series back to 1891. This made it the wettest day in the UK since 3 October 2020 when storm Alex produced a record 30.2mm. Scotland recorded an average rainfall total of 37.3mm on this date, also provisionally sixth in the daily series.

Six of the UK's ten wettest days on record in this series have occurred during the month of October.

| Date | Rainfall value (mm) | Rank | Named storm |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3rd October 2020 | 30.2 | 1 | Storm Alex |
| 25th August 1986 | 29.9 | 2 | Ex-Hurricane Charley |
| 15th February 2020 | 27.6 | 3 | Storm Dennis |
| 29th October 2000 | 26.4 | 4 | Cyclone Oratia |
| 26th October 1959 | 26.0 | 5 | - |
| **24th October 2026** | **25.9** | **6** | **Storm Boelo** |
| 25th October 1949 | 25.9 | 7 | - |
| 19th September 1981 | 25.2 | 8 | - |
| 3rd October 1938 | 24.7 | 9 | - |
| 23rd April 1971 | 24.5 | 10 | - |

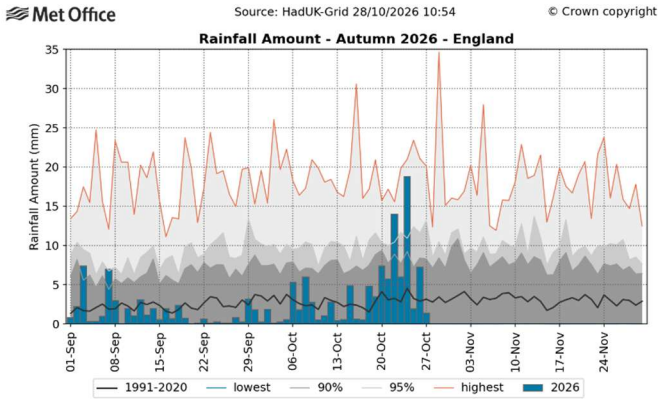
The table below shows selected rainfall totals recorded across some of the wettest parts of the UK on 24 October 2026. Many of the wetter stations were located at relatively high elevations (over 200 m above sea level) with orographic enhancement of rainfall a significant factor. However, some low-lying sites also recorded substantial totals, including 53 mm at Cardiff, Bute Park, over 40% of the October 1991-2020 average for this station.

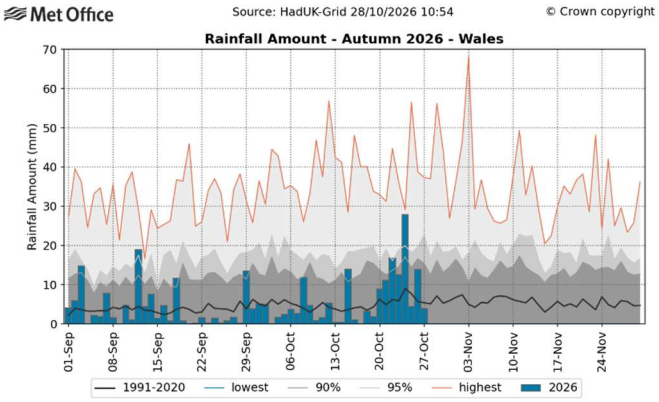
Several stations recorded their wettest October day on record on 24 October 2026, including Dalwhinnie, Inverness-shire (58.6mm, 49 years), Tulloch Bridge (60.6mm, 35 years), Liscombe, Somerset (66.2mm, 33 years) and Charlwood, Surrey (40.2mm, 22 years).

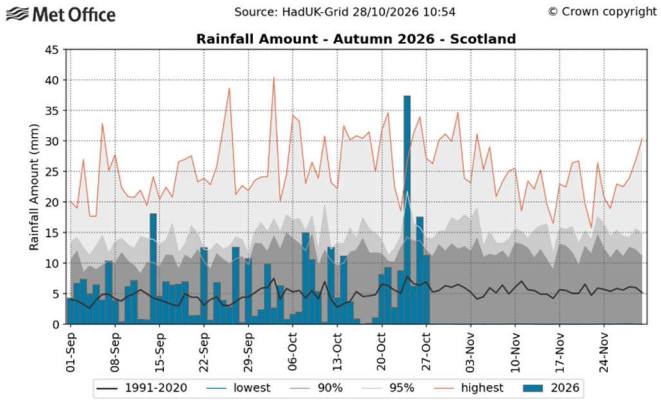
| Station | Elevation (masl) | 24th October 2026 (mm) | October 1991-2020 average (mm) | % of average |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tyndrum, Perthshire | 168 | 78.0 | 274.7 | 28% |
| Benmore Botanic Garden, Argyll | 12 | 72.7 | 268.6 | 27% |
| Achnagart, Ross & Cromarty | 15 | 72.0 | 325.7 | 22% |
| Liscombe, Somerset * | 348 | 66.2 | 154.5 | 43% |
| Shap, Cumbria | 263 | 65.6 | 184.9 | 36% |
| Tulloch Bridge, Inverness-shire * | 249 | 60.6 | 191.2 | 32% |
| Dalwhinnie, Inverness-shire * | 351 | 58.6 | 136.1 | 43% |
| Ardtornish, Argyll | 23 | 57.0 | - | - |
| Threave, Kirkcudbrightshire | 73 | 54.2 | 150.3 | 36% |
| Cardiff, Bute Park, South Glamorgan | 9 | 53.0 | 129.1 | 41% |

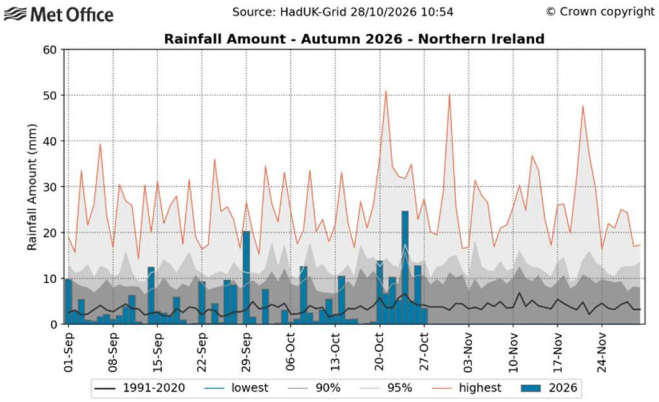
** October daily rainfall record broken*

The charts below show daily rainfall totals through autumn 2026 for the four countries of the UK. These highlight the persistent wet weather between 20th and 26th. This is particularly evident in Scotland where rainfall on 24 October stands out at over 35mm.

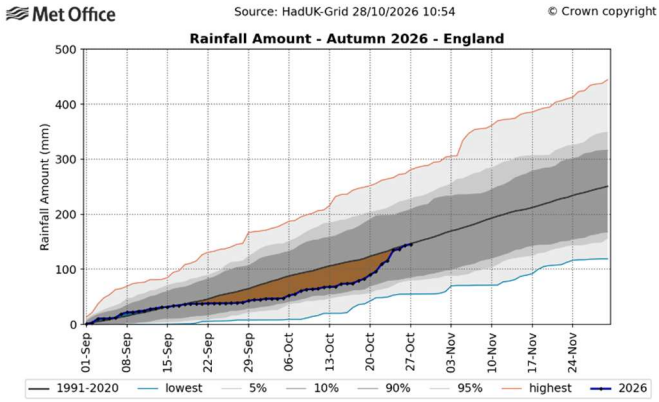


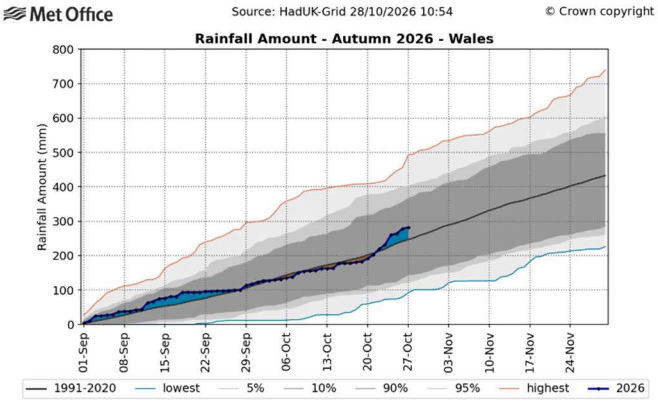



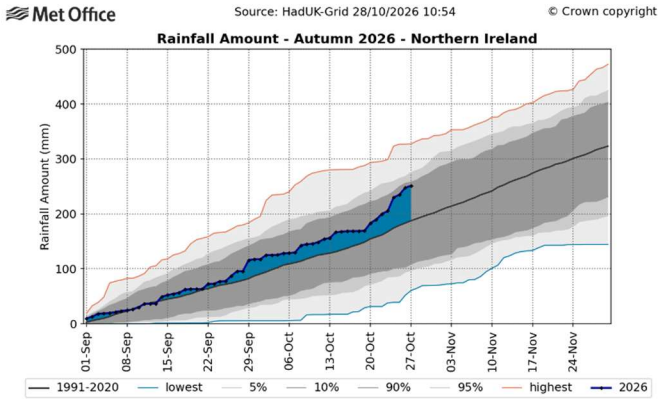



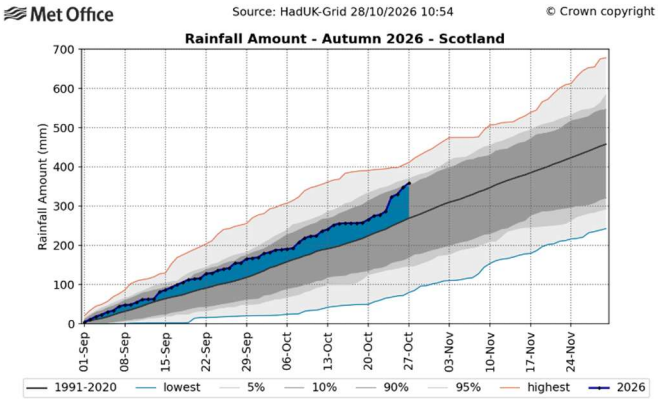



The charts below show cumulative rainfall totals through autumn 2026 for the four countries of the UK. Following a notably dry period, particularly across England where autumn rainfall was below average, the period of wet weather from 20 to 26 October produced a marked increase in cumulative totals, as shown by the change in gradient. For Scotland and Northern Ireland, the additional rainfall from storm *Austen* and *Boelo* further contributed to what was already a fairly wet autumn so far.



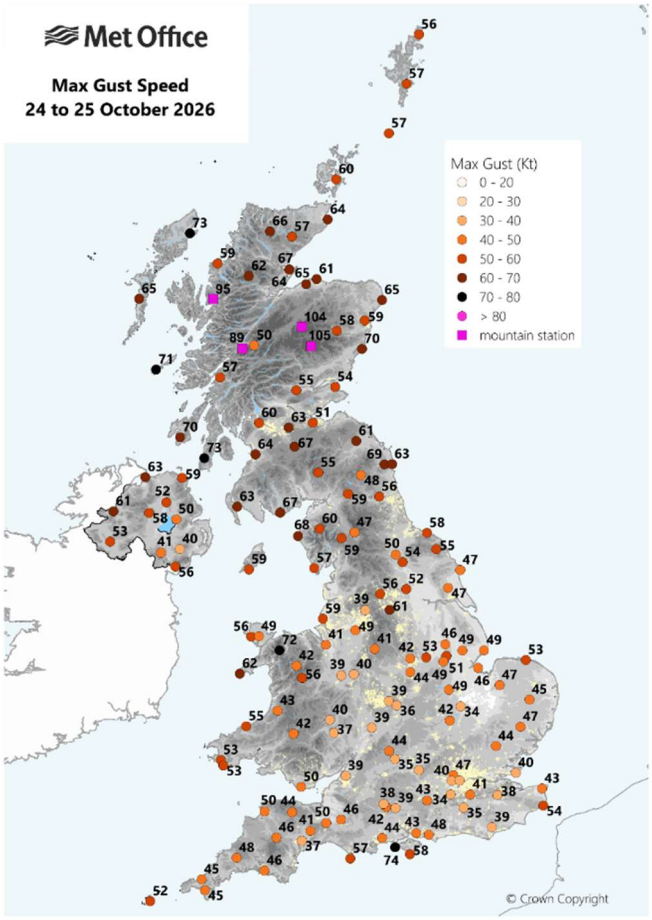



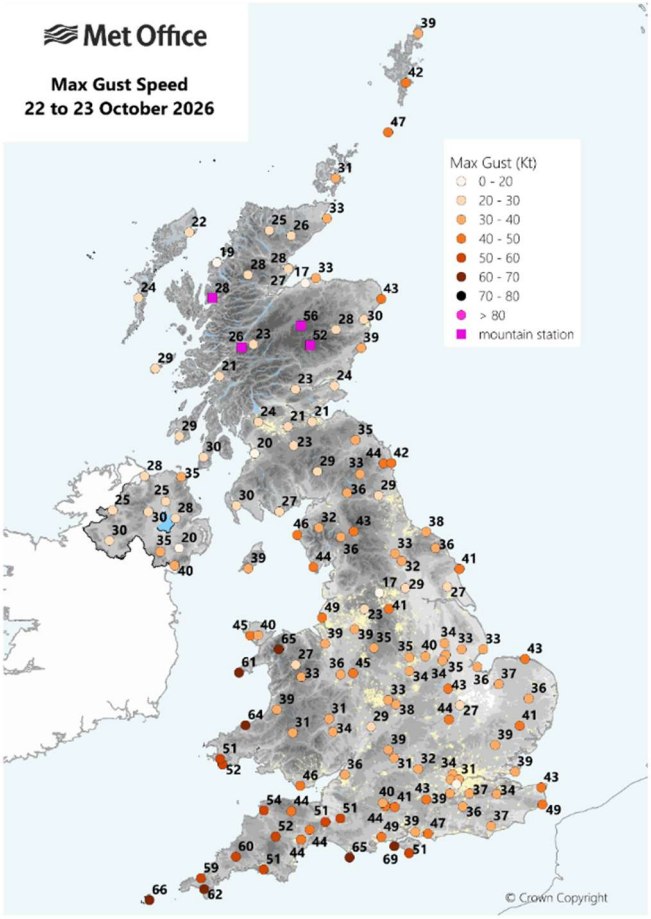



The maps below show the maximum wind gusts recorded across the UK during storms Austen and Boelo. Storm Austen, on 22 to 23 October, brought the strongest winds to southern England and Wales, with gusts exceeding 60 Kt (69mph) along exposed parts of the south coast and in west Wales.

Storm Boelo produced widespread strong winds across the UK, particularly in northern areas. The most extreme gusts were recorded over Scotland’s mountain summits, where speeds exceeded 100 Kt (115mph) at the height of the storm.




Stephen Packman, Met Office National Climate Information Centre

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