February 2026 Monthly Weather Report

This document provides a summary of the UK's weather and climate statistics for February 2026.

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UK overview

February saw a continuation of the wet conditions that dominated January, with unsettled weather, persistent rain and temperatures around average. In the first half of the month, a south-shifted and stronger than usual jet stream funnelled frontal systems towards the UK, and a block of cold air over Scandinavia prevented them from progressing eastwards. The blocking air shifted in the second half of the month, allowing a more typical westerly flow over the UK, but the weather remained unsettled. Not all areas saw extensive rainfall, however, with northwest Scotland particularly dry due to a pronounced rain-shadow effect. Temperatures were around average to slightly below average at times, but increased in the last week of the month, reaching 18.7°C in Kew Gardens (London) on the 25th. However, the wet conditions remained for the entirety of the month.

It was a wet month for many, with some counties including Angus, Dorset and Worcestershire seeing more than the full month's average rainfall within the first 14 days of the month. By the end of the month, the UK had provisionally recorded 123% of the long-term average February rainfall and England had seen 170% of the average, although neither broke any records. There were strong regional variations, with Scotland and particularly western Scotland experiencing below average rainfall. Worcestershire provisionally saw its wettest February on record, and Leicestershire saw its second wettest. All counties in Northern Ireland recorded above average rainfall, with County Down provisionally seeing its seventh wettest February on record as well as a new February highest daily rainfall record for Northern Ireland on the 5th, with 140mm of rainfall recorded at Trassey Slievenaman. Temperatures were variable, with a few colder spells mid-month before a milder spell in the last few days of February. The UK's mean temperature was provisionally 1.5°C above the long-term average, and England was even warmer: 2.1°C above the average. Scotland and Northern Ireland saw temperatures closer to average, with provisional anomalies of 0.6°C and 0.8°C respectively. Sunshine, unsurprisingly, was in short supply in February - the UK overall provisionally recorded just 41.6 hours of sunshine, 58% of the long-term average and the fourth dullest February on record. Wales provisionally recorded its dullest February with just 35.1 hours of sunshine.

Reference climatology used for calculating anomalies is the period 1991-2020 unless otherwise stated.

Weather impacts

- **Persistent rain across southern and central England led to road damage, surface flooding and travel disruption**

February continued January's pattern of weather, with a persistent cyclonic east to southeasterly regime in place bringing mostly unsettled conditions with a little sleet/snow at times over the higher ground of northern England and Scotland. Two short colder interludes in the period between the 11th and 19th were followed by a return to often unsettled weather for the remainder of the month, the big difference being the collapse of the block over Scandinavia/Europe that had maintained the southeasterly pattern for so long. Instead, conditions returned to the typical winter southwesterly pattern with a more climatological storm track. In sharp contrast to December and January, there were no amber warnings issued throughout the month and no named storms, despite the often unsettled nature of the month's weather.

The lack of any sustained high pressure made for another largely wetter than average month across central and southern England, eastern Scotland and southeast Northern Ireland. The 5th was a record-breaking day for Trassey Slievenaman in County Down where a new February daily rainfall record of 140mm was recorded. By contrast, northern and western Scotland were drier than average in a repeat of January's pattern. Mean temperatures were above average across most of the country and it was a particularly dull month nationwide with less than 50% of the average sunshine recorded across the middle third of the UK.

The first few days of February saw the south of England experience impacts from rain, with reports of road flooding from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight on the 1st. Mobile homes in Sandown on the Isle of Wight were evacuated due to rising floodwater. The morning of the 3rd saw the A379 coastal road between Torcross and Slapton in Devon reportedly closed after sections of the road broke up in the wake of storm damage to sea defences back in January. The 3rd was one of the colder days of the month and the rain turned to heavy snow for a time in and around Luton with the airport reportedly closed for a period to allow clearance of snow and slush from the runway. The 4th saw strong easterly winds and reports of minor coastal flooding in Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire. On the same day, Scottish premier league games in Aberdeen and Dundee were called off due to waterlogged pitches. The 5th saw widespread rainfall across England, Wales and Northern Ireland with exceptionally persistent rain affecting parts of County Down, though with surprisingly few reported impacts. Also on the 5th, the A29 in West Sussex was reported as having been closed for several days due to ongoing flooding; the regularity of the rain in the opening days of the month prevented floodwater from fully draining from the location. The 8th saw reports of road and park flooding in Stafford after three successive days of significant rainfall.

Various low and medium impact yellow rain warnings were issued right across the UK during the first ten days of the month in response to the ongoing unsettled conditions.

Somewhat colder air spread southwards between the 11th and 19th with precipitation taking the form of sleet and snow at time, especially across Scotland and the higher ground of northern England. Several low impact snow and ice warnings were issued within this period, though impacts were mostly limited to a few temporary road closures. Milder southwesterly conditions became established on the 20th with the majority of the rainfall now focussed across northern and western areas. No further warnings were required during the last nine days of the month. The 24th and 25th were exceptionally mild/warm across the southeastern half of England. It turned briefly unsettled again at the end of the month and on the night of the 27th/28th heavy rain was observed across parts of the northeast Midlands with some property flooding reported from across Leicestershire.

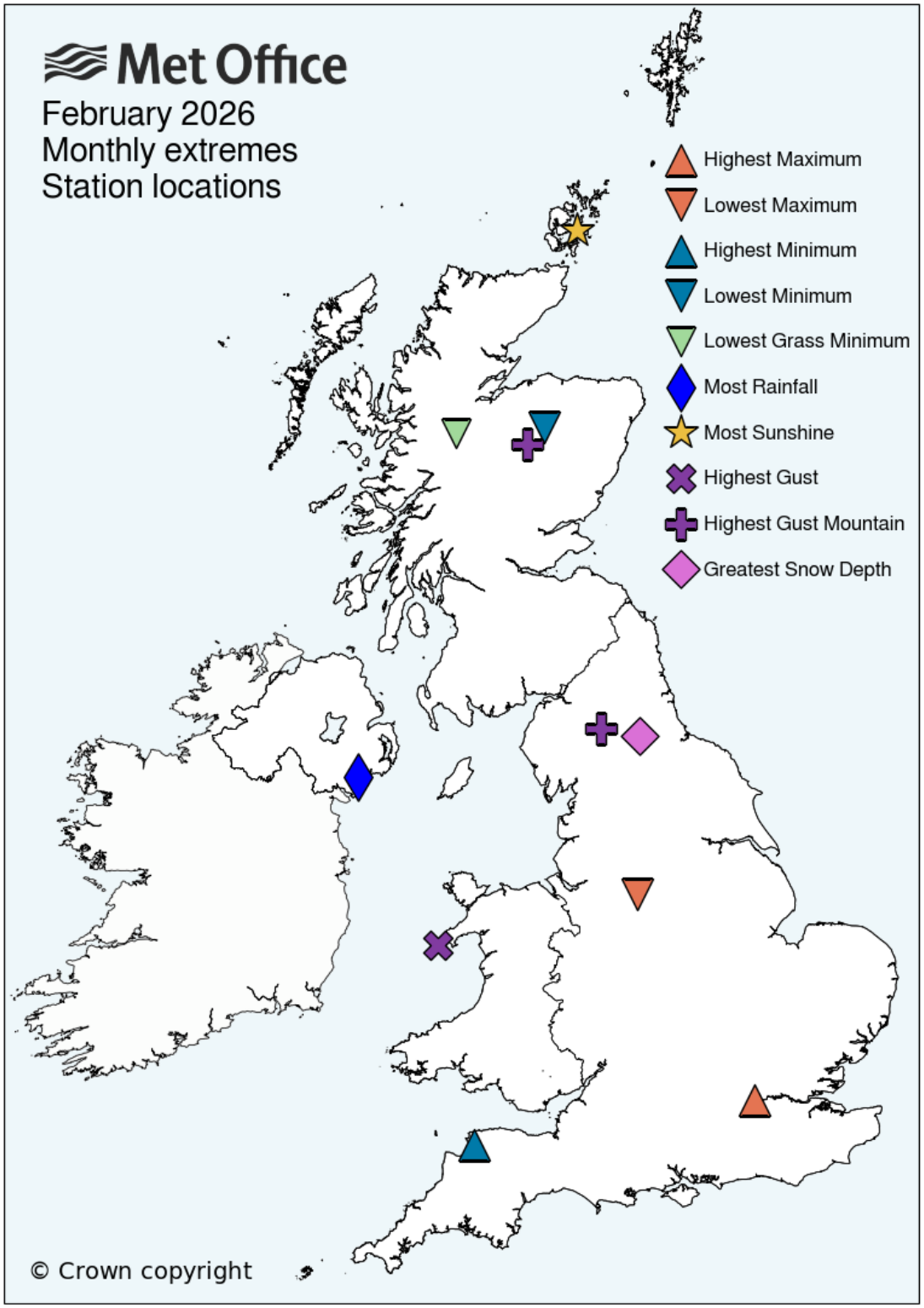
Monthly extremes

The table below lists UK monthly weather extremes recorded at individual weather stations during February 2026 from data available on 03/03/2026. The map shows the location of these stations.

Highest Maximum	**18.7°C** on **25th** at Kew Gardens (Greater London, 6mAMSL)
Lowest Maximum	**0.5°C** on **3rd** at Buxton (Derbyshire, 307mAMSL)
Highest Minimum	**11.0°C** on **22nd** at Chivenor (Devon, 6mAMSL)
Lowest Minimum	**-10.0°C** on **18th** at Tomintoul No 6 (Banffshire, 320mAMSL)
Lowest Grass Minimum	**-15.0°C** on **13th** at Dundreggan Rewilding Centre (Inverness-shire, 123mAMSL)
Most Rainfall	**140.0mm** on **5th** at Trassey Slievenaman (Down, 220mAMSL)
Most Sunshine	**9.6hr** on **28th** at Kirkwall (Orkney, 26mAMSL)
Highest Gust	**57Kt 66mph** on **20th** at Aberdaron (Gwynedd, 86mAMSL)
Highest Gust (mountain*)	**78Kt 90mph** on **5th** at Great Dun Fell No 2 (Cumbria, 847mAMSL) also on **26th** at Cairngorm Summit (Inverness-shire, 1237mAMSL)
Greatest Snow Depth at 0900 UTC	**16cm** on **13th** at Copley (Durham, 253mAMSL)

mAMSL refers to station elevation in metres above mean sea level.

*Mountain stations are above 500mAMSL.


Met Office
February 2026
Monthly extremes
Station locations
Highest Maximum
Lowest Maximum
Highest Minimum
Lowest Minimum
Lowest Grass Minimum
Most Rainfall
Most Sunshine
Highest Gust
Highest Gust Mountain
Greatest Snow Depth
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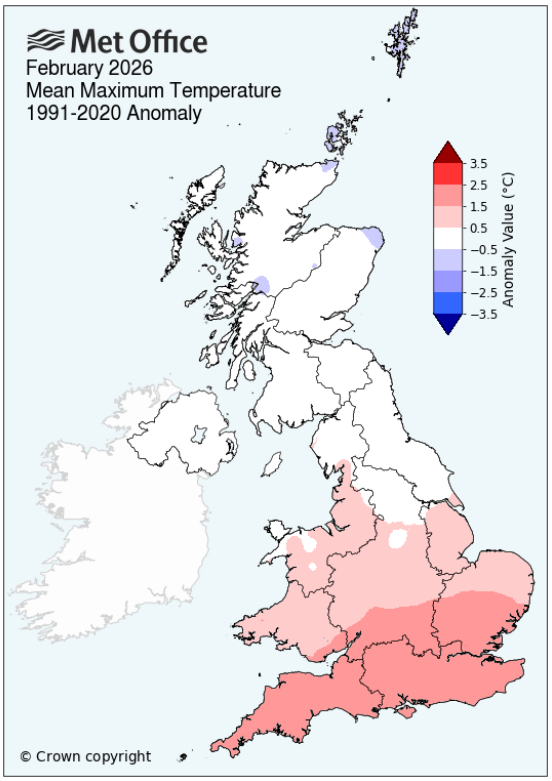
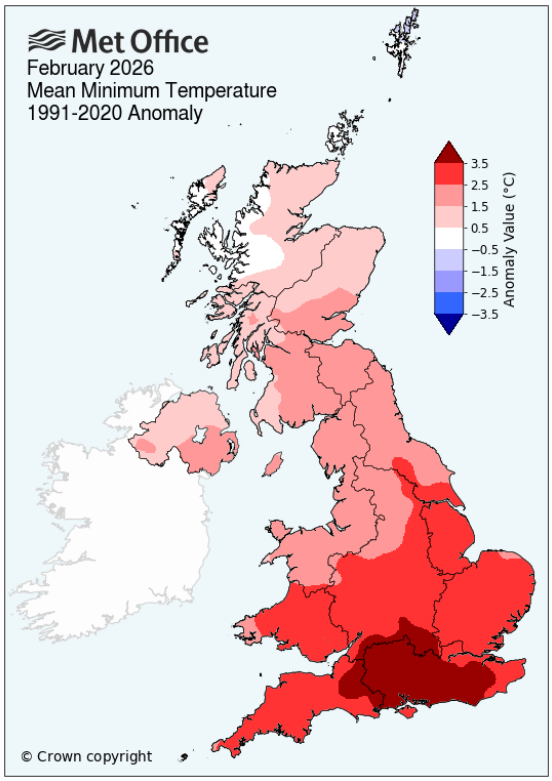
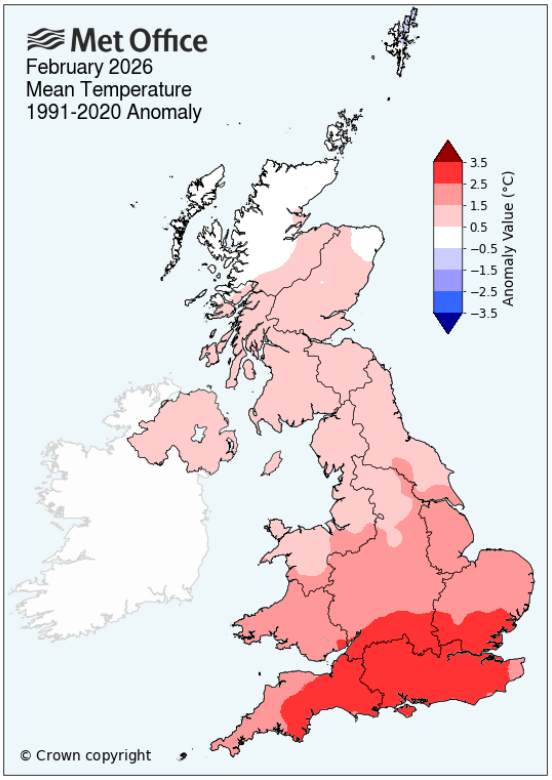
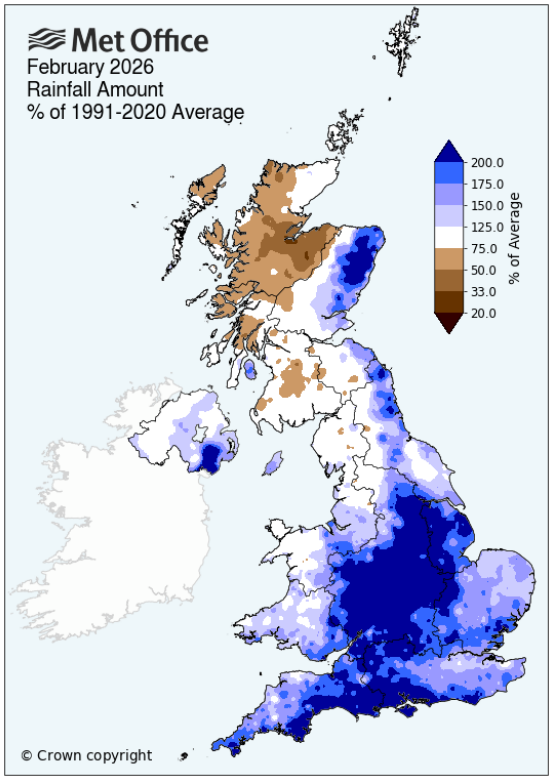
Monthly maps

These maps show monthly average daily maximum, monthly average daily minimum and monthly mean temperature and monthly rainfall for February 2026 as anomalies relative to the February 1991-2020 long term average.

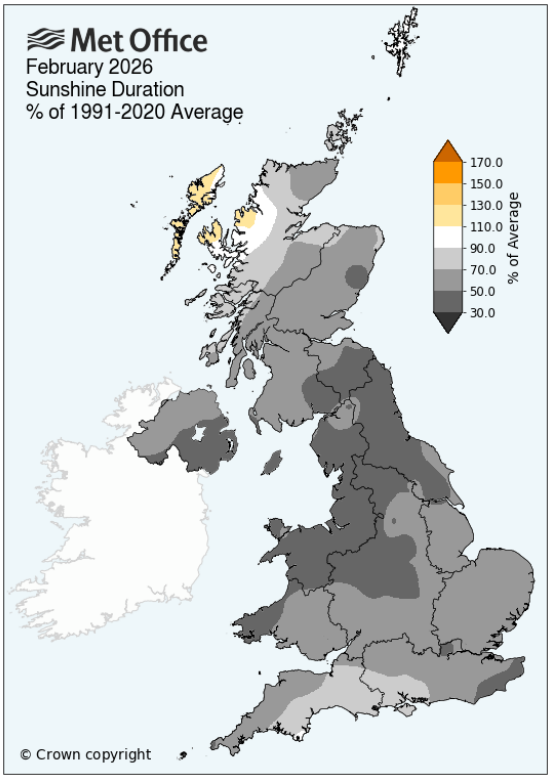


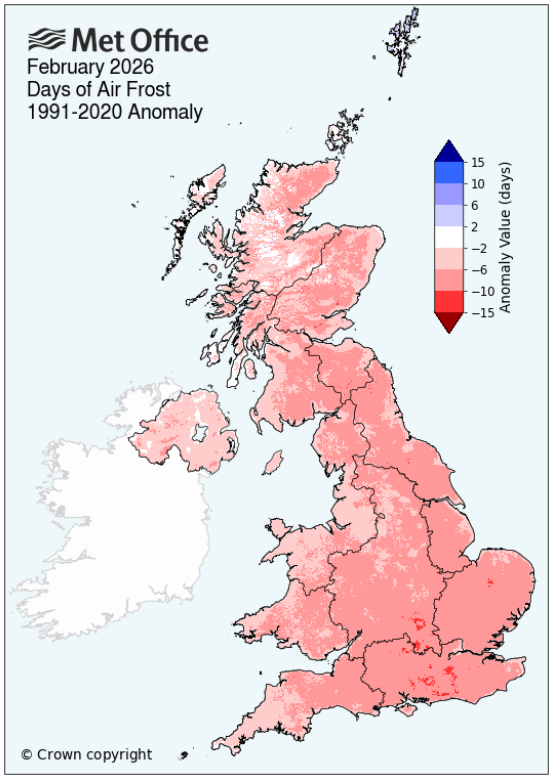


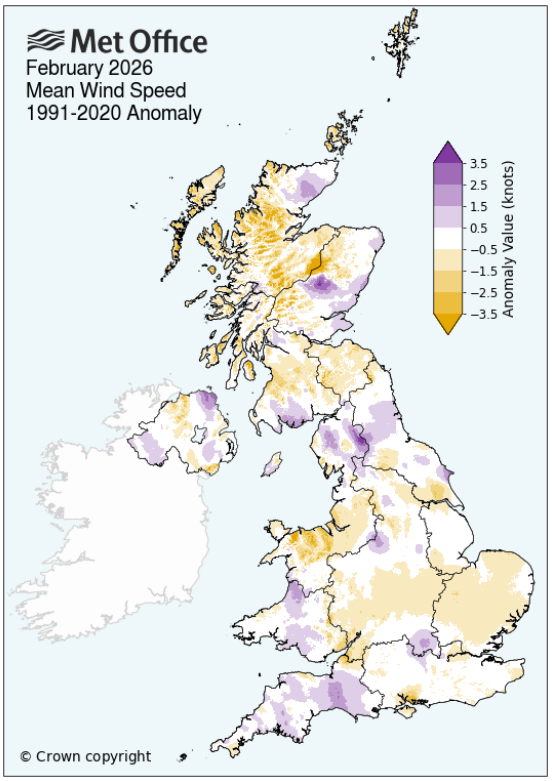


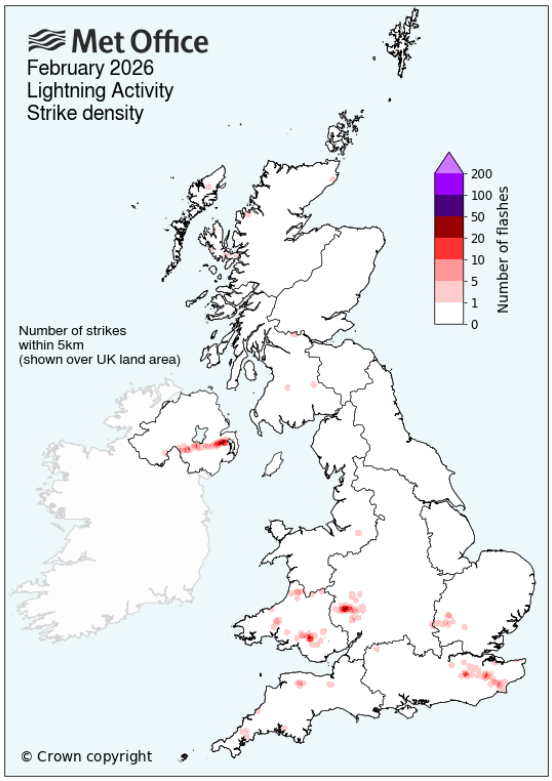


These maps show monthly sunshine, monthly air frost and monthly windspeed for February 2026 as anomalies relative to the February 1991-2020 long term average, plus a map showing lightning activity as the number of strikes within a 5km radius of any land location.









Monthly climate statistics - actuals and anomalies

These tables show the UK and national climate statistics for February 2026 for max, min and mean temperature, rainfall, sunshine and windspeed as actual values and anomalies relative to the February 1991-2020 long term average. The position of the value within the full series (in both ascending and descending order) is shown in the two 'Rank' columns. Central England Temperature (CET) and England & Wales Precipitation (EWP) are also included.

Mean maximum temperature

Region	Maxtemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	7.9	0.7	28	116	143
England	9.0	1.2	18	126	143
Wales	8.3	1.0	22	122	143
Scotland	5.9	-0.1	53	91	143
Northern Ireland	8.0	0.2	49	95	143
Central England	9.5	1.4	17	133	149

Mean minimum temperature

Region	Mintemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	3.4	2.2	3	141	143
England	4.4	2.9	2	142	143
Wales	4.1	2.5	3	141	143
Scotland	1.4	1.2	15	129	143
Northern Ireland	3.0	1.5	15	129	143
Central England	4.9	2.9	2	148	149

Mean temperature

Region	Meantemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	5.6	1.5	9	135	143
England	6.7	2.1	4	140	143
Wales	6.2	1.8	6	138	143
Scotland	3.7	0.6	30	114	143
Northern Ireland	5.5	0.8	24	120	143
Central England	7.2	2.2	6	363	368

Rainfall

Region	Rainfall (mm)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - wettest	Rank - driest	Series length (yrs)
UK	118.6	123	26	166	191
England	112.5	170	15	177	191
Wales	162.6	135	34	158	191
Scotland	116.5	83	87	105	191
Northern Ireland	119.4	130	27	165	191
EWP (England and Wales)	123.1	170	17	245	261

Sunshine

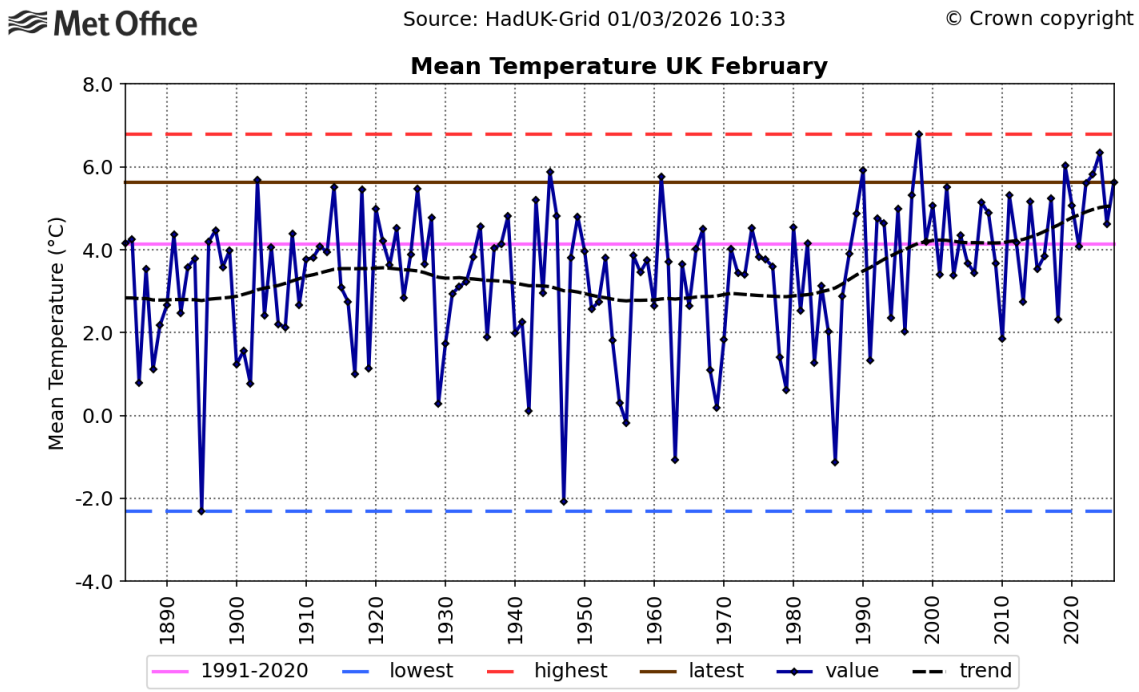
Region	Sunshine (hours)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - sunniest	Rank - dullest	Series length (yrs)
UK	41.6	58	114	4	117
England	43.0	55	111	7	117
Wales	35.1	51	117	1	117
Scotland	42.5	67	111	7	117
Northern Ireland	33.7	50	113	5	117

Windspeed

Region	Windspeed (knots)	1991-2020 Anomaly (knots)	Rank - windiest	Rank - calmest	Series length (yrs)
UK	10.4	-0.3	31	28	58
England	9.4	-0.2	28	31	58
Wales	11.2	-0.2	26	33	58
Scotland	12.1	-0.6	33	26	58
Northern Ireland	10.0	0.1	30	29	58

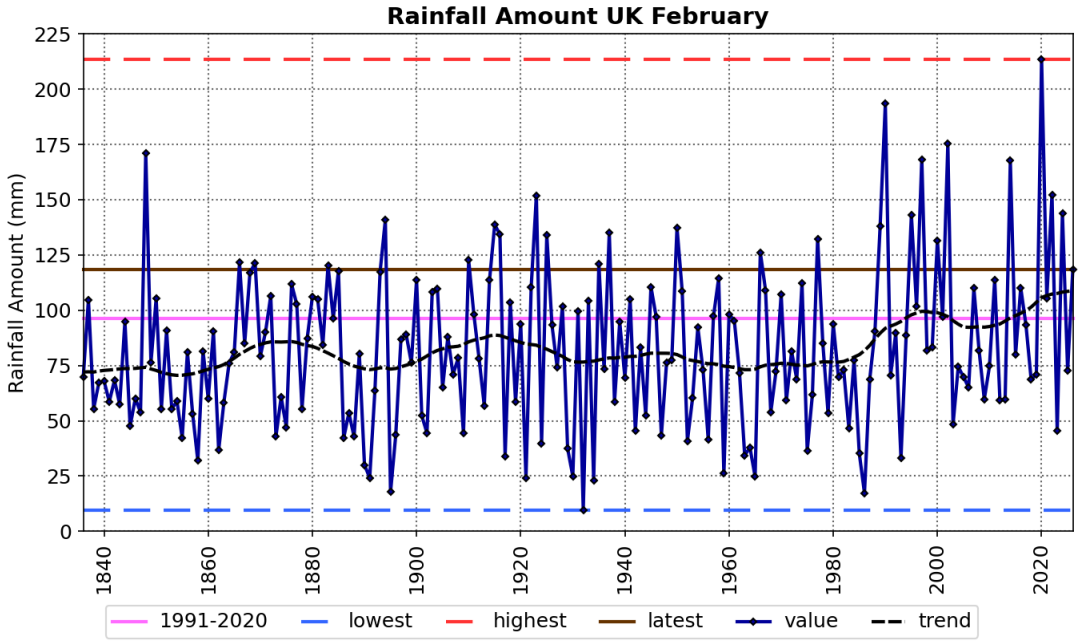
Monthly time-series

These charts show time-series for the UK for February for monthly mean temperature (from 1884), monthly rainfall (from 1836) and monthly sunshine (from 1919). The brown line shows the latest (2026) value. The hatched black line is a smoothing filter which shows the long-term trend. The tables below show statistics for the latest year, latest 10 years 2017-2026, the most recent 30-year climate reference period 1991-2020 and the 30-year baseline climate reference period 1961-1990.



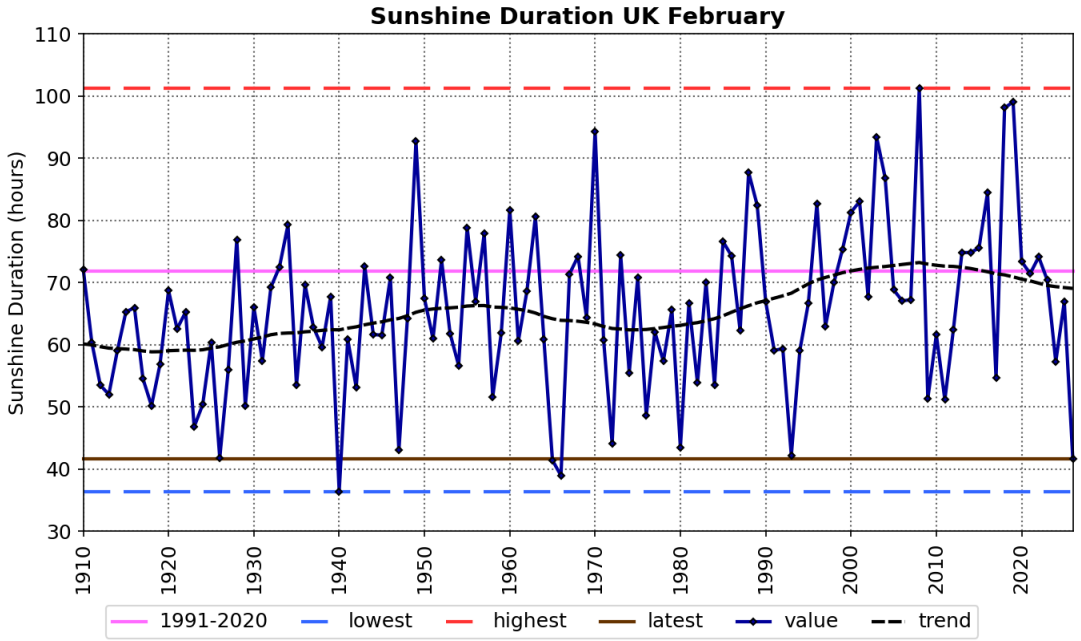
Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Meantemp (°C)	3.0	4.1	5.1	5.6

Met Office Source: HadUK-Grid 01/03/2026 10:33 © Crown copyright



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Rainfall (mm)	77.5	96.2	108.5	118.6

Met Office Source: HadUK-Grid 01/03/2026 10:33 © Crown copyright

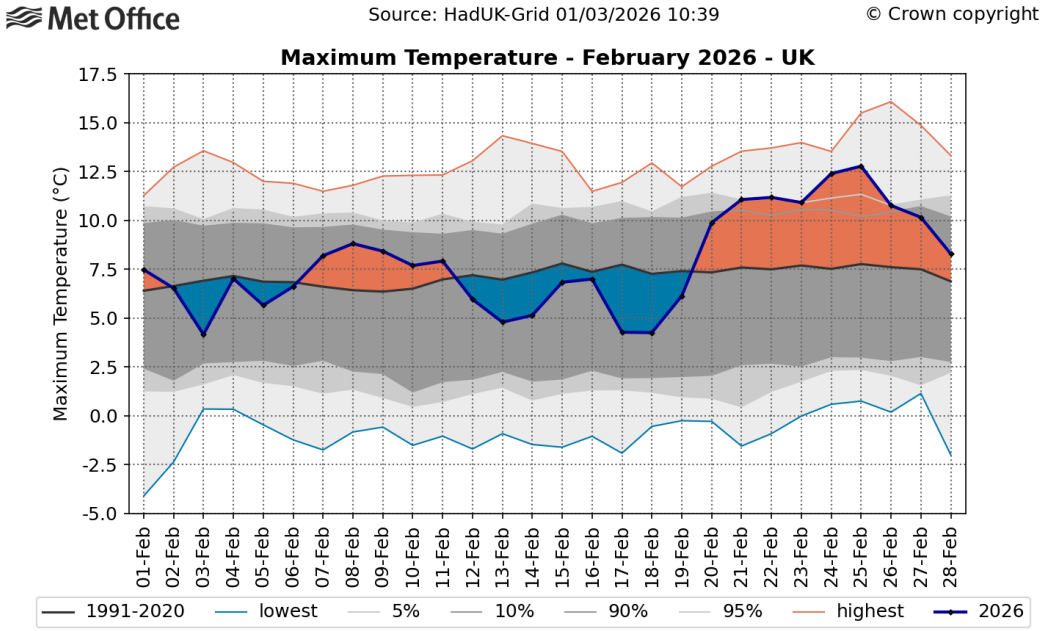


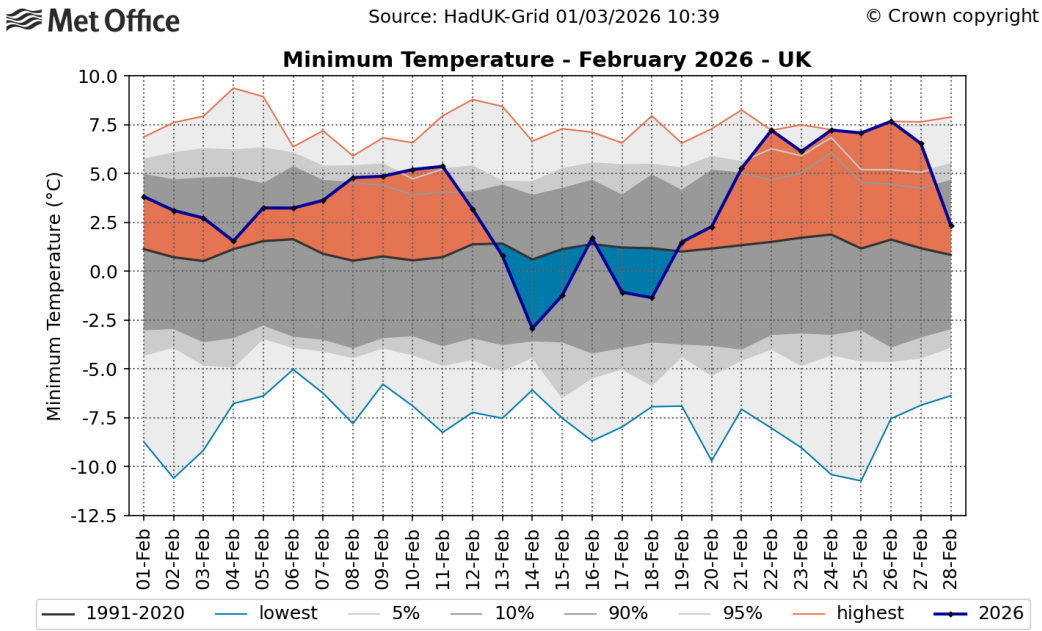
Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Sunshine (hours)	64.4	71.9	70.7	41.6

Daily time-series

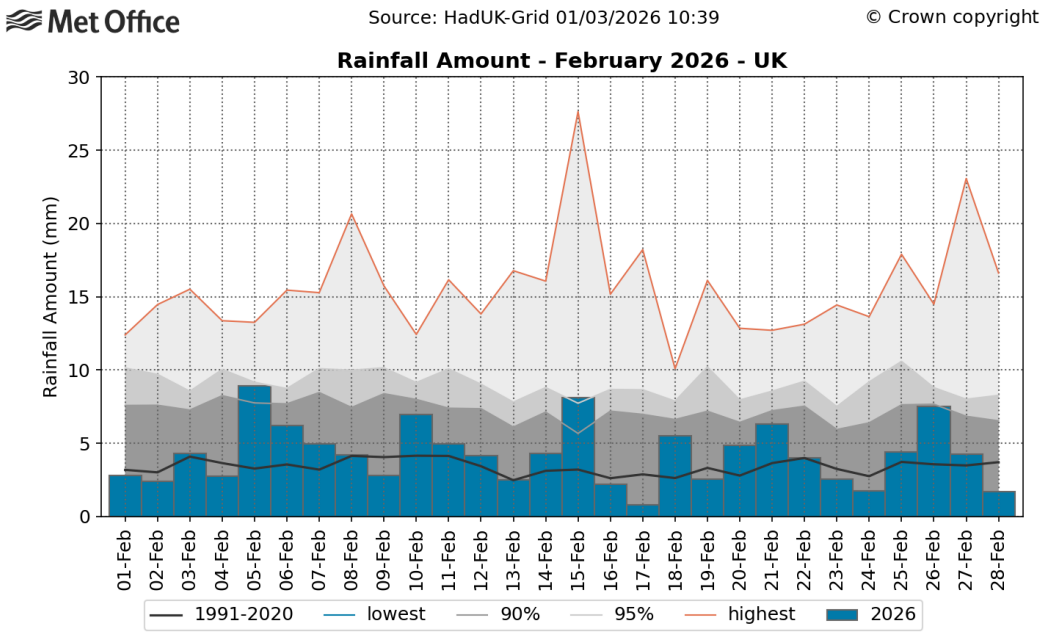
These charts show time-series of UK area-average daily maximum and daily minimum temperature and daily rainfall for each day of February 2026. The areas shaded in grey show the highest and lowest values in the daily temperature series (from 1960) and daily rainfall series (from 1891) together with percentiles and the 1991-2020 long term averages for each day. The rainfall accumulation chart shows the daily rainfall series as an accumulation through the month.

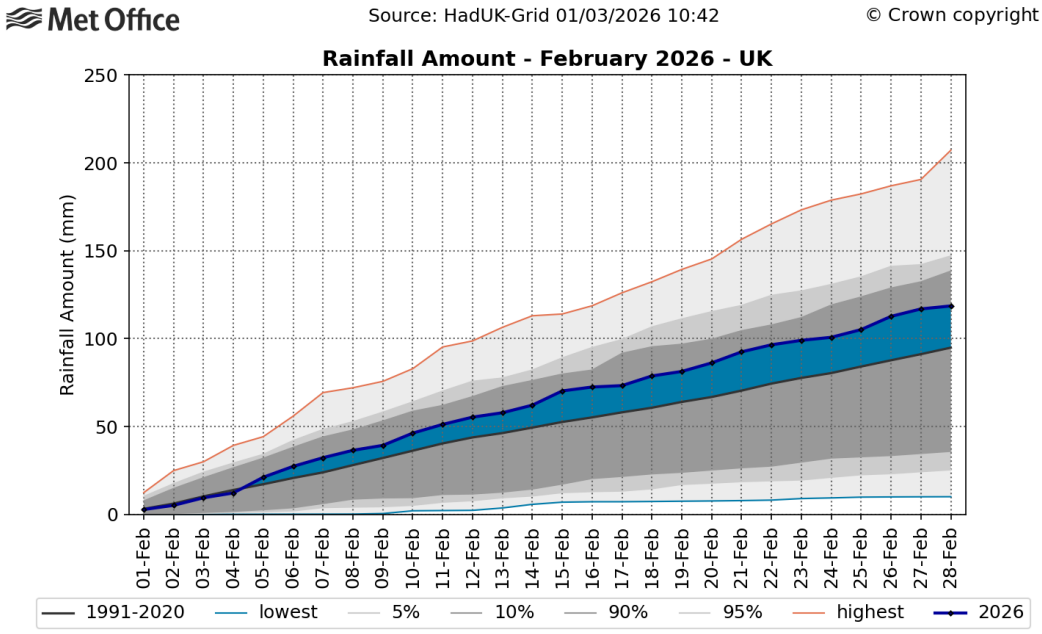
Daily maximum and daily minimum temperature





Daily rainfall and rainfall accumulation

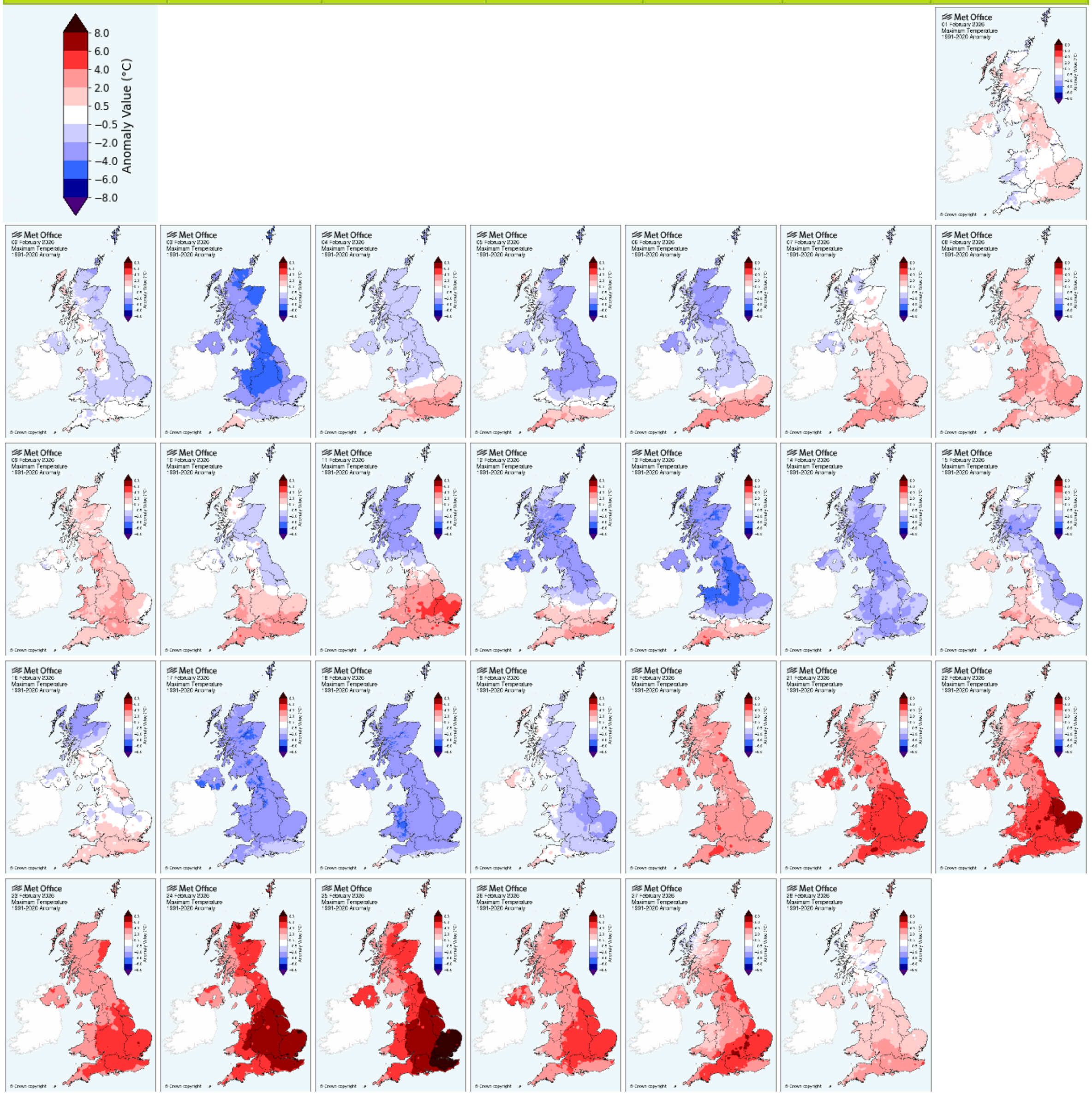




Daily maximum temperature maps - calendar view

These maps show daily maximum temperatures for each day of February 2026 as anomalies relative to the February 1991-2020 long term average. The daily maximum temperature is the maximum from 0900UTC on the day in question to 0900UTC the following day. Normally, the maximum occurs in the early afternoon.

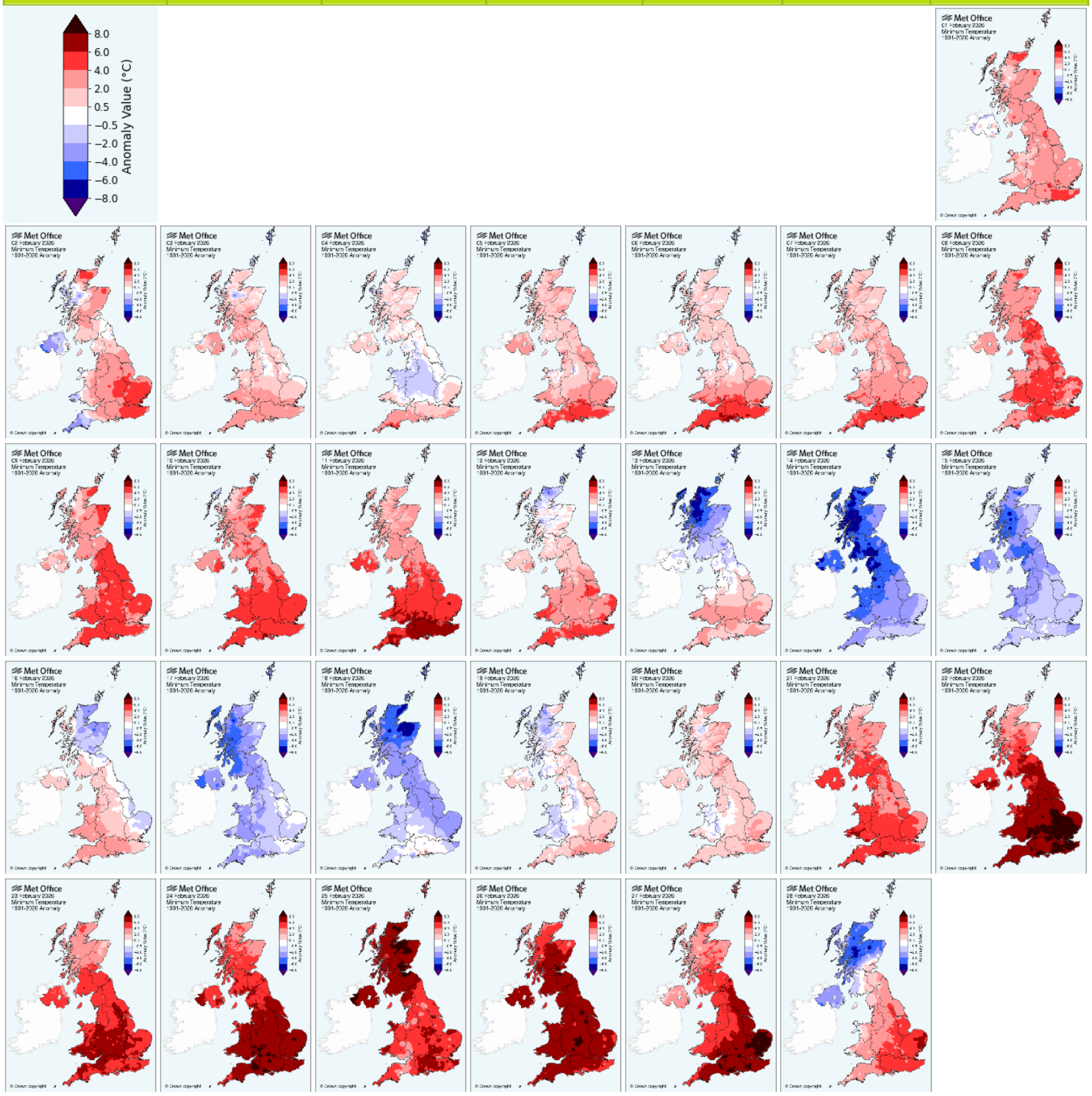
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun



Daily minimum temperature maps - calendar view

These maps show daily minimum temperatures for each day of February 2026 as anomalies relative to the February 1991-2020 long term average. The daily minimum temperature is the minimum from 0900UTC the previous day to 0900UTC on the day in question. Normally, the minimum occurs in the early morning.

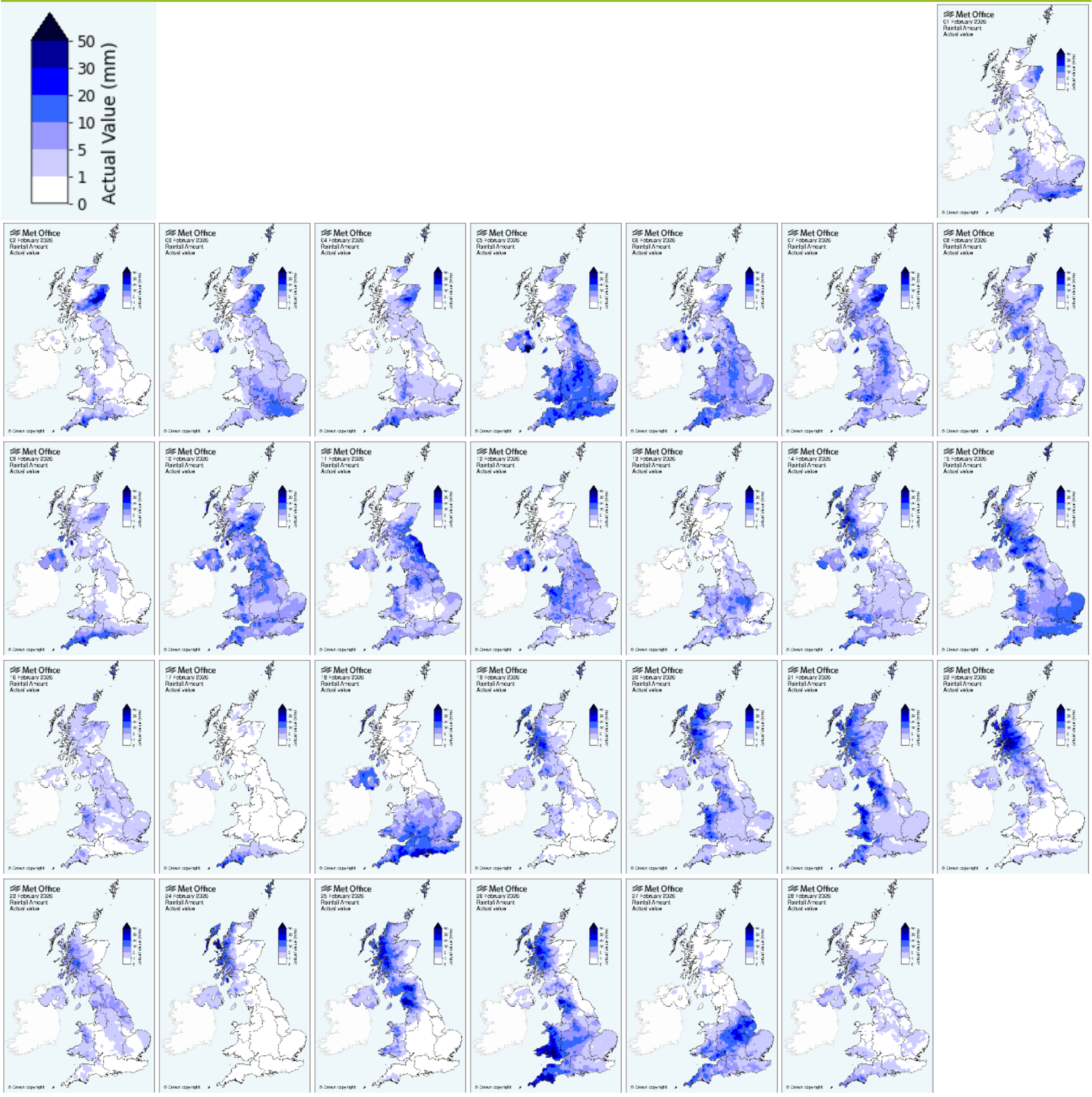
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun



Daily rainfall maps - calendar view

These maps show daily rainfall for each day of February 2026 as daily totals. The daily rainfall is the total from 0900UTC on the day in question to 0900UTC the following day.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

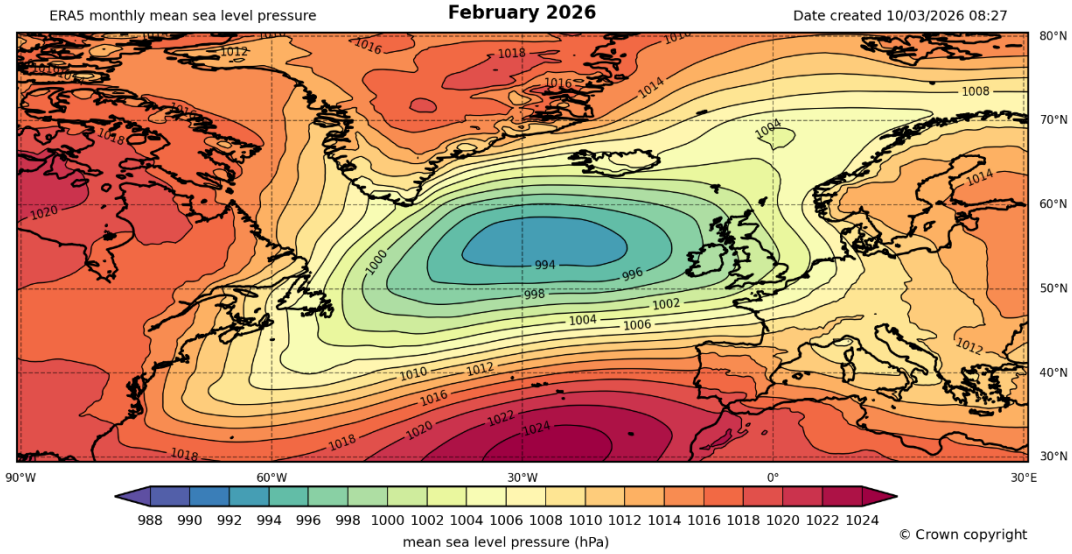


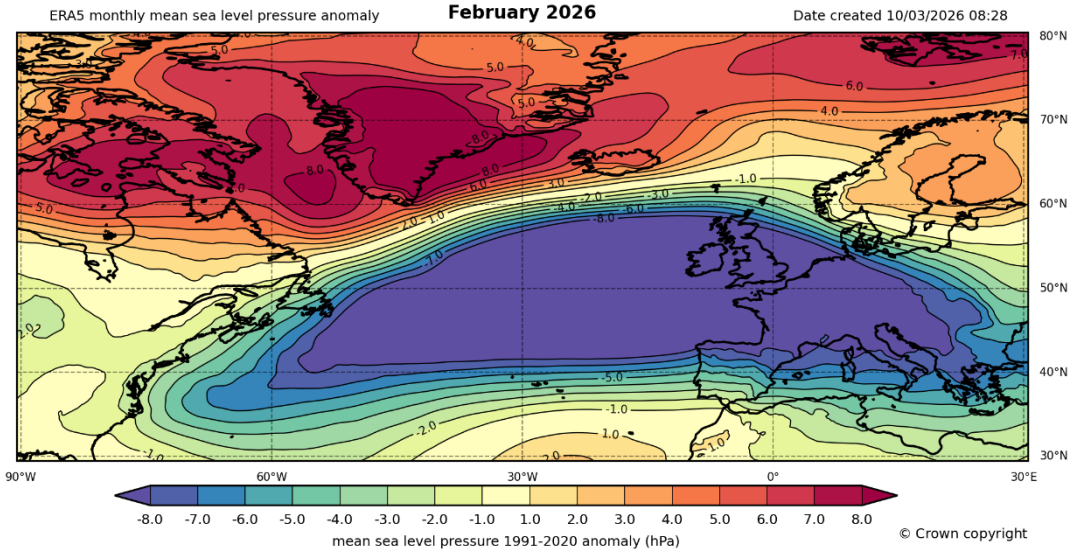
Monthly atmospheric circulation

Mean sea level pressure

These charts show the monthly mean sea level pressure for February 2026 for the UK and north Atlantic, based on the ERA5 reanalysis (Hersbach et al, 2019), both as actual values and as an anomaly relative to the February long term average. These charts provide an indication of the weather characteristics of the month overall i.e. whether the weather type has been generally settled (high pressure) or unsettled (low pressure) during the month.

February saw low pressure dominate, with the centre positioned to the west of the UK. The anomalously low pressure stretched from the west coast of North America across the Atlantic to central Europe.

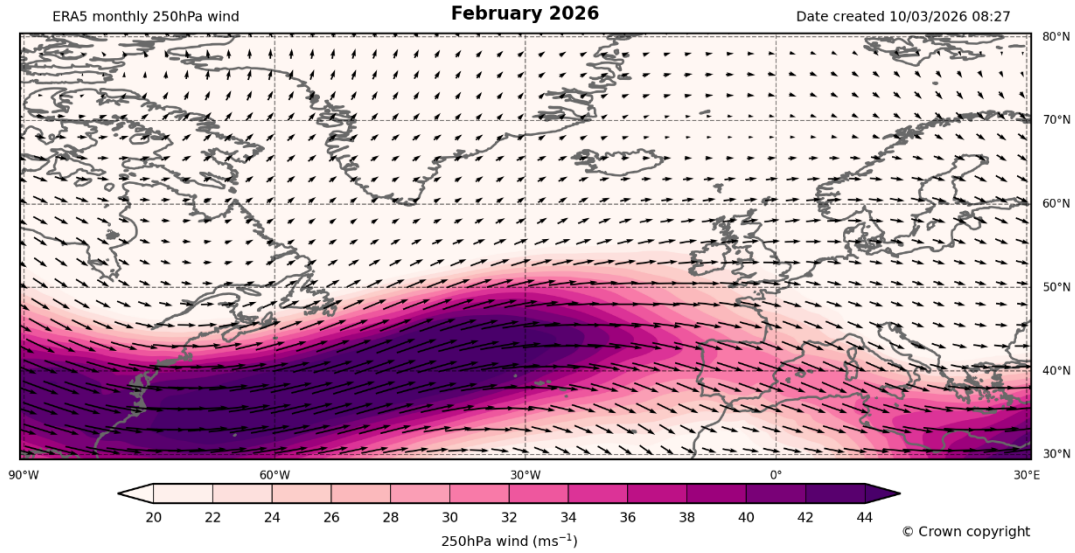


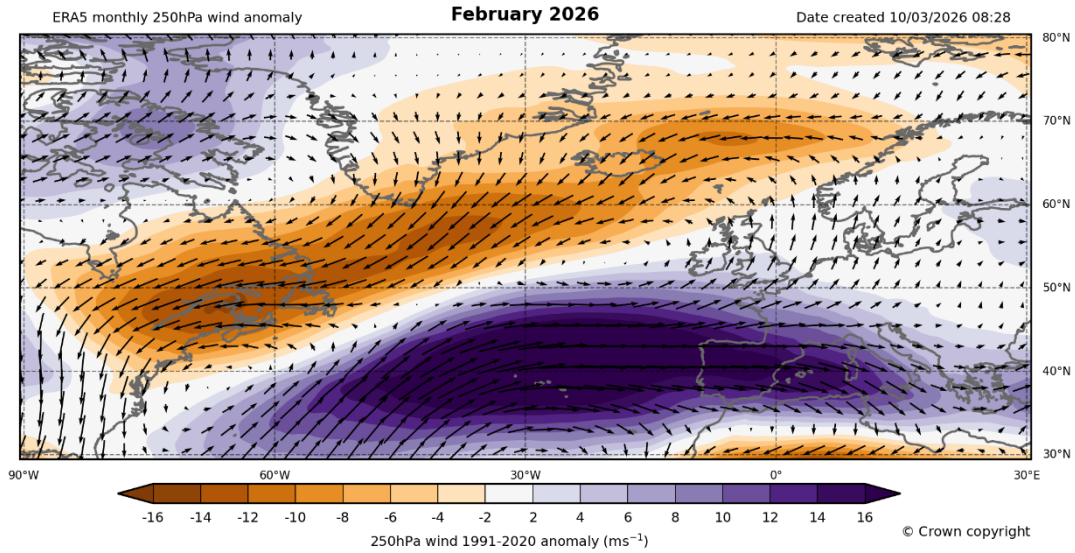


250hPa wind speed and direction

These charts show the monthly 250hPa wind speed and direction for February 2026 for the UK and north Atlantic, based on the ERA5 reanalysis (Hersbach et al, 2019), both as actual values and as an anomaly relative to the February long term average. This provides an indication of the mean strength and position of the jet stream compared to normal. The wind anomaly map shows shaded (scalar) wind speed anomalies with arrows as (vector) wind anomalies.

The jetstream was shifted further south than normal, with anomalously strong flow over the Azores and the Iberian peninsula.





Weather diary

- **Cold and wet, then very mild and wet**

  The combination of a very cold blocking high over Scandinavia and a southerly orientated jetstream resulted in the weather over the UK being stuck in an extended repeat cycle, with low pressure systems being driven into the southwest approaches, bringing periods of strong winds and almost perpetual rain, while eastern counties of northern England and Scotland were subject to colder southeasteries off the continent, almost perpetual rainfall, with snow over any higher ground. Many western counties, also including parts of Northern Ireland, received their monthly February rainfall in the first 5 days of the month with some places setting record totals for February.

  From the 10th, there was a noticeable north/south split in temperatures as the southeasterly wind over the North Sea restricted maxima to mid-single figures Celsius for Northern England northwards, while southern counties had a milder southwesterly to contend with, lifting maxima up to 13deg Celsius at times. By the 14th, an easterly wind effected a general cooling trend over the whole of the UK.

  There was a brief respite from the wet weather on the 14th thanks to a transient ridge of high pressure. As systems off the Atlantic pushed into the UK from the west, and hit the cold air over the country, many places recorded several centimetres of lying snow, before milder air dug in and turned it all back to rain. There was another short-lived ridge on the 16th before more systems infiltrated the UK from the Atlantic.

  By the 20th, much milder but also wet and windy conditions had spread across the UK thanks to winds coming from a southwesterly or westerly direction off the Atlantic. Maximum temperatures were generally into double figures and over southern and southeastern counties soared into the high teens Celsius, and by the 25th had hit 19deg Celsius in places, with a gradual cooling off to the end of the month.

Notes

The Met Office National Meteorological Library and Archive holds a near-continuous record of monthly weather reports from 1884, and this report forms a continuation of that series. The purpose of each report is to provide an overview of the weather conditions across the UK for that month. The emphasis is mainly based on observations from the surface network of weather stations. Climate series based on from data from these stations are used to provide long term context.

This summary was produced on 10/03/2026 09:09. The statistics are a provisional assessment of the observational data available at the time of production. Ongoing data receipt and quality assurance processes may result in subsequent updates to the statistics presented.

If you have any questions or feedback about this product, spot any data errors or omissions, or wish to obtain further data, please contact the Met Office.

For historical monthly weather reports please visit the Library and Archive.

- The land-surface observations presented in this report are from the Met Office official weather station network which includes both automatic weather stations and manual climate stations operated by volunteer observers. Rainfall data are from the official registered rain-gauge network which includes rain-gauges operated by a number of key partners including the Environment Agency, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and Northern Ireland Water.
- The observations are carefully managed such that they conform to current best-practice observational standards as defined by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The observations also pass through a range of quality assurance procedures at the Met Office before application for climate monitoring.
- Daily and monthly maps, monthly statistics and monthly time-series are primarily based on the HadUK-Grid dataset of 1km resolution UK gridded climate data (Hollis et al, 2019). Monthly statistics from the monthly Central England temperature series 1659 (Manley, 1974) and England and Wales precipitation series from 1766 (Wigley et al, 1984) provide long term context.
- The monthly lightning activity map is based on data from the Met Office LEELA (Lightning Electromagnetic Emission Location by Arrival time difference) system. This is an automatic lightning location network comprising around ten lightning outstation sensors located across Europe.
- The monthly maps of mean sea level pressure and 250hPa wind speed and direction are based on the ERA5 reanalysis (Hersbach et al, 2019). ERA5 is the fifth generation ECMWF reanalysis for the global climate and weather for the past 4 to 7 decades. Reanalysis combines model data with observations from across the world into a globally complete and consistent dataset using the laws of physics.

Hersbach, H., Bell, B., Berrisford, P., Biavati, G., Horányi, A., Muñoz Sabater, J., Nicolas, J., Peubey, C., Radu, R., Rozum, I., Schepers, D., Simmons, A., Soci, C., Dee, D., Thépaut, J-N. (2019): ERA5 monthly averaged data on single levels from 1959 to present. Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) Climate Data Store (CDS). https://doi.org/10.24381/cds.f17050d7

Hollis, D, McCarthy, MP, Kendon, M, Legg, T, Simpson, I. HadUK-Grid - A new UK dataset of gridded climate observations. Geosci Data J. 2019; 6: 151-159. https://doi.org/10.1002/gdj3.78

Manley, G. (1974), Central England temperatures: Monthly means 1659 to 1973. Q.J.R. Meteorol. Soc., 100: 389-405. https://doi.org/10.1002/qj.49710042511

Wigley, T.M.L., Lough, J.M. and Jones, P.D. (1984), Spatial patterns of precipitation in England and Wales and a revised, homogeneous England and Wales precipitation series. J. Climatol., 4: 1-25. https://doi.org/10.1002/joc.3370040102