

May 2025 Monthly Weather Report

This document provides a summary of the UK's weather and climate statistics for May 2025.

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UK overview

May overall was sunny, warm and dry, with high pressure dominating for most of the month. May started with high pressure situated to the west of the UK. A few frontal systems brought rain to Scotland on the second and third, before the high pressure shifted to sit over the UK. A low pressure system to the southwest of the UK brought some heavy rain and thunderstorms to southwestern England, Wales and Northern Ireland on the 11th and 12th, before the high pressure returned once again. The second week of May saw temperatures slightly below average for most areas, before temperatures increased into the third week. Clear skies at night led to some cooler nights, with some frost conditions in northern and rural areas. High pressure persisted through mid-month, with some scattered showers in places but otherwise fine weather for most of the UK. The weather turned more unsettled from the 23rd onwards, as lower pressure pushed towards the UK and frontal systems brought rain to much of the country. Some showers were heavy with hail and thunder in northern areas on the 25th, but there were still many areas that saw dry weather. Scattered showers persisted for the next few days, in an unsettled end to May.

Overall, the mean temperature for the UK was provisionally 1.3°C above the long-term average. Northern Ireland was slightly warmer, seeing a provisional mean temperature 1.6°C above the long-term average. Maximum temperatures in particular were high, widely over 2°C above average, while minimum temperatures were only around 0.4°C above average. Provisionally, this was the second warmest May on record in terms of mean temperature for England, the third warmest for Northern Ireland, the sixth warmest for Wales, and the seventh warmest for Scotland. For the UK, it was provisionally the fifth warmest May on record. For maximum temperatures, this was provisionally the warmest May on record for the UK, England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and the second warmest for Scotland. The first half of the month saw below average rainfall, with the UK seeing only 3.3mm of rainfall by the 17th, but this increased through the second half of the month, with the UK provisionally recording 50.9mm of rainfall, 72% of the long-term average. Some areas of western Scotland and northern England, including Renfrewshire and Cumbria, recorded above average rainfall for May, but most places saw below average rainfall. Southern England saw less than half of the average rainfall for May, although no records were broken. Sunshine was much higher than average across the UK, with all nations provisionally reporting more than 100% of the long-term average sunshine. The UK overall provisionally saw 266.2 hours of sunshine in May, 139% of the average. This was provisionally the sunniest May on record for Scotland and Northern Ireland, the second sunniest for the UK and Wales, and the third sunniest for England.

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

Weather impacts

- **Dry weather led to wildfires across Dartmoor, north Wales and Northern Ireland in early May**
- **Thunderstorms between the 10th and 13th led to hail and some reports of lightning damage to homes in England**
- **The accumulated deficit of rain across parts of northwest England triggered a drought declaration by the Environment Agency on the 21st**

May continued the theme of spring, in that much of the UK enjoyed a drier, sunnier and warmer month than average. Up to and including the 22nd, largely fine, dry and warm conditions held sway with only the odd brief interruption across the southwestern portion of the UK. On the 23rd, however, the Atlantic, becalmed for weeks on end, finally broke through and returned the UK to a much more changeable regime for the remainder of the month. Despite the final week of relatively unsettled and cooler weather, the month overall was once again warmer and sunnier than average, contributing to the sunniest and warmest spring on record. Mean temperatures for spring were just ahead of the previous record of 2024, whilst the record sunshine hours surpassed those of the Covid spring of 2020. The late burst of Atlantic mobility was sufficient to bring monthly rainfall totals across parts of the north Midlands, northwest England, Northern Ireland and southwest Scotland slightly closer to average. As for severe weather warnings, there was a single issue posted on the 11th for thunderstorms across Wales, the west Midlands and parts of central south and southwest England for the following day.

Unsurprisingly the only weather-related impacts observed during the opening 10 days of the month were from wildfires, with one such outbreak reported from Dartmoor on the 5th, another from Gwynedd on the 6th, the third from Northern Ireland on the 8th and a fourth reported from near Llandudno on the 9th. On the 10th a patch of what was by then very dry waste ground in the centre of Manchester gave birth to a sizeable dust devil, a phenomenon rarely seen in the UK, especially in such an urban location. Its occurrence spawned numerous reports on social media, backed up by some impressive video footage. No impacts to people or transport were reported.

After the very settled opening third of the month, the period from the 10th to the 13th was somewhat less settled across Wales, southwest and central south England with scattered showers and thunderstorms breaking out as the atmosphere temporarily destabilised. The most active thunderstorms occurred on the 12th (in association with the only issued warning) across parts of London and the Chilterns with reports of 2 to 3cm diameter hail in places. As these storms headed northwestwards, there were reports of lightning damage to homes, one in Bridgnorth and another in Hereford. Meanwhile, torrential rain reportedly caused

temporary service suspensions on several rail lines linking Wales, the Midlands and southern England. The 13th saw further reports of thunderstorm-related flooding, this time in Winchester and Shrewsbury. The 20th and 21st also saw scattered sharp showers break out, again chiefly across Wales and southern England but with only the odd very localised impact reported.

By the 21st, the accumulated deficit of rain across parts of northwest England had reached sufficient levels to trigger a drought declaration by the Environment Agency, just in time for the return to more unsettled conditions that began on the 23rd. The 29th saw slow-moving weather fronts deliver some 70-80mm of orographically enhanced rain across parts of south Cumbria. However, no impacts were reported, the rain simply helping to arrest the steady decline in reservoir stocks in the area that had accrued during the course of spring.

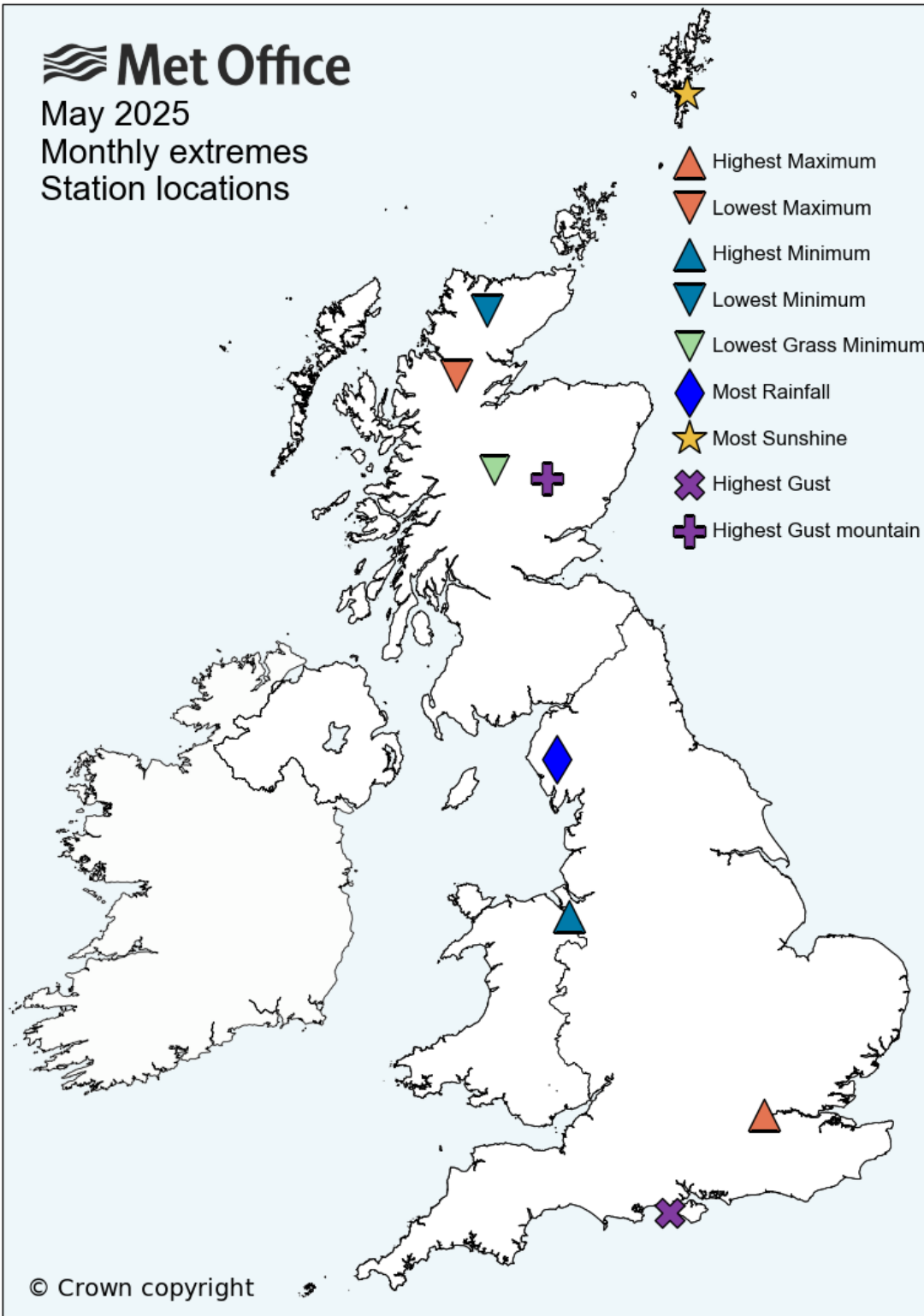
Monthly extremes

The table below lists UK monthly weather extremes recorded at individual weather stations during May 2025 from data available on 03/06/2025. The map shows the location of these stations.

Highest Maximum	29.3°C on 1st at Kew Gardens (Greater London, 6mAMSL)
Lowest Maximum	7.6°C on 3rd at Loch Glascarnoch (Ross & Cromarty, 269mAMSL)
Highest Minimum	15.6°C on 30th at Hawarden Airport (Clwyd, 11mAMSL)
Lowest Minimum	-5.1°C on 23rd at Altnaharra No 2 (Sutherland, 81mAMSL)
Lowest Grass Minimum	-9.4°C on 23rd at Dalwhinnie No 2 (Inverness-shire, 351mAMSL)
Most Rainfall	72.6mm on 24th at Seathwaite (Cumbria, 129mAMSL)
Most Sunshine	15.7hr on 14th at Lerwick (Shetland, 82mAMSL)
Highest Gust	57Kt 66mph on 27th at Wight: Needles Old Battery (Isle Of Wight, 80mAMSL)
Highest Gust (mountain*)	76Kt 87mph on 29th at Cairnwell (Aberdeenshire, 928mAMSL)
Greatest Snow Depth at 0900 UTC	No non-zero values.

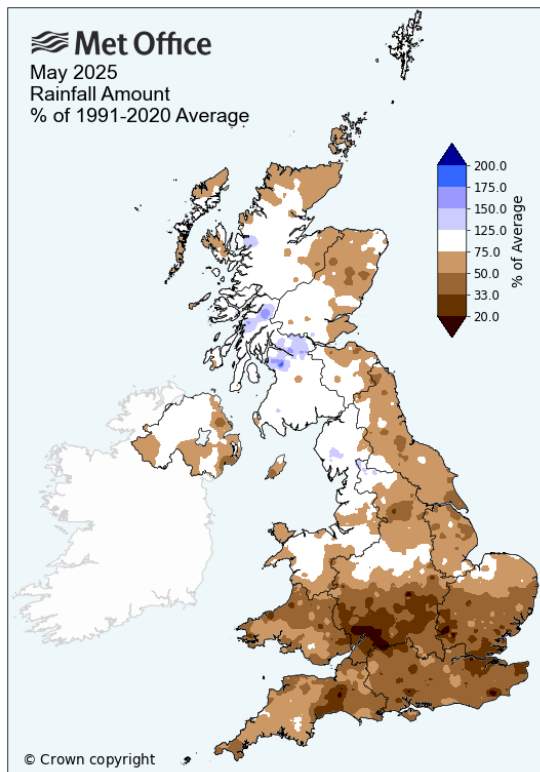
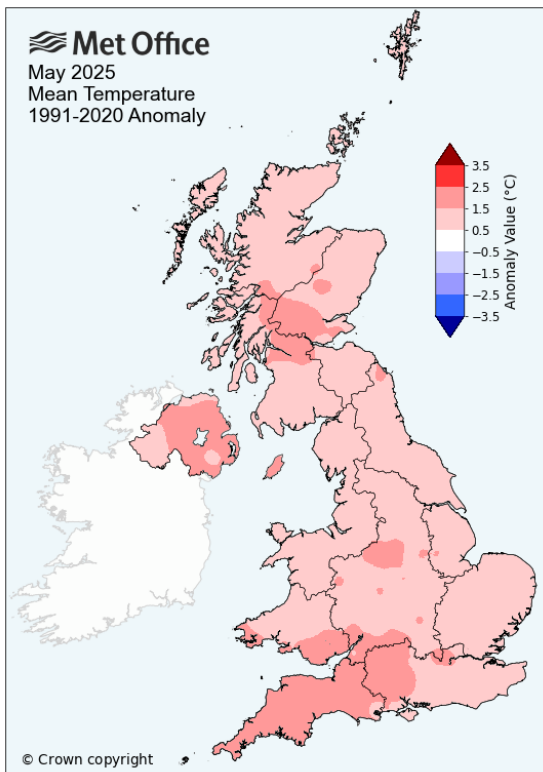
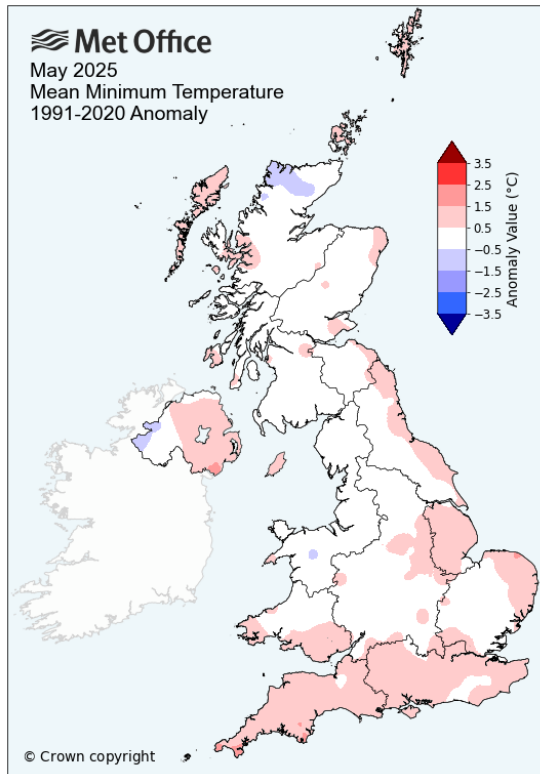
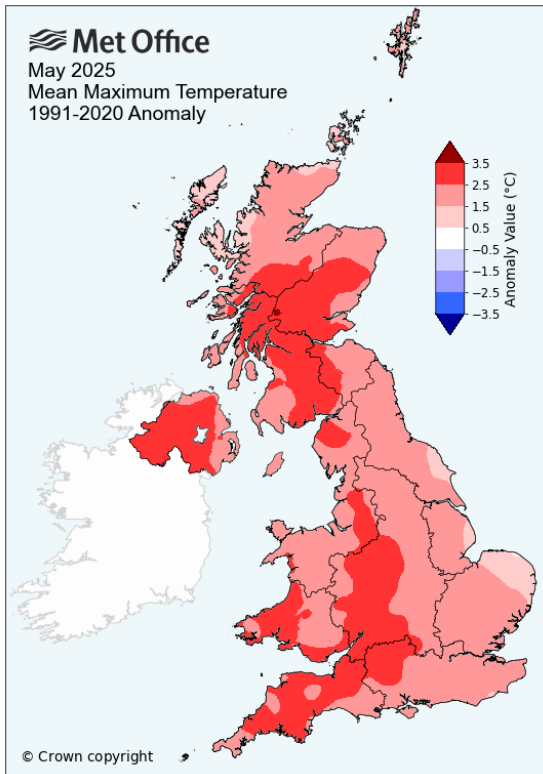
mAMSL refers to station elevation in metres above mean sea level.

*Mountain stations are above 500mAMSL.

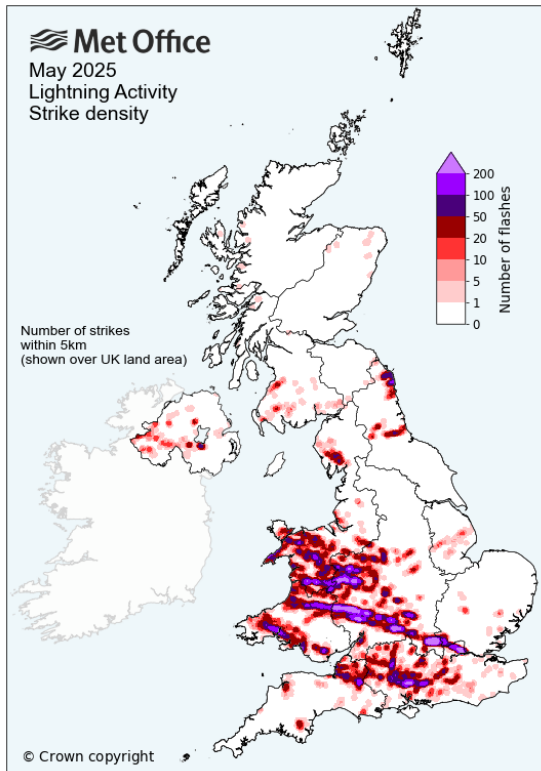
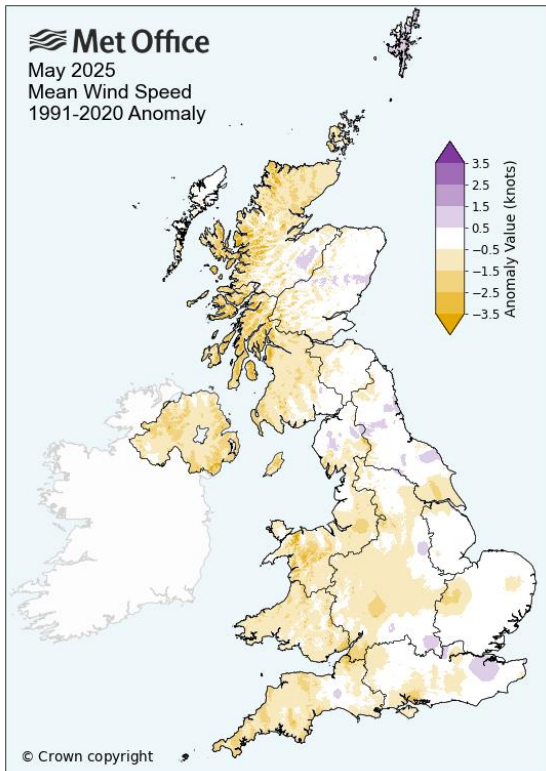
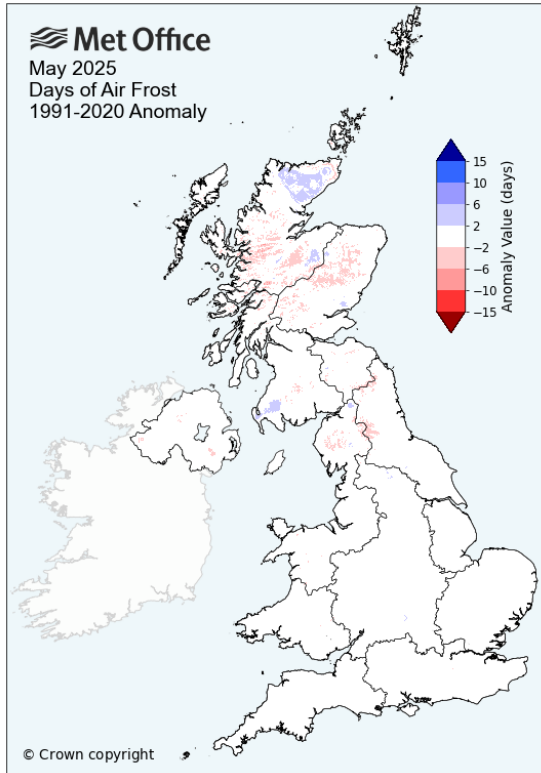
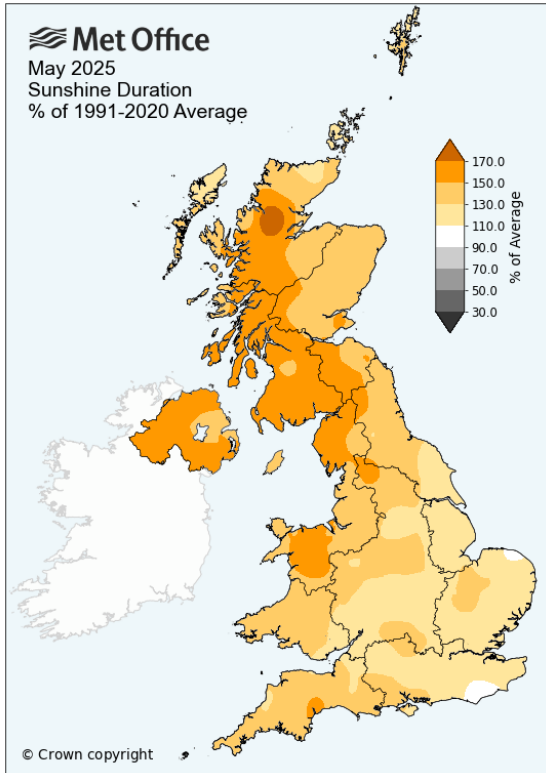


Monthly maps

These maps show monthly average daily maximum, monthly average daily minimum and monthly mean temperature and monthly rainfall for May 2025 as anomalies relative to the May 1991-2020 long term average.



These maps show monthly sunshine, monthly air frost and monthly windspeed for May 2025 as anomalies relative to the May 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 May 2025 for max, min and mean temperature, rainfall, sunshine and windspeed as actual values and anomalies relative to the May 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	17.4	2.3	1	142	142
England	18.4	2.2	1	142	142
Wales	17.6	2.4	1	142	142
Scotland	15.7	2.3	2	141	142
Northern Ireland	17.5	2.6	1	142	142
Central England	18.9	2.4	2	147	148

Mean minimum temperature

Region	Mintemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	6.6	0.4	23	120	142
England	7.5	0.5	17	126	142
Wales	6.9	0.3	26	117	142
Scotland	5.1	0.1	41	102	142
Northern Ireland	6.8	0.6	20	123	142
Central England	7.6	0.2	40	109	148

Mean temperature

Region	Meantemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	12.0	1.3	5	138	142
England	12.9	1.4	2	141	142
Wales	12.1	1.3	6	137	142
Scotland	10.3	1.2	7	136	142
Northern Ireland	12.1	1.6	3	140	142
Central England	13.2	1.3	21	347	367

Rainfall

Region	Rainfall (mm)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - wettest	Rank - driest	Series length (yrs)
UK	50.9	72	140	51	190
England	32.8	57	160	31	190
Wales	51.5	59	146	45	190
Scotland	80.0	90	91	100	190
Northern Ireland	56.7	77	114	77	190
EWP (England and Wales)	32.8	52	232	29	260

Sunshine

Region	Sunshine (hours)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - sunniest	Rank - dullest	Series length (yrs)
UK	266.2	139	2	115	116
England	261.1	131	3	114	116
Wales	270.2	142	2	115	116
Scotland	270.2	148	1	116	116
Northern Ireland	283.9	155	1	116	116

Windspeed

Region	Windspeed (knots)	1991-2020 Anomaly (knots)	Rank - windiest	Rank - calmest	Series length (yrs)
UK	8.1	-0.7	43	15	57
England	7.6	-0.4	39	19	57
Wales	8.2	-1.0	42	16	57
Scotland	9.1	-0.8	38	20	57
Northern Ireland	6.8	-1.3	53	5	57

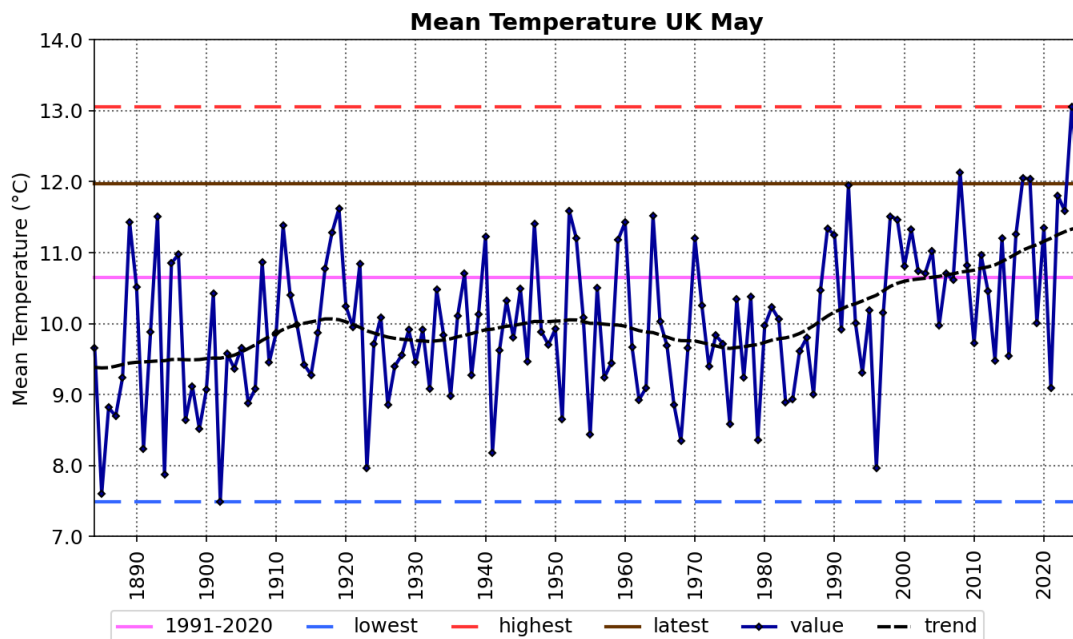
Monthly time-series

These charts show time-series for the UK for May for monthly mean temperature (from 1884), monthly rainfall (from 1836) and monthly sunshine (from 1919). The brown line shows the latest (2025) 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 2016-2025, the most recent 30-year climate reference period 1991-2020 and the 30-year baseline climate reference period 1961-1990.

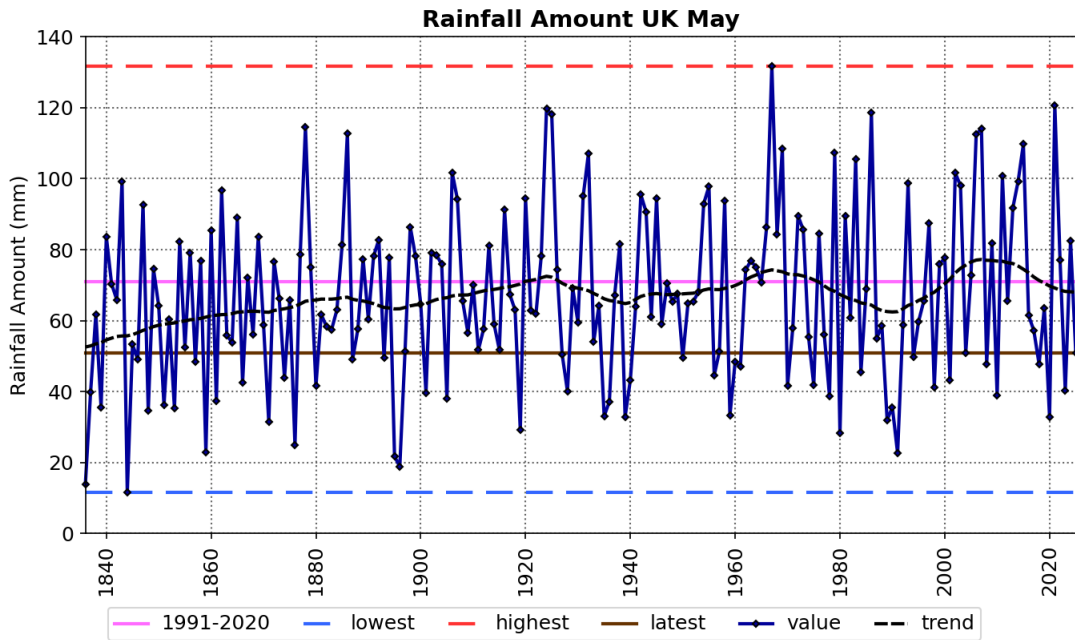


Source: HadUK-Grid 01/06/2025 11:44

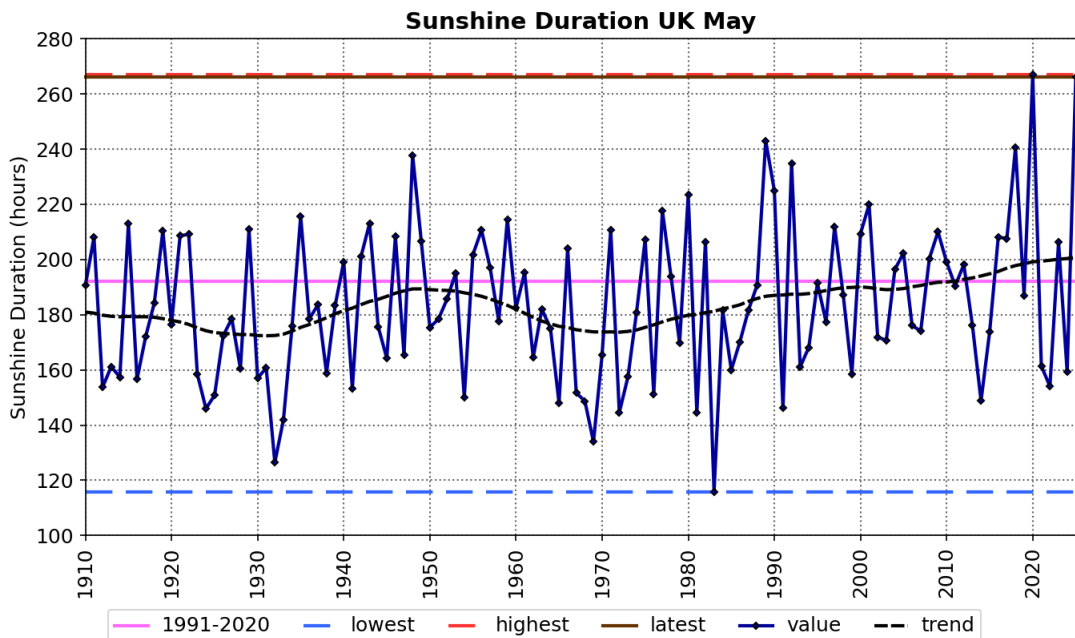
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Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2016-2025	2025
Meantemp (°C)	9.8	10.7	11.4	12.0



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2016-2025	2025
Rainfall (mm)	70.4	71.0	63.4	50.9



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2016-2025	2025
Sunshine (hours)	178.2	192.2	205.7	266.2

Daily time-series

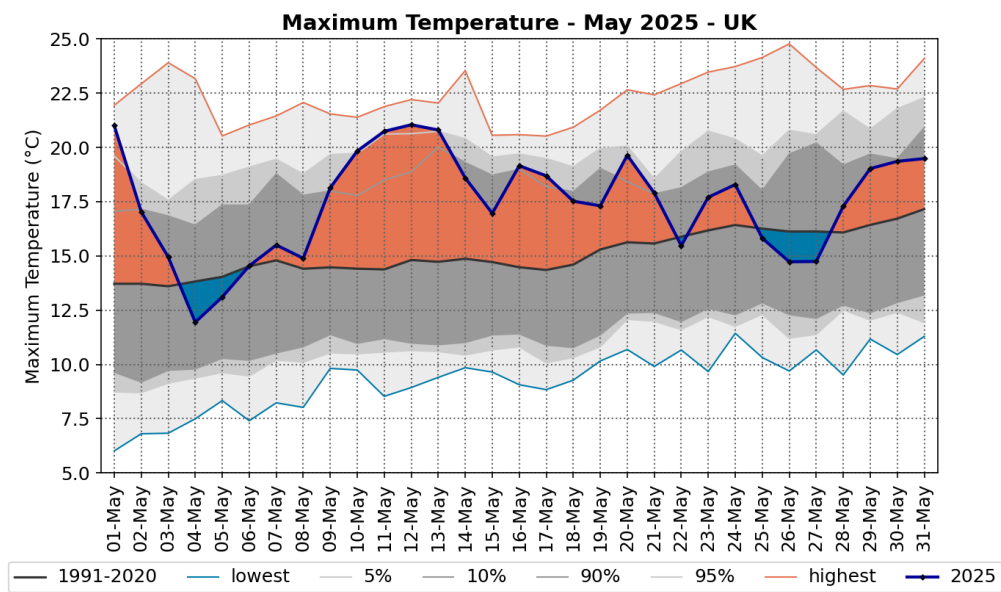
These charts show time-series of UK area-average daily maximum and daily minimum temperature and daily rainfall for each day of May 2025. The areas shaded in grey show the highest and lowest values in the daily temperature series (from 1960) and daily rainfall series (from 1891) together with percentiles 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



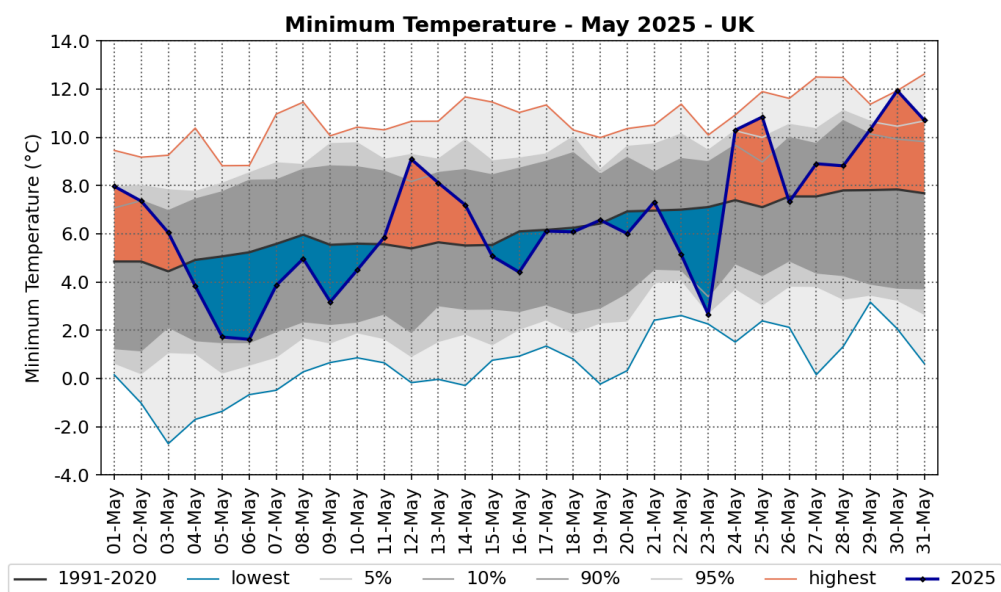
Source: HadUK-Grid 01/06/2025 11:52

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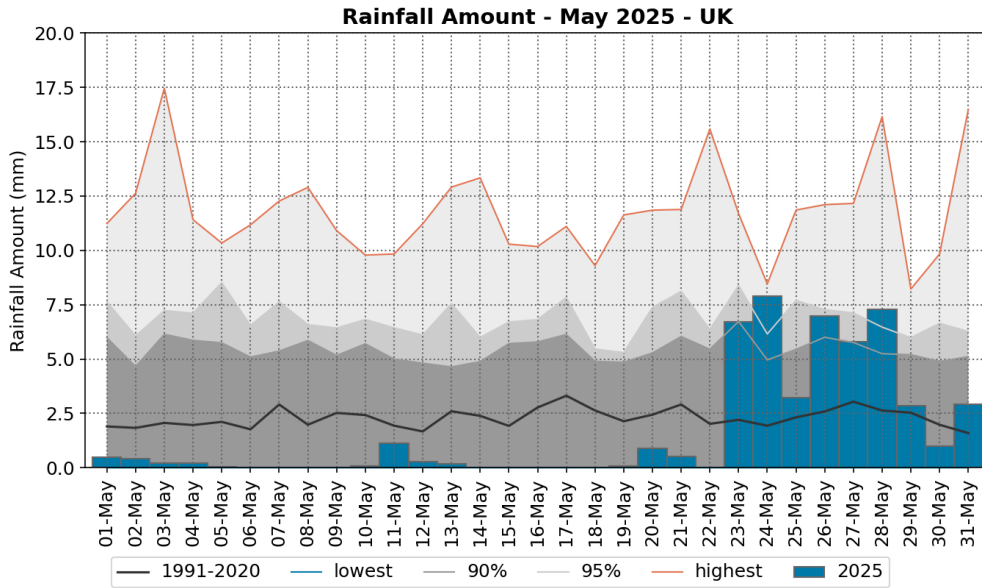


Daily rainfall and rainfall accumulation

Met Office

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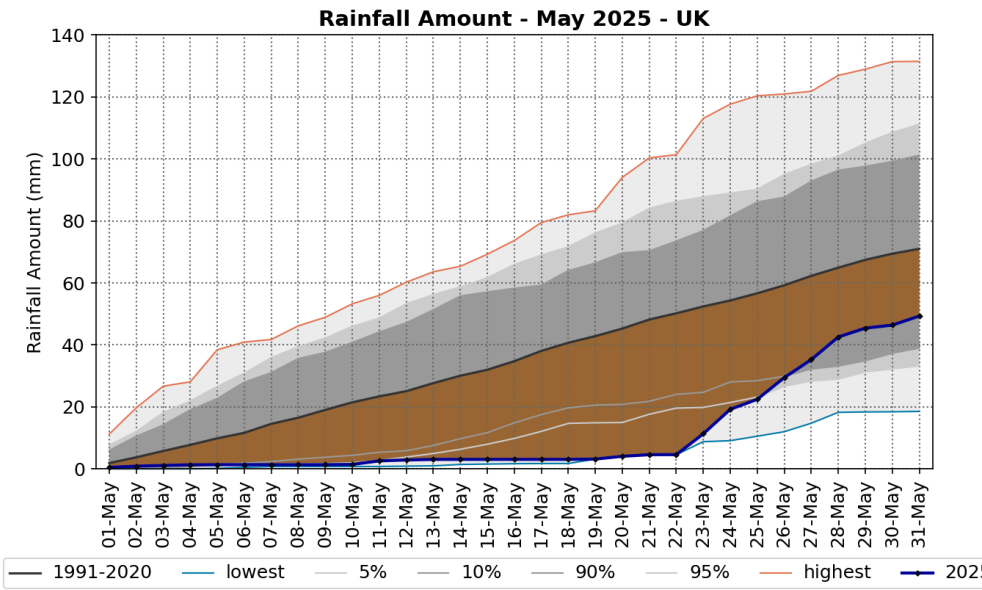
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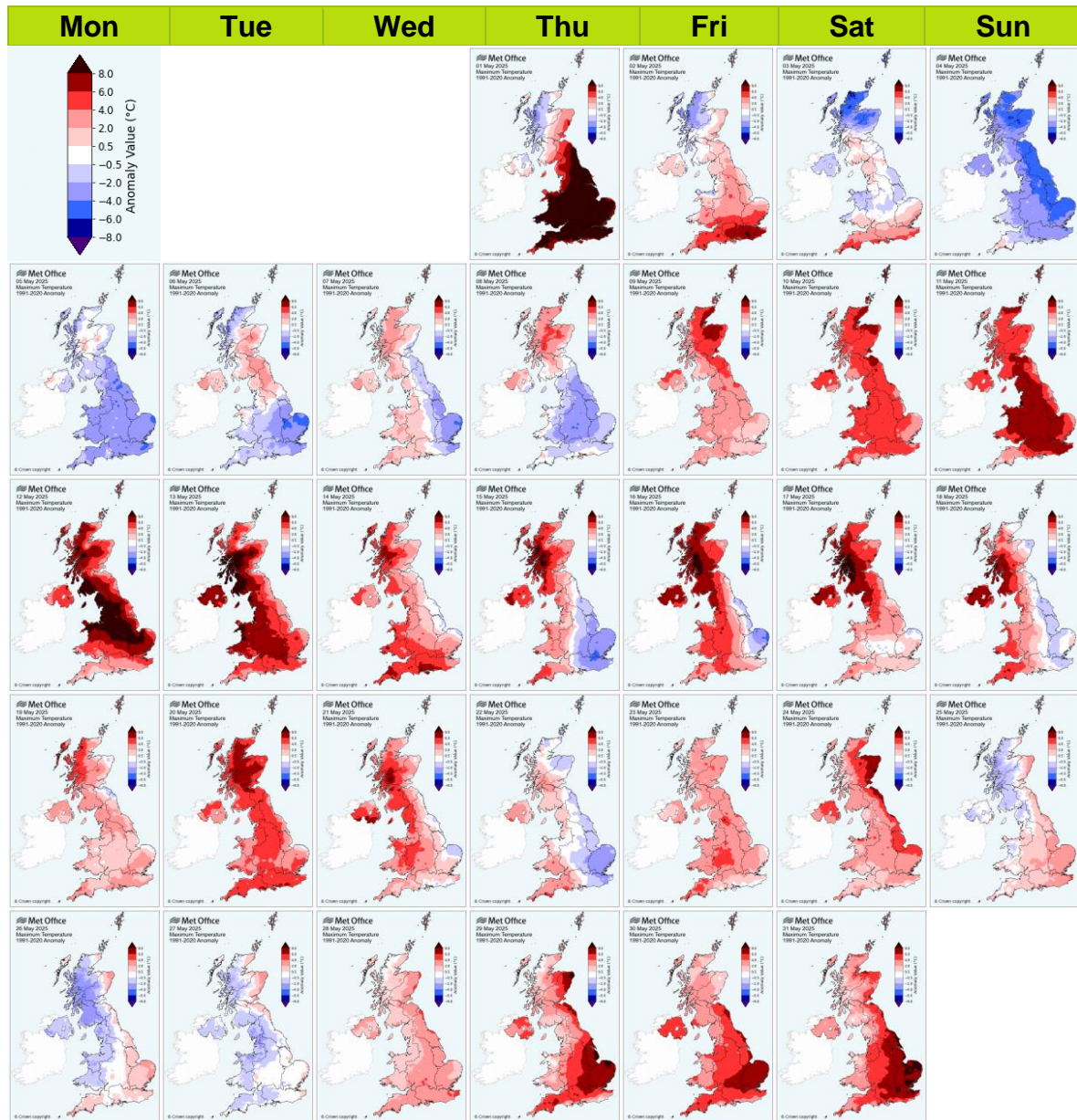
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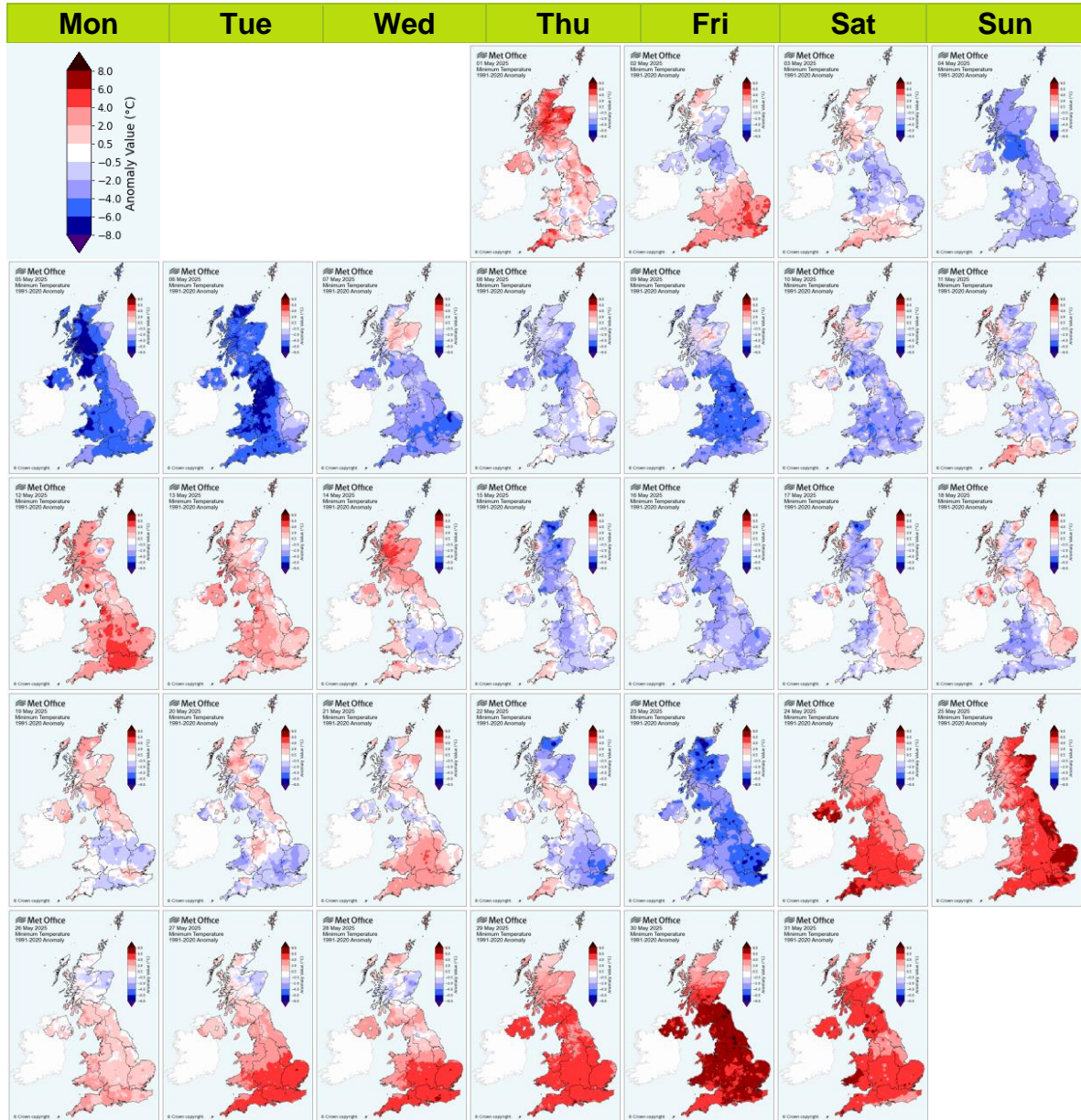
Daily maximum temperature maps - calendar view

These maps show daily maximum temperatures for each day of May 2025 as anomalies relative to the May 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.



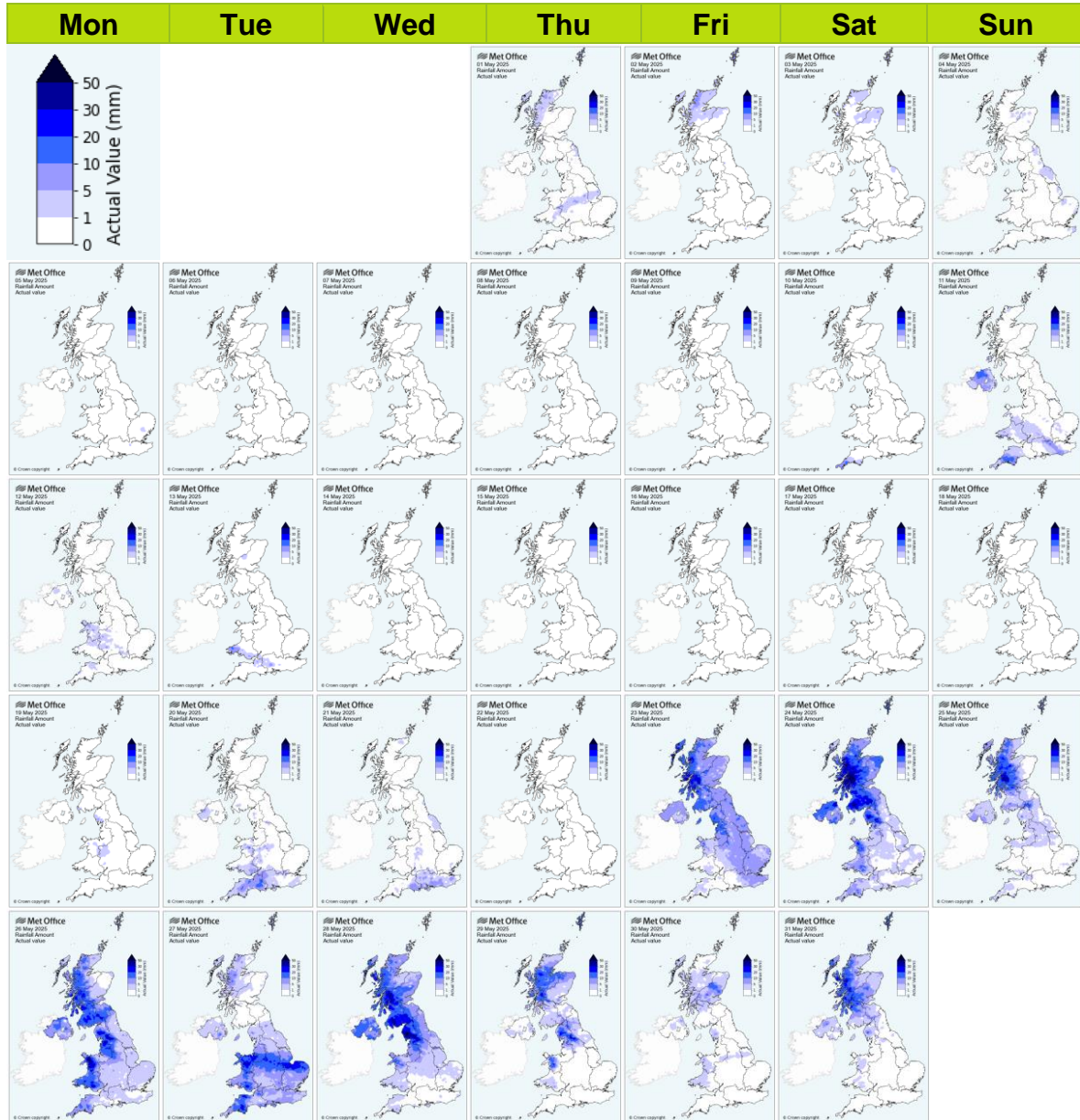
Daily minimum temperature maps - calendar view

These maps show daily minimum temperatures for each day of May 2025 as anomalies relative to the May 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.



Daily rainfall maps - calendar view

These maps show daily rainfall for each day of May 2025 as daily totals. The daily rainfall is the total from 0900UTC on the day in question to 0900UTC the following day.

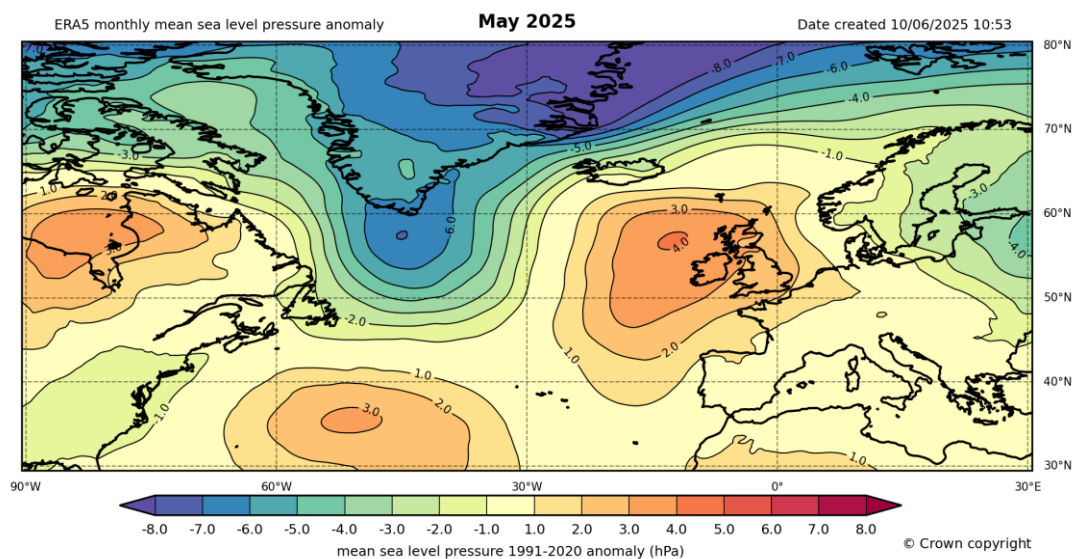
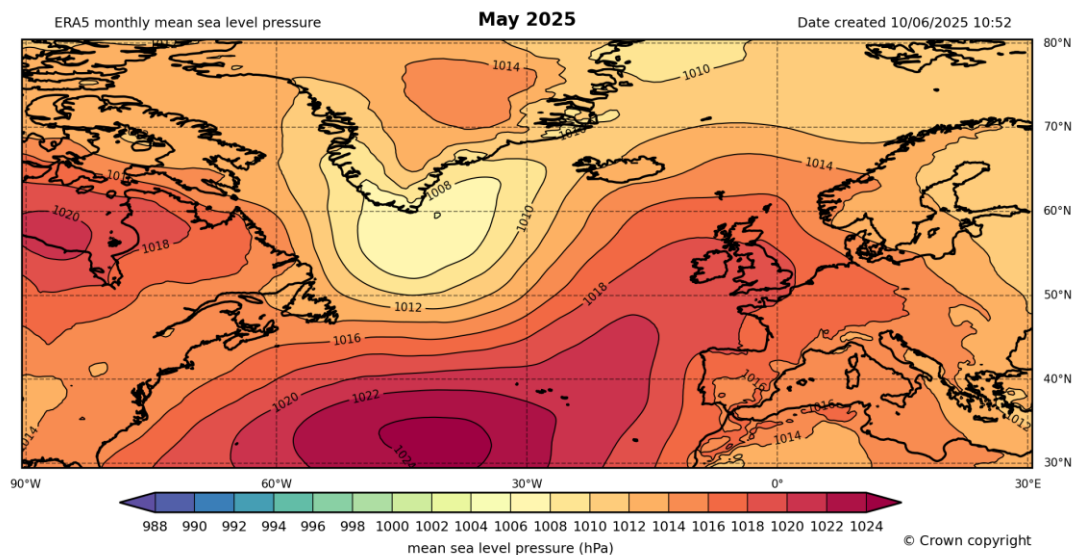


Monthly atmospheric circulation

Mean sea level pressure

These charts show the monthly mean sea level pressure for May 2025 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 May 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.

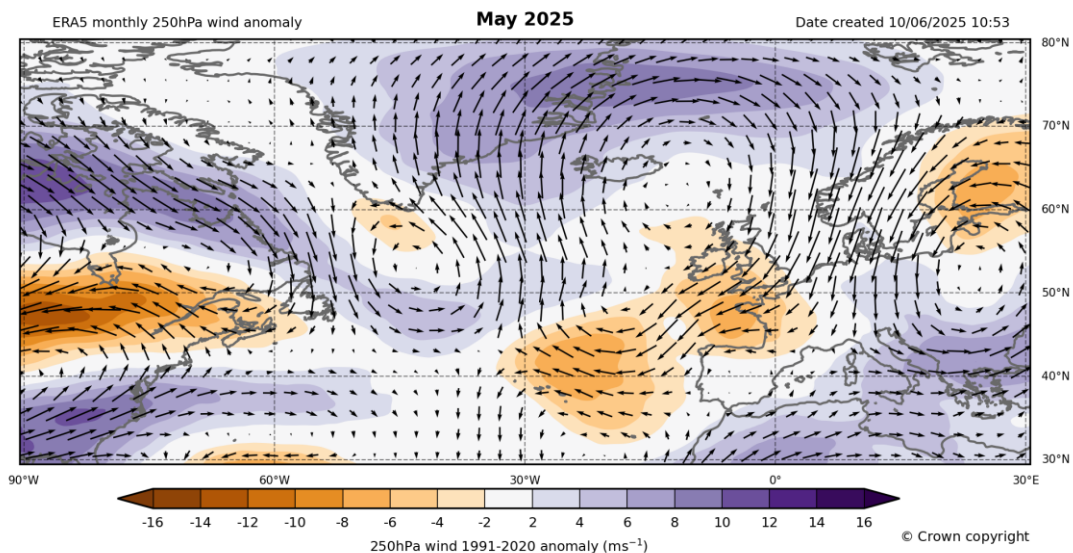
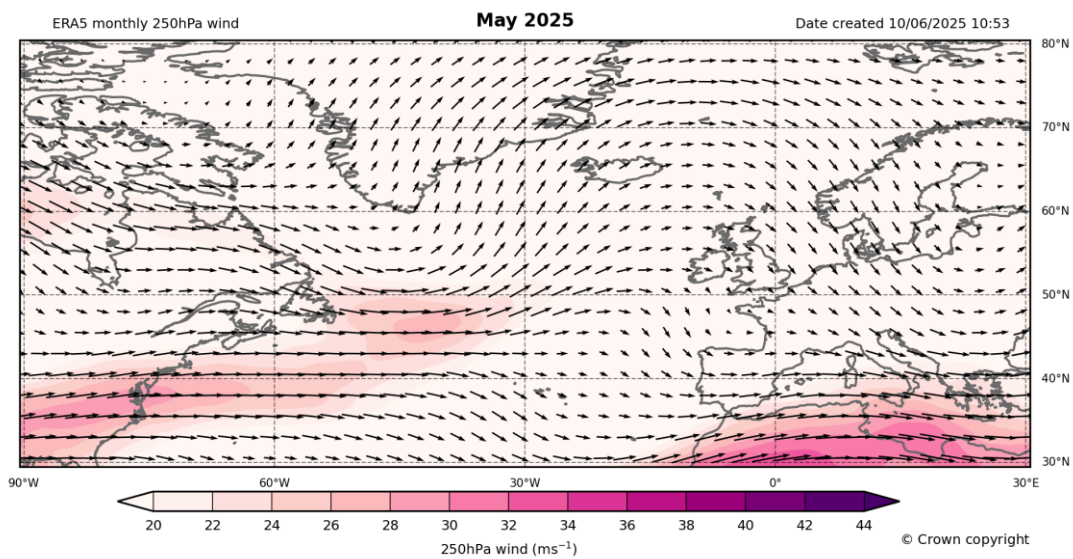
The UK was under the influence of high pressure for much of May, with a high pressure anomaly centred to the west of Scotland. Pressure was lower than normal near Greenland.



250hPa wind speed and direction

These charts show the monthly 250hPa wind speed and direction for May 2025 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 May 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 again displaced away from the UK, with an easterly anomaly over the UK.



Weather diary

- **High pressure dominates, wet and windy end to the month**

The UK got an early taste of summer during May with high pressure dominating the scene for most of the month, with frontal systems weakened or kept at bay, and many places seeing no measurable rain for the better part of 3 weeks. Maximum temperatures across all regions hit the mid to high 20s Celsius at times. Sunshine was plentiful too with many places across all regions recording record breaking totals. However, with the anticyclone centred predominantly to the west of the UK, eastern coastal counties were kept cool with a persistent onshore breeze and occasional showers.

A cold front moved south across the country between the 3rd and 4th introducing some patchy rain and cool northerly winds. Maximum temperatures over northern Scotland were restricted to high singles figures Celsius. Clear skies at night meant a keen frost in places with overnight temperatures falling as low as -3deg Celsius in many places. After that though, temperatures recovered across all regions and rainfall was scarce. On the 11th, a small scale feature moved north out of France to bring 10 to 15mm of rainfall to southern coastal counties, the southwest and parts of Wales, with a separate but equally active system affecting Northern Ireland on the same day. By the 14th, the UK was back under a large area of high pressure, with the east coast still being plagued with much cooler and showery conditions, and the heat of the day producing isolated showers for parts of the Midlands and Wales.

It was all change from the 23rd as high pressure retreated north to Greenland allowing depressions over the Atlantic to make progress eastwards across the UK. Between the 25th and 27th, a series of low pressure areas with their active fronts brought the highest rainfall totals and strongest winds to the UK, with rainfall totals ranging from 30mm in Northern Ireland, to 45mm in Scotland, 55 to 60mm for Wales, and in excess of 75mm for northwest England. Winds at times reached 50 to 65mph over all regions. This was the theme for the rest of the month too.

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 data from these stations are used to provide long term context.

This summary was produced on 10/06/2025 13:05. 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>

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