January 2026 Monthly Weather Report

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

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UK overview

It was a cold start to 2026, with below average temperatures across the country for the first week of January as an Arctic airmass approached from the north. The wintry weather brought snow across many parts of the UK but particularly Scotland. Many areas also saw frost, freezing fog, and ice. By the 5th, evidence was building of an approaching multi-hazard event. This was later named Storm Goretti by Meteo France and brought damaging winds to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly on the 8th and 9th, triggering the first red wind warning of 2026. Storm Goretti also brought widespread snow on the northern flank to much of Wales, parts of the West Midlands and the South Pennines. Following Storm Goretti, wet and unsettled weather was the theme for the rest of the month. Scotland experienced heavy rainfall between the 21st and 24th, particularly in the southeast. In the south, Storm Ingrid, named by the Portuguese national weather service, brought spells of heavy rain and strong winds on the 24th. Storm Chandra arrived on the evening of the 26th and into the 27th, bringing heavy rain and strong winds to the southwest again. Devon and Somerset saw extensive flooding as the rain fell on already saturated ground. The rain then spread northwards, with Northern Ireland experiencing exceptionally heavy rain. The last few days of the month saw continuing wet weather.

The first half of January saw temperatures below average across the UK, with wintry precipitation and ice in many places. However, temperatures soon turned upwards, although there were still some areas around or slightly below average over the second half of the month. Overall, the provisional mean temperature for the UK was 0.5°C below average. Rainfall was above average for the UK, which saw 117% of the long-term average January rainfall, but there was strong regional variation. Southern England, Northern Ireland and eastern Scotland were particularly wet, with Northern Ireland provisionally recording its second wettest January with 195.6mm of rainfall, 170% of the long-term average. Although Scotland overall recorded below average rainfall, eastern Scotland was very wet while western Scotland was much drier. Angus and Aberdeenshire both experienced double the average rainfall in their second and third wettest Januarys on record, respectively. Cornwall provisionally recorded its wettest January with 267.6mm of rainfall. Overall, the UK saw average hours of sunshine, but with some regional variation: Scotland and northern England saw below average sunshine hours.

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

Weather impacts

- **On the 8th and 9th, Storm Goretti brought strong winds, rain and snow to the UK, with peak winds hitting Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly**
- **Storms Ingrid and Chandra arrived later in the month and brought heavy rain and wind to the southwest, resulting in flooding in many areas**

The New Year ushered in a notable incursion of Arctic air that brought not only widespread sharp frosts but also disruptive snowfall, mainly to the northern half of mainland Scotland. On the 8th/9th, Storm Goretti, named by Meteo France, brought heavy rain and snow to Wales, the Midlands, and southern England. Damaging winds to the far southwest invoked the first red warning of 2026, with 99mph recorded on the Isles of Scilly. By the 11th, a more generally unsettled pattern had taken hold which would last through to the end of the month. This was characterised by a very persistent southerly to southeasterly airflow with low pressure a constant presence to the west or southwest of the UK. This resulted in wetter than average conditions affecting the southeast of Northern Ireland along with eastern Scotland and parts of southern England. The last ten days of the month saw disruptive rainfall affect the southwest and Storm Chandra on the 26th/27th.

The opening days of the month were dominated by Arctic northerlies which brought widespread snow showers to high ground and exposed areas. Snow and ice warnings were in place across the northern half of Scotland the northwest Isles for Hogmanay and the first six days of the year saw further yellow and amber snow warnings, all focussed on the northern half of the Scottish mainland and the Isles. Level snow depths reached 52cm in Oyne, Aberdeenshire on the morning of the 6th and both the depth and the persistence of the snow caused significant impacts to local transport and communities. There were numerous reports of road closures including several A-roads across Highland and Grampian regions. Widespread school closures were reported whilst in Aberdeenshire a major incident was declared due to difficulties in clearing the large amount of snow that had fallen. Rail transport was also severely disrupted whilst transport issues in Moray resulted in food shortages in local outlets across the west of the county. There was also a huge strain on the local blue light services due to transport/access issues, often exacerbated by strong winds drifting the snow. Some snow/ice impacts were also reported from north and west Wales and East Anglia, exposed to the onshore northerly winds.

By the 6th attention was shifting to the south of the UK with Storm Goretti, first named by Meteo France, forecast to track eastwards along the south coast as an 'explosively' developing low pressure centre during the night of the 8th/9th. Medium impact yellow warnings were issued for wind, rain and snow for an area that included Wales, the Midlands and southern England, those for wind and snow escalated to amber on the 7th. The 8th saw

further escalation to a high impact amber wind warning for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, which was further escalated to red in the afternoon due to potential gusts of 80-100mph that evening. Two emergency alerts were issued to local residents in the red warning area. The forecast winds duly materialised (90mph at Culdose and 99mph at St Mary's - a station record), giving Cornwall and Scilly their strongest and must disruptive wind event for several decades. Ahead of the peak winds there were pre-emptive rail suspensions across Cornwall and Devon, and early school closures on Scilly and across Cornwall. Disruption was widely reported across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly with one fatality in Helston where a falling tree impacted a caravan. Thousands of trees were reported as brought down by the winds with widespread power outages. The Energy Networks Association reported that by the afternoon of the 9th, some 189,000 customers had been reconnected but around 51,000 were still off supply. On the Isles of Scilly the mobile telephone network was reported down with significant numbers of vulnerable people without power and heat. Cornwall Fire/Rescue Service reportedly dealt with a large number of structures rendered unsafe by the powerful gusts.

As the weather began to transition into the unsettled but less cold pattern that would dominate the remainder of the month, a further amber snow warning was issued for the Scottish Highlands on the 11th, though on this occasion very few additional impacts were reported. Thereafter, rain dominated the weather agenda as successive low pressure centres developed just to the west/south west of the UK. Orographic enhancement of the southeasterly airflow gave large rainfall (and mountain snow) accumulations across eastern Scotland on the 22nd, for which a medium impact amber warning was issued. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency reported a number of flood warnings issued in response to the rain with widespread flooding of low-lying land and some A-roads. A few business premises close to main rivers were also reported as flooded

Southwest England was the focus for much unsettled weather later in the month. On the 23rd/24th, Storm Ingrid (named by the Portuguese Met Service) brought strong winds and high sea to the southwest coastline. Although only low impact wind/rain warnings were issued, the resulting waves washed away part of Teignmouth Grand Pier, whilst a section of sea wall protecting the main rail line at Dawlish collapsed, resulting in the suspension of rail services between Plymouth and Exeter. By the 26th, there was a strong signal for another tight low pressure centre to track north from the Celtic Sea into Ireland the next day. The system was named Storm Chandra and resulted in amber rain/wind warnings issued for southwest England and Northern Ireland. These areas bore the brunt of Chandra's impacts with prolonged, heavy rain affecting southwest England and a combination of rain and strong winds impacting the eastern half of Northern Ireland. In Northern Ireland, there were reports of downed trees, power outages, flooded road closures, transport disruption and school closures. In southwest England, a severe flood warning was issued in Dorset and a major

incident declared for the Somerset Levels as water rose dangerously high. Widespread overtopping of rivers was reported amidst numerous flood warnings, with a number of properties reported flooded.

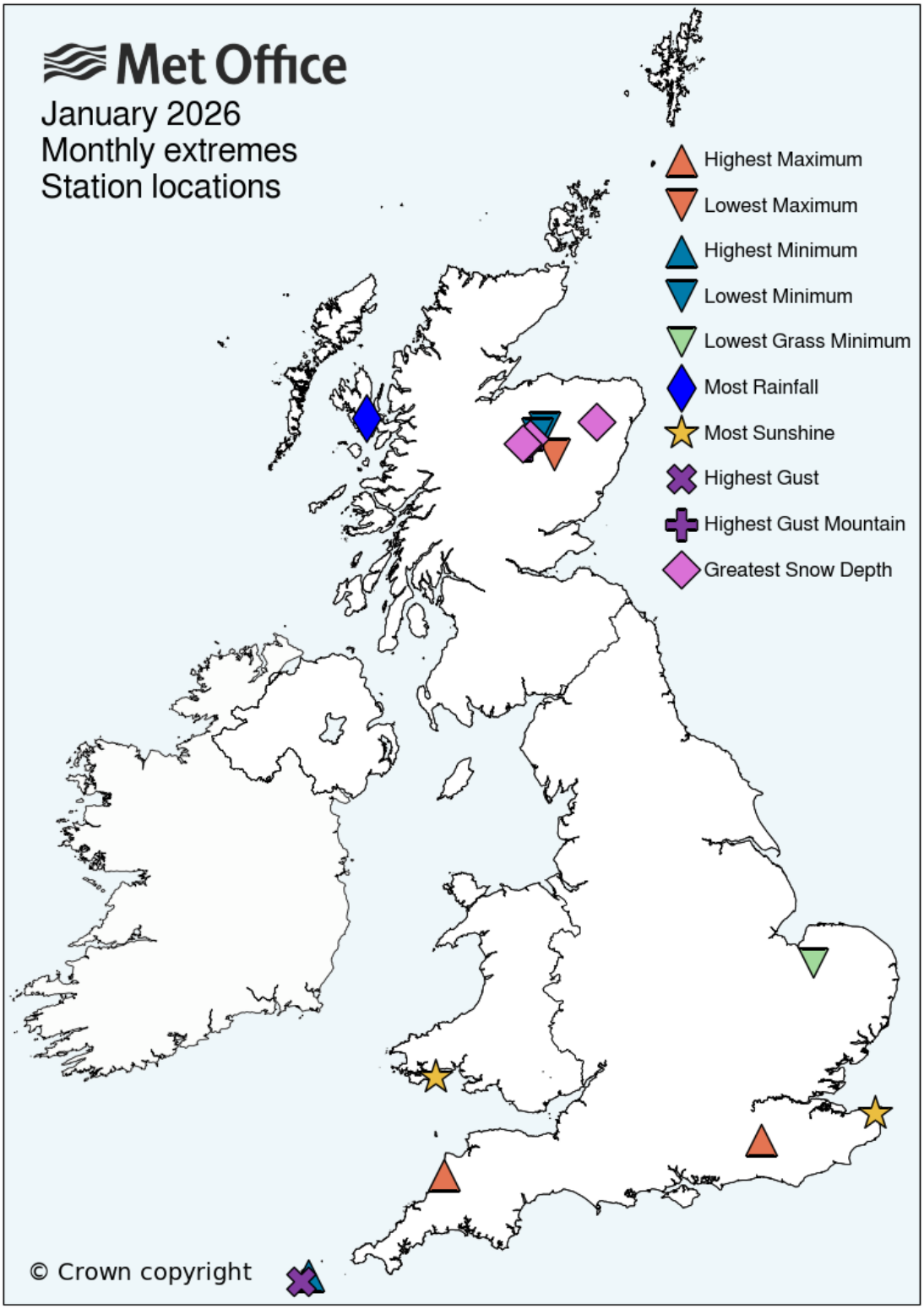
Monthly extremes

The table below lists UK monthly weather extremes recorded at individual weather stations during January 2026 from data available on 03/02/2026. The map shows the location of these stations.

Highest Maximum	**13.6°C** on **11th** at Bude (Cornwall, 15mAMSL) also on **18th** at Charlwood (Surrey, 67mAMSL)
Lowest Maximum	**-5.7°C** on **8th** at Balmoral (Aberdeenshire, 283mAMSL)
Highest Minimum	**11.2°C** on **12th** at Scilly: St Marys Airport (Isles Of Scilly, 31mAMSL)
Lowest Minimum	**-14.7°C** on **8th** at Tomintoul No 6 (Banffshire, 320mAMSL) also on **9th** at Tomintoul No 6 (Banffshire, 320mAMSL)
Lowest Grass Minimum	**-17.7°C** on **6th** at Marham (Norfolk, 21mAMSL)
Most Rainfall	**131.6mm** on **10th** at Skye: Alltdearg House (Inverness-shire, 55mAMSL)
Most Sunshine	**7.5hr** on **4th** at Manston (Kent, 49mAMSL) also on **17th** at Tenby (Dyfed, 13mAMSL)
Highest Gust	**86Kt 99mph** on **8th** at Scilly: St Marys Airport (Isles Of Scilly, 31mAMSL)
Highest Gust (mountain*)	**113Kt 130mph** on **27th** at Cairngorm Summit (Inverness-shire, 1237mAMSL)
Greatest Snow Depth at 0900 UTC	**52cm** on **4th** at Tomintoul No 6 (Banffshire, 320mAMSL) also on **5th** at Tomintoul No 6 (Banffshire, 320mAMSL) also on **6th** at Oyne No 2 (Aberdeenshire, 116mAMSL)

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

*Mountain stations are above 500mAMSL.


Met Office
January 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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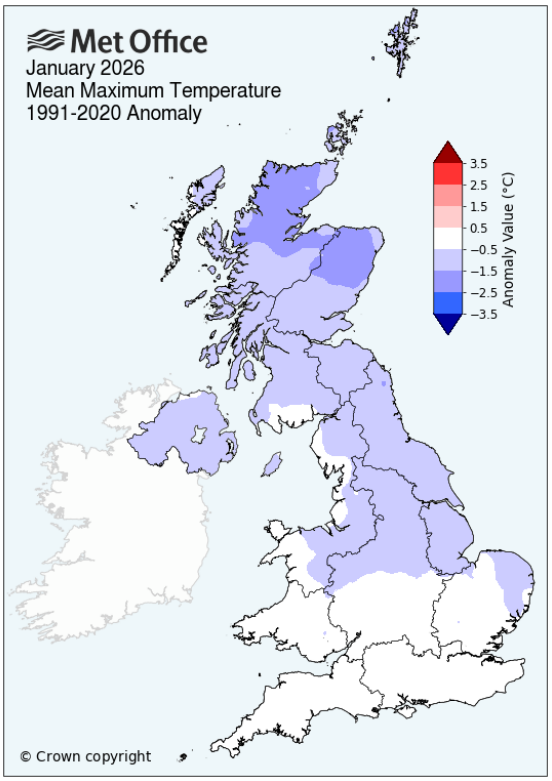
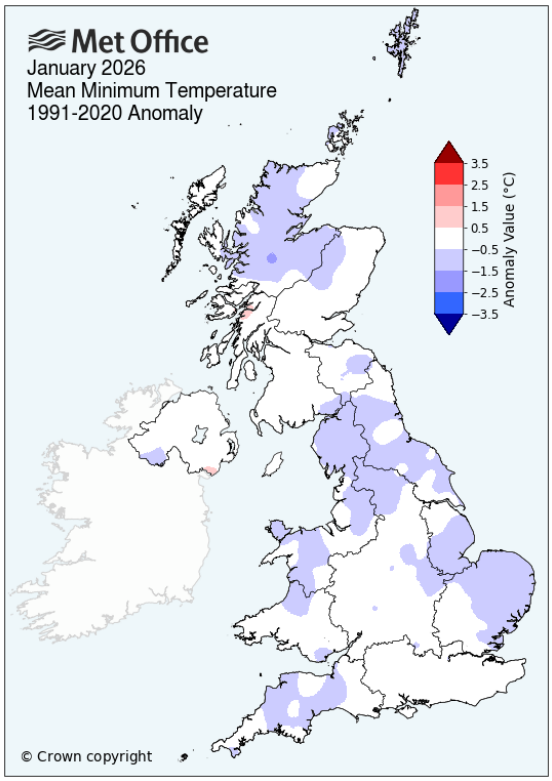
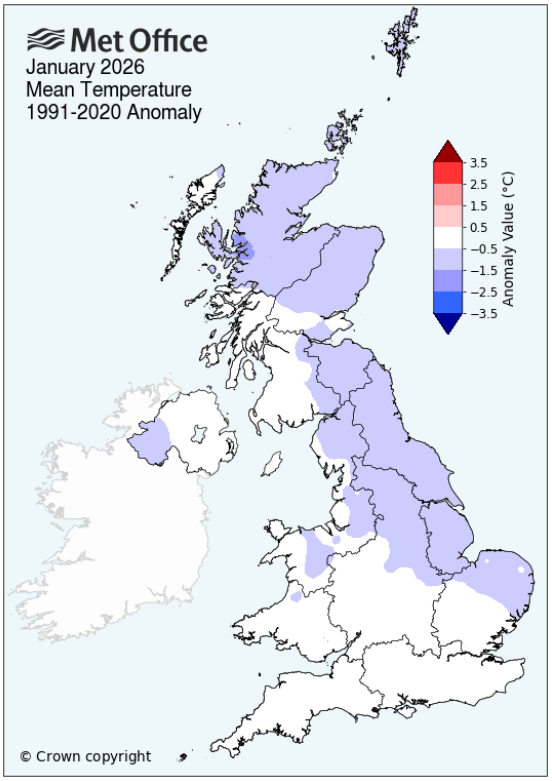
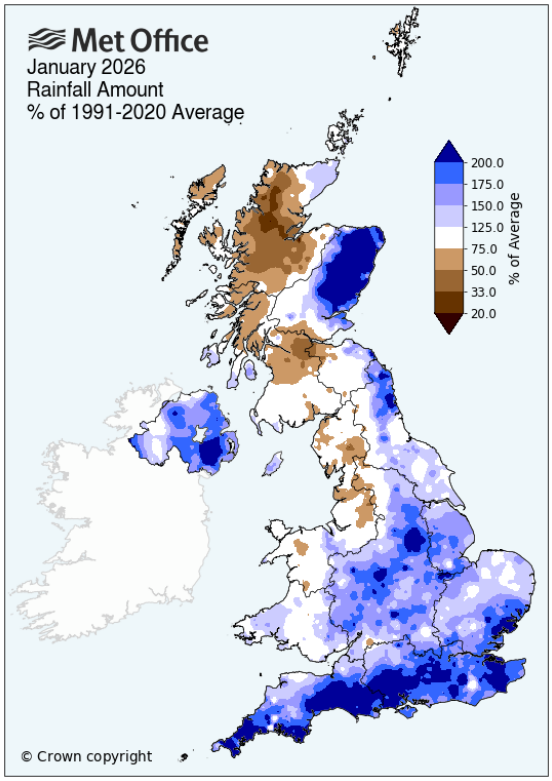
Monthly maps

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

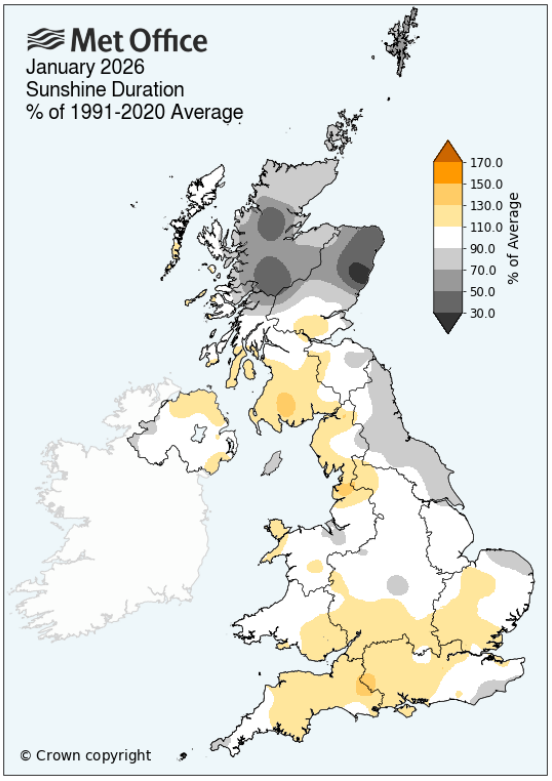


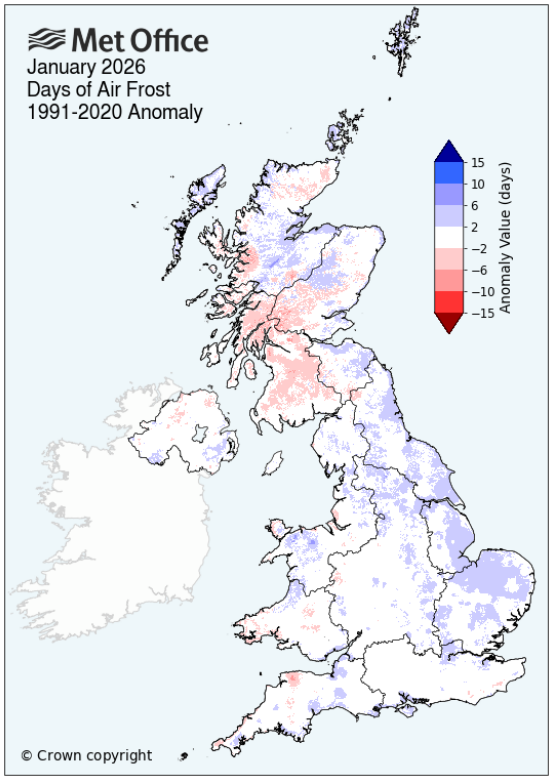


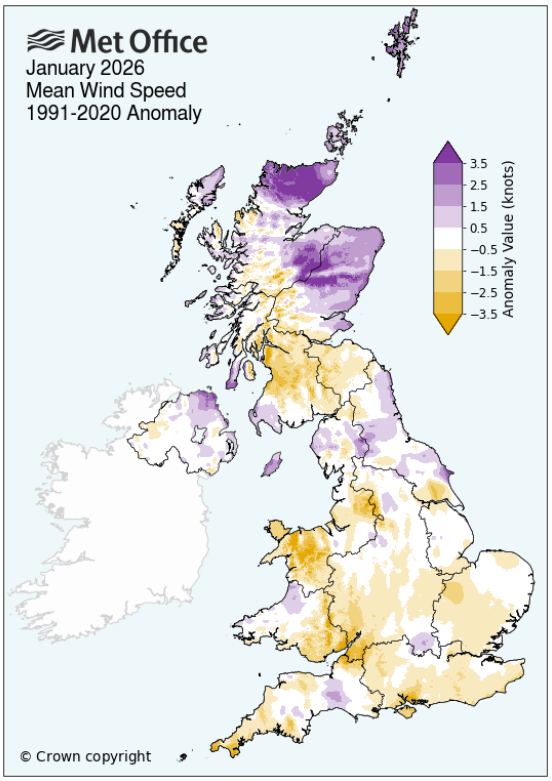


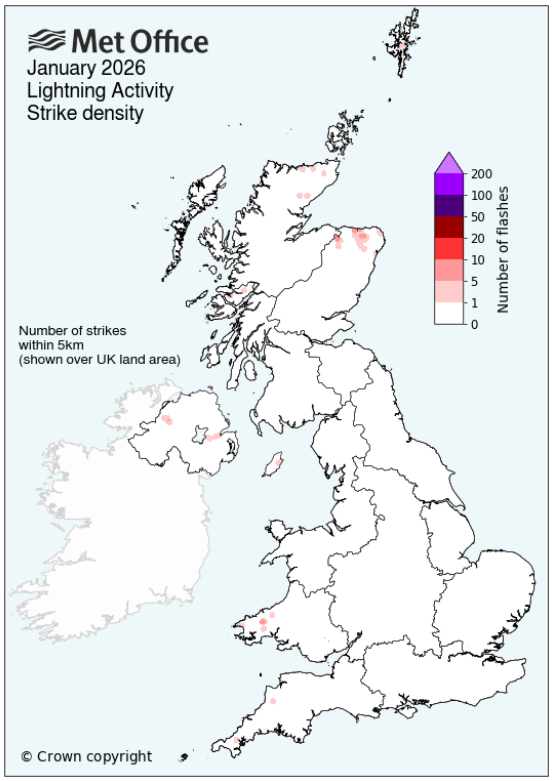


These maps show monthly sunshine, monthly air frost and monthly windspeed for January 2026 as anomalies relative to the January 1991-2020 long term average, plus a map showing lightning activity as the number of strikes within a 5km radius of any land location.









Monthly climate statistics - actuals and anomalies

These tables show the UK and national climate statistics for January 2026 for max, min and mean temperature, rainfall, sunshine and windspeed as actual values and anomalies relative to the January 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	6.0	-0.6	69	75	143
England	6.8	-0.4	56	88	143
Wales	6.8	-0.3	55	89	143
Scotland	4.4	-1.2	91	53	143
Northern Ireland	6.5	-0.7	87	57	143
Central England	7.3	-0.2	52	98	149

Mean minimum temperature

Region	Mintemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	0.8	-0.4	66	78	143
England	1.1	-0.4	63	81	143
Wales	1.3	-0.4	74	70	143
Scotland	-0.0	-0.4	71	73	143
Northern Ireland	1.6	-0.1	58	86	143
Central England	1.5	-0.4	72	78	149

Mean temperature

Region	Meantemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	3.4	-0.5	69	75	143
England	4.0	-0.4	60	84	143
Wales	4.1	-0.3	66	78	143
Scotland	2.2	-0.7	84	60	143
Northern Ireland	4.1	-0.4	71	73	143
Central England	4.4	-0.3	112	257	368

Rainfall

Region	Rainfall (mm)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - wettest	Rank - driest	Series length (yrs)
UK	142.6	117	35	157	191
England	124.2	150	15	177	191
Wales	175.6	113	55	137	191
Scotland	155.2	87	78	114	191
Northern Ireland	195.6	170	2	190	191
EWP (England and Wales)	144.3	153	14	248	261

Sunshine

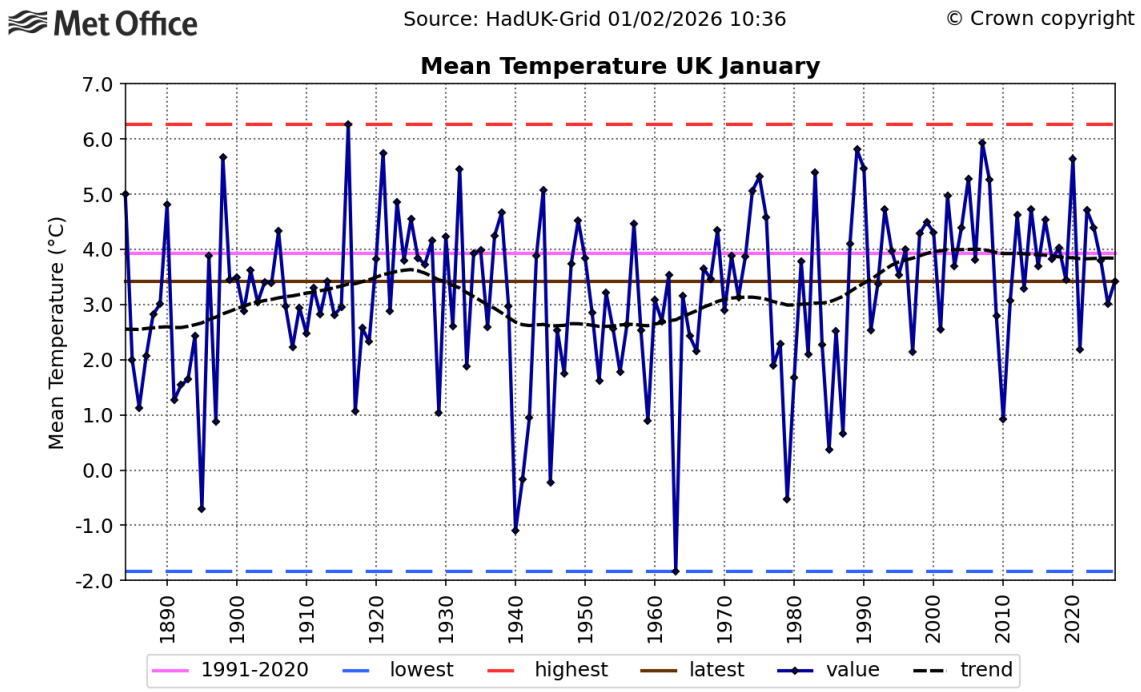
Region	Sunshine (hours)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - sunniest	Rank - dullest	Series length (yrs)
UK	47.7	100	36	82	117
England	58.3	105	30	88	117
Wales	50.2	106	37	81	117
Scotland	30.0	85	82	36	117
Northern Ireland	43.5	102	58	60	117

Windspeed

Region	Windspeed (knots)	1991-2020 Anomaly (knots)	Rank - windiest	Rank - calmest	Series length (yrs)
UK	10.6	-0.1	31	28	58
England	9.1	-0.5	36	23	58
Wales	10.4	-1.2	41	18	58
Scotland	13.2	0.6	20	39	58
Northern Ireland	10.3	0.4	24	35	58

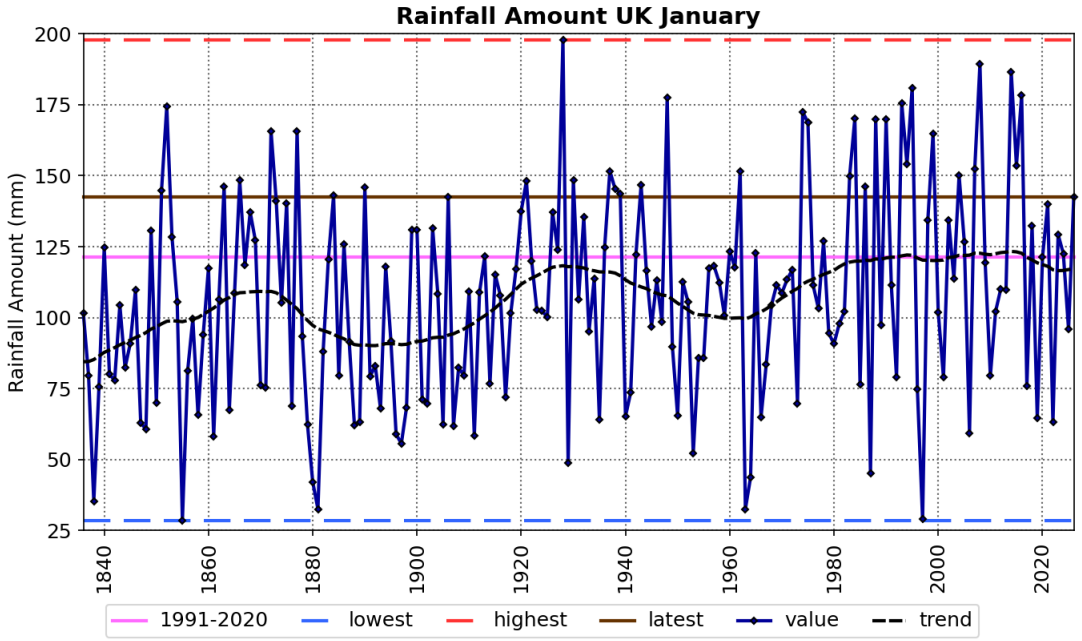
Monthly time-series

These charts show time-series for the UK for January 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.



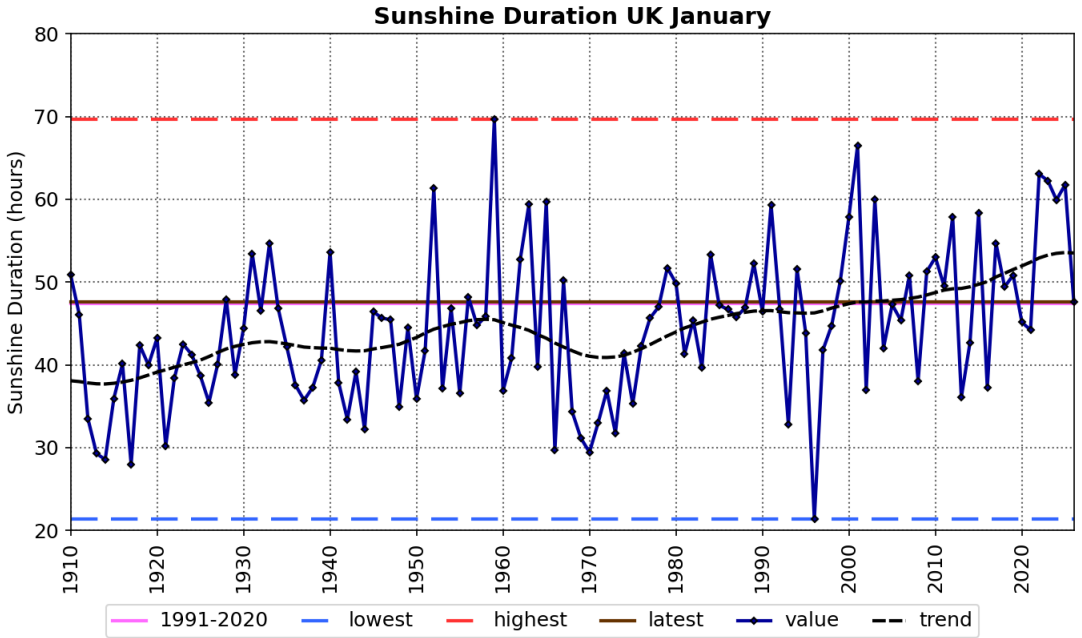
Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Meantemp (°C)	3.0	3.9	3.8	3.4

Met Office Source: HadUK-Grid 01/02/2026 10:36 © Crown copyright



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Rainfall (mm)	111.1	121.5	108.8	142.6

Met Office Source: HadUK-Grid 01/02/2026 10:36 © Crown copyright

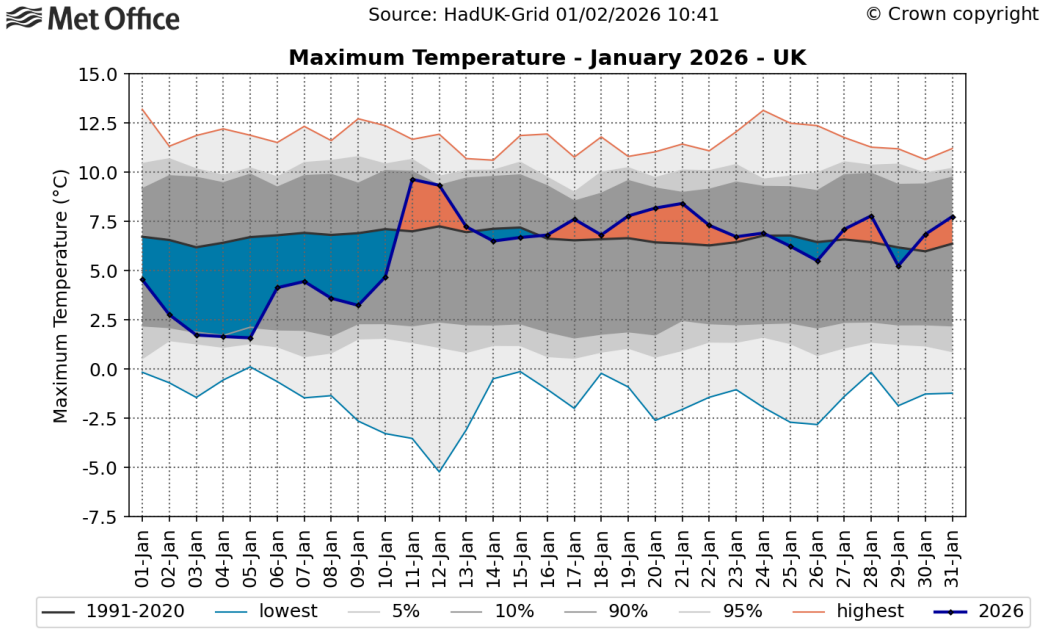


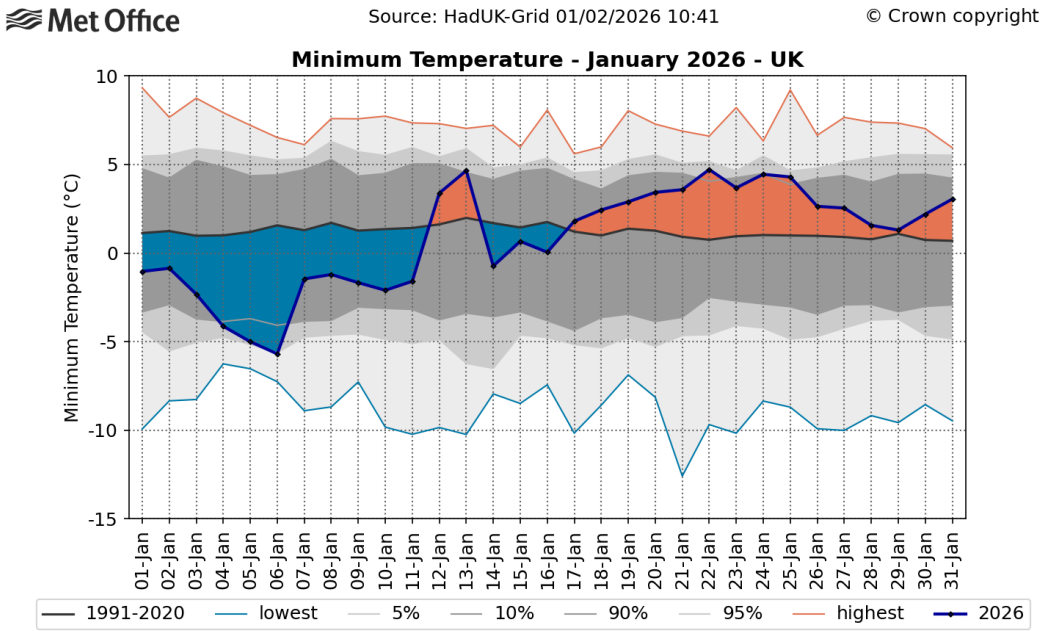
Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Sunshine (hours)	43.6	47.5	53.9	47.7

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 January 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.

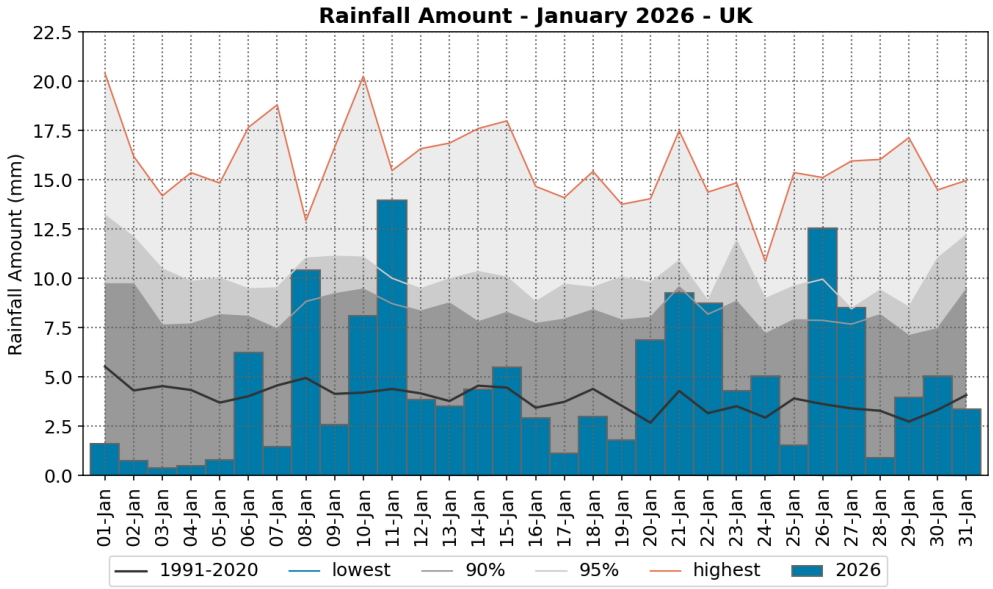
Daily maximum and daily minimum temperature



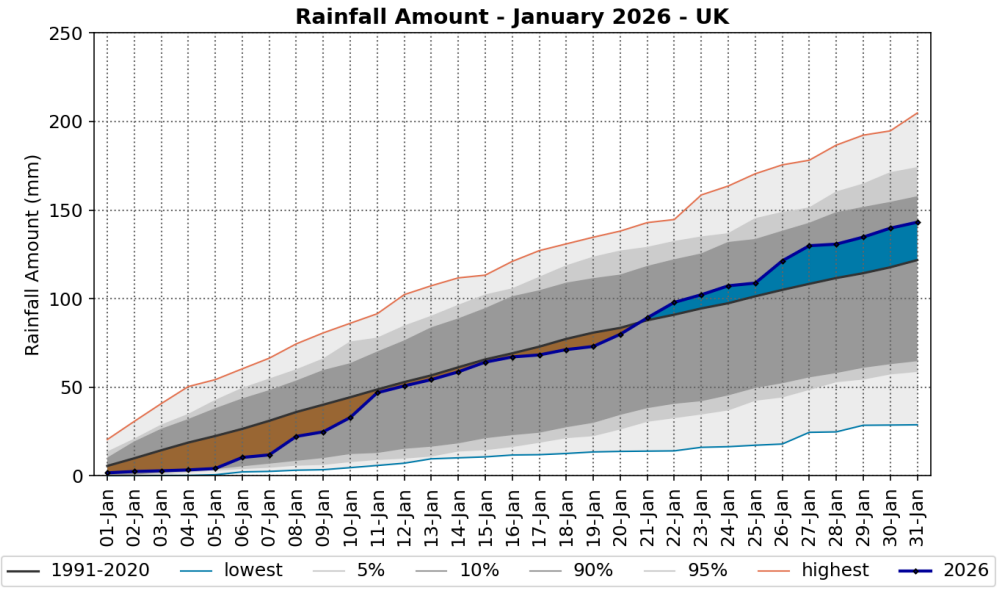


Daily rainfall and rainfall accumulation

Met Office Source: HadUK-Grid 01/02/2026 10:41 © Crown copyright

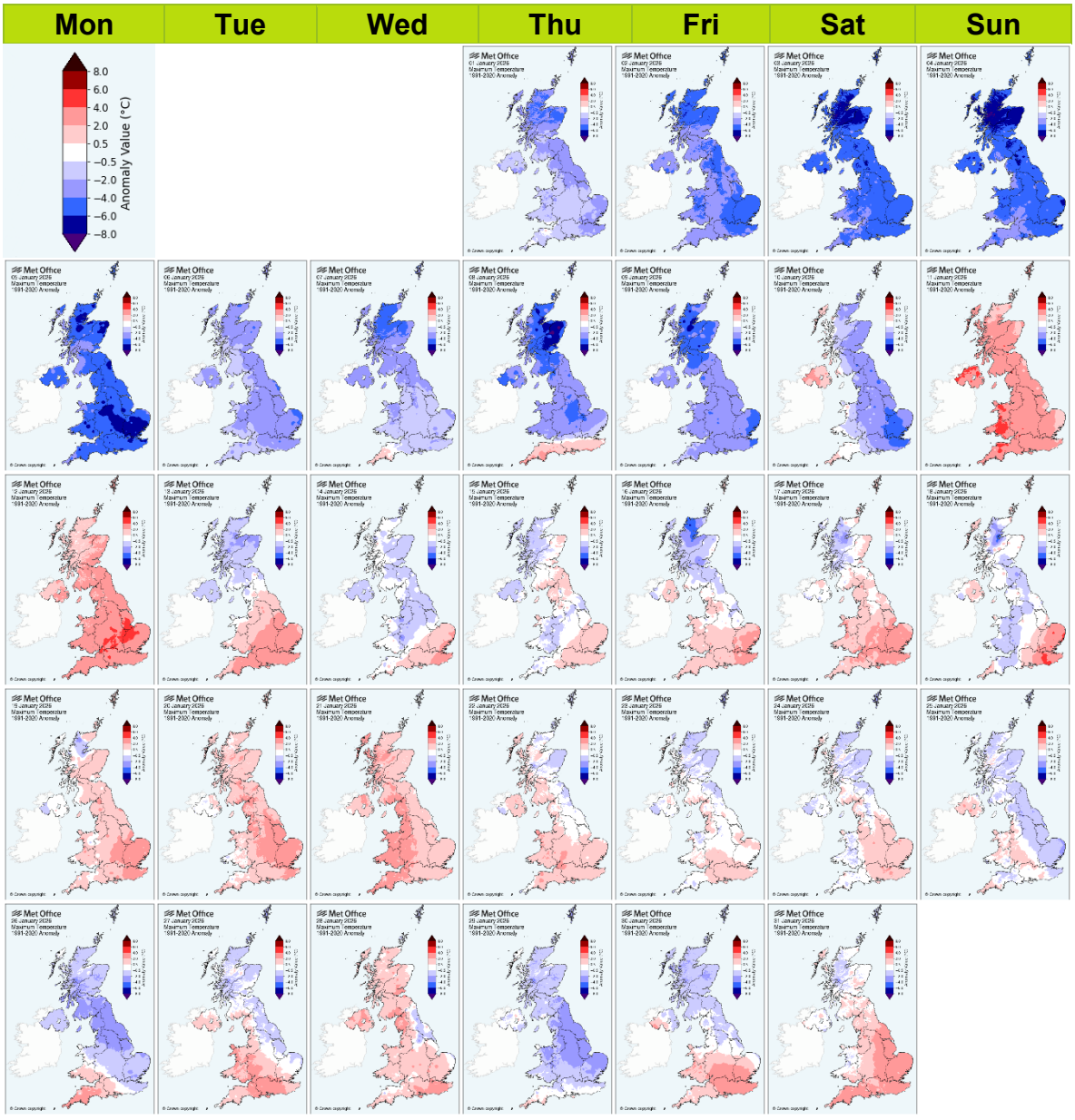


Met Office Source: HadUK-Grid 01/02/2026 10:44 © Crown copyright



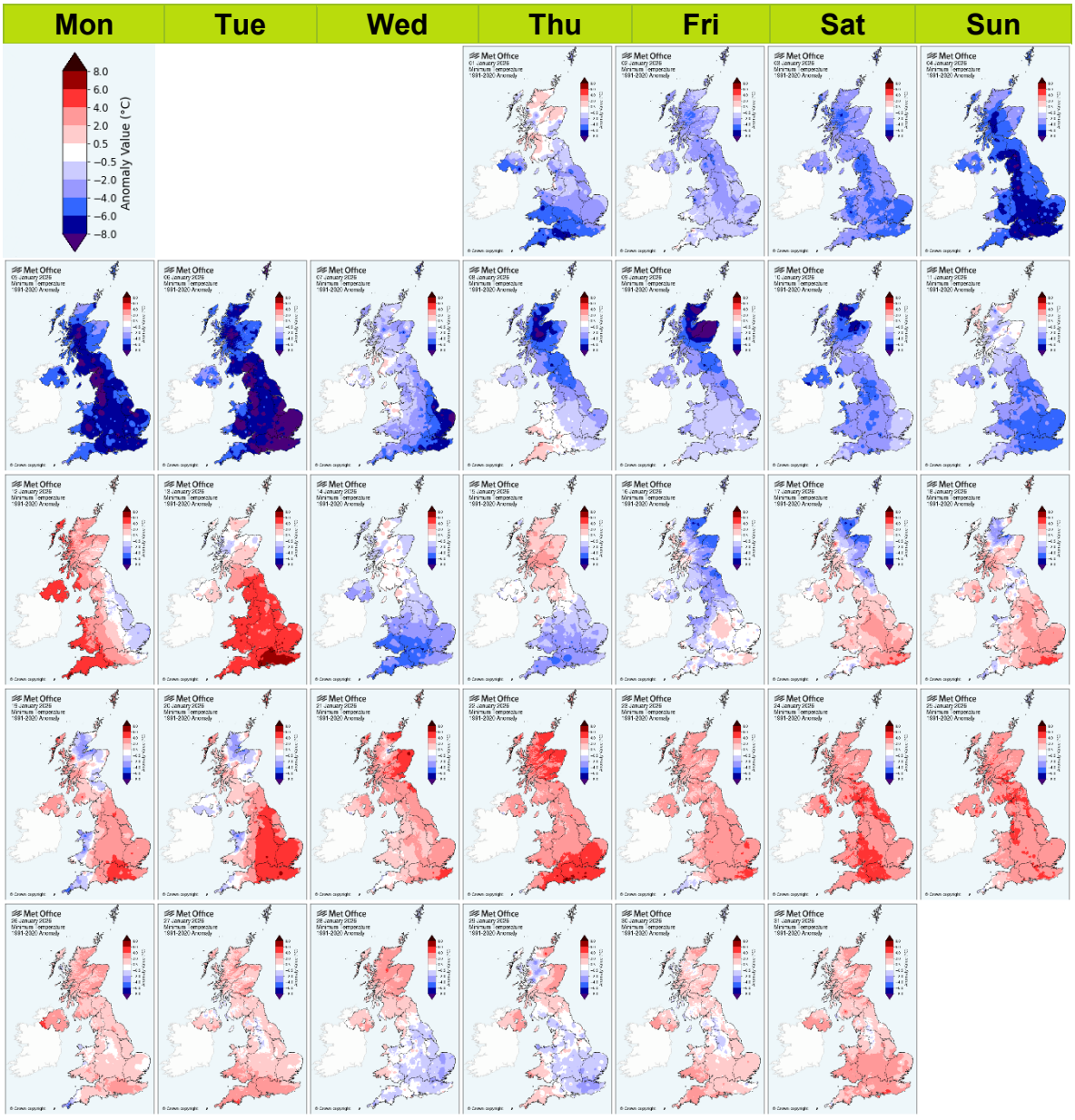
Daily maximum temperature maps - calendar view

These maps show daily maximum temperatures for each day of January 2026 as anomalies relative to the January 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.



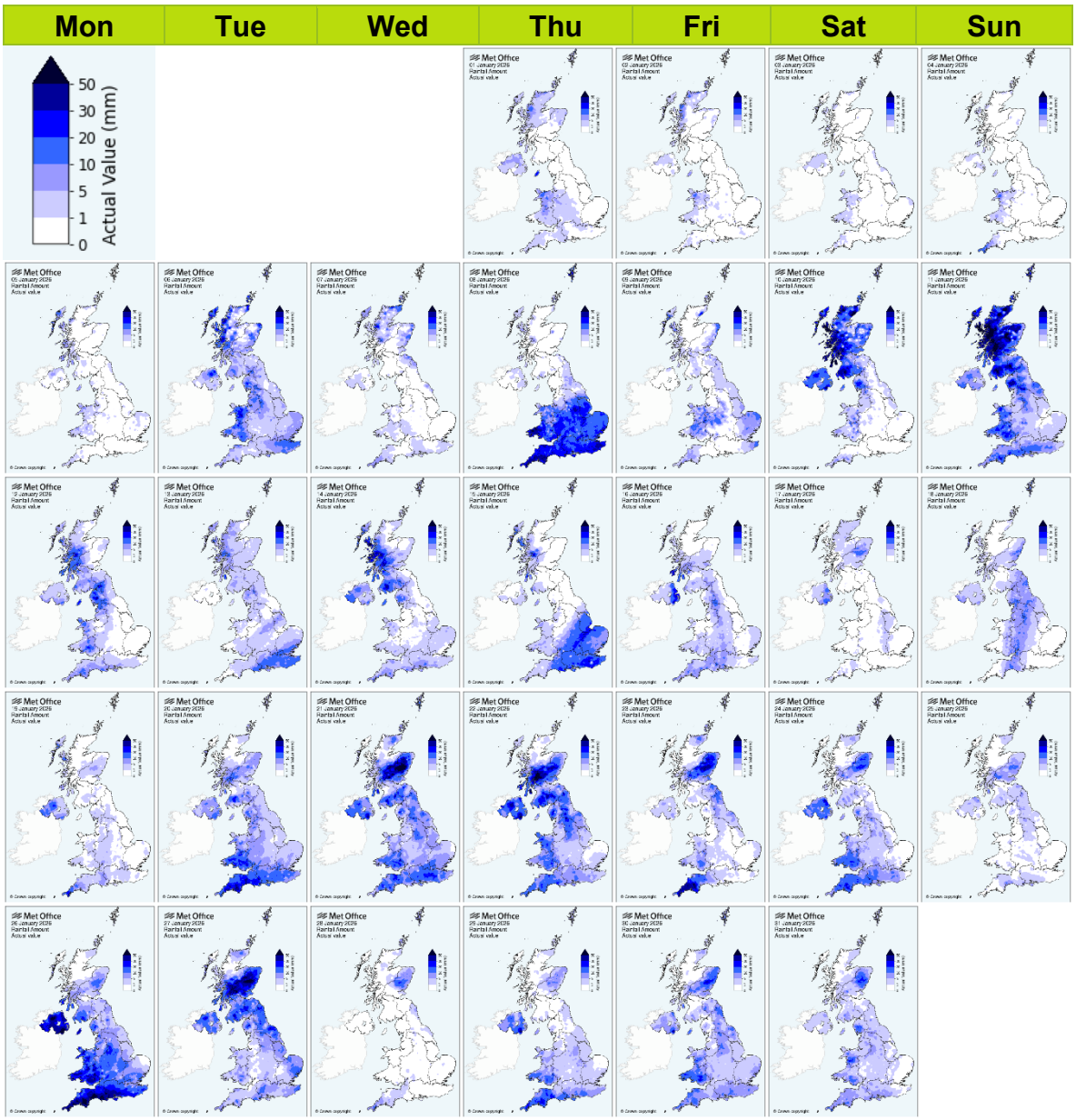
Daily minimum temperature maps - calendar view

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

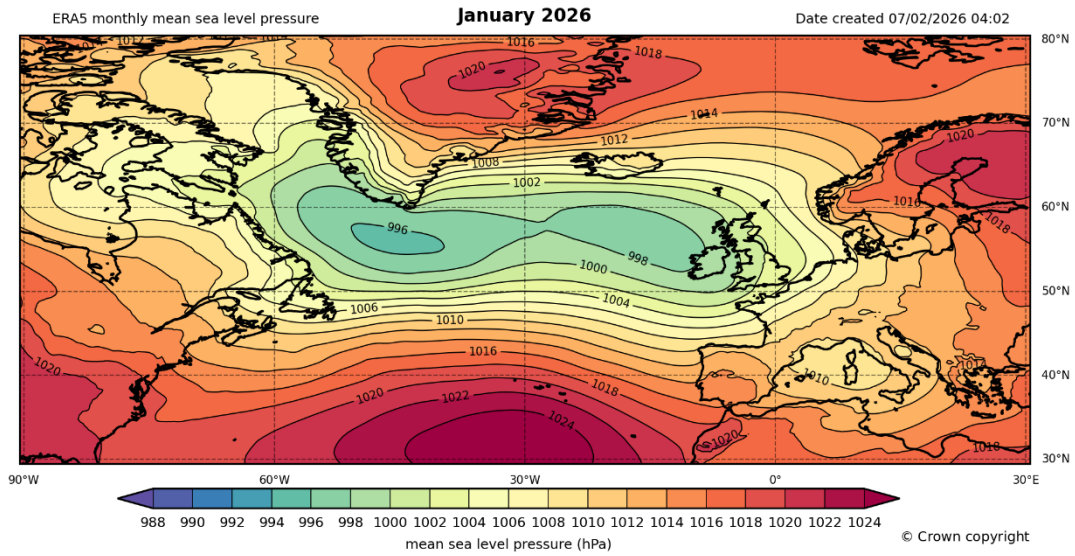


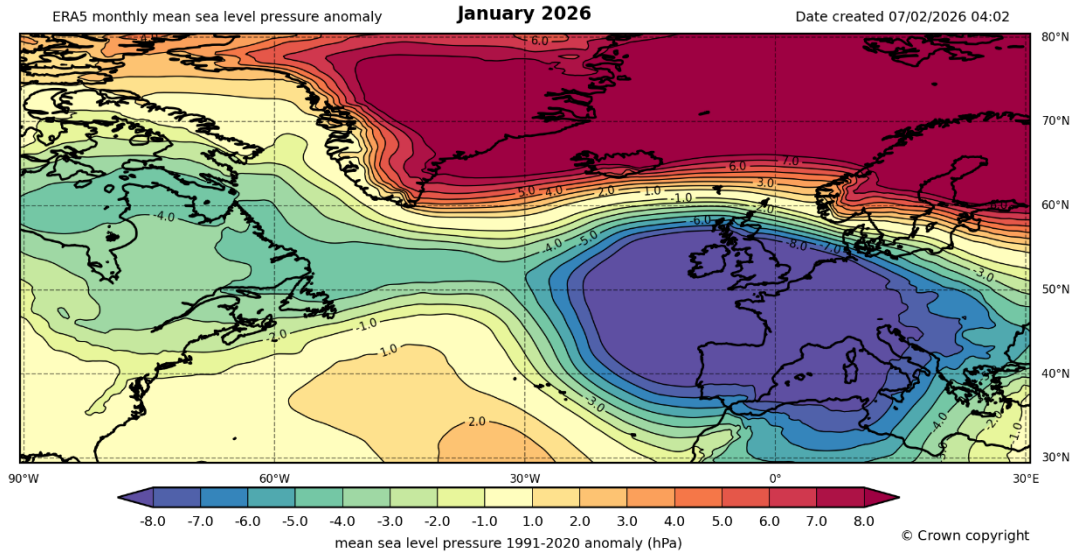
Monthly atmospheric circulation

Mean sea level pressure

These charts show the monthly mean sea level pressure for January 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 January 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.

January saw below average pressure centred over most of the UK and the Iberian peninsula, and above average pressure over Greenland and Iceland.

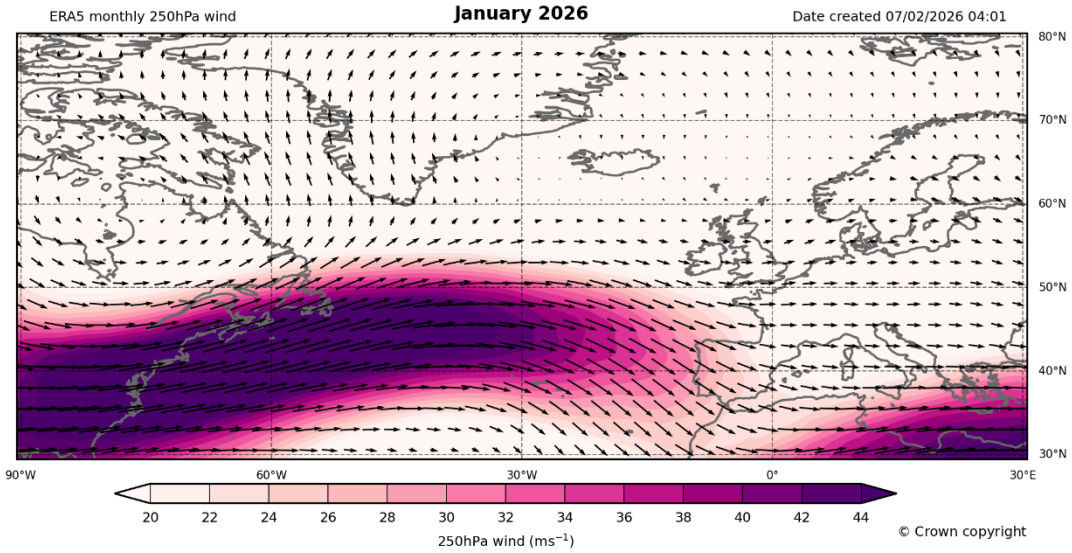


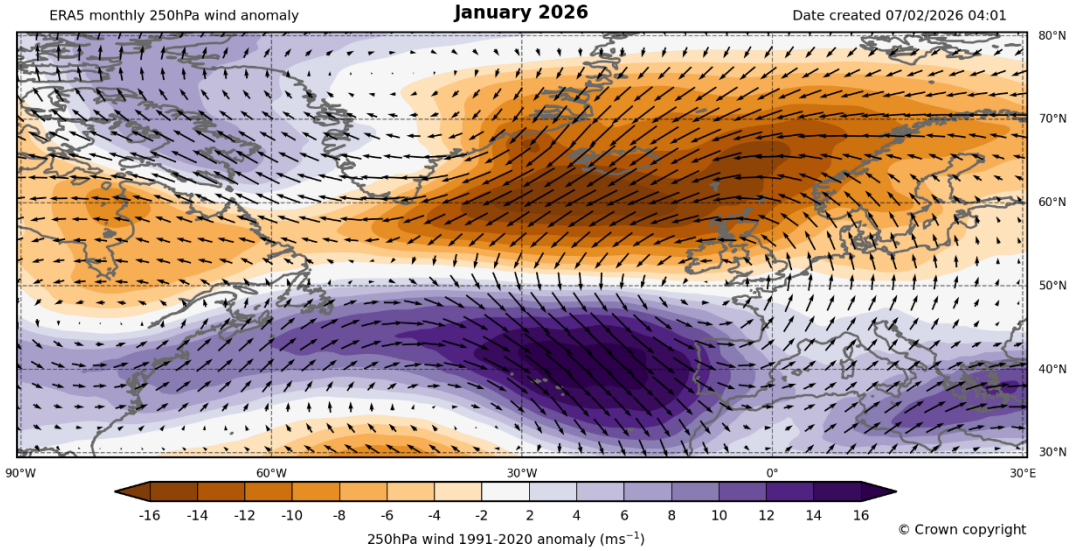


250hPa wind speed and direction

These charts show the monthly 250hPa wind speed and direction for January 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 January 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 jet stream was shifted south of the UK, with a much stronger than average flow over the Iberian peninsula.





Weather diary

- **Very cold first half, then milder but stormy**

Winter hit the UK with a vengeance in the early part of the month with bitterly cold northerly or northeasterly winds, bringing large amounts of snow to Scotland and parts of northeast England. Widespread frosts were common and by the 6th, temperatures were falling to below -10°C, and as low as -14.7°C in parts of Moray. Snow depths also exceeded 30cm in a number of spots in Scotland, with Moray seeing upwards of 50cm.

Overnight from the 8th into the 9th, Storm Goretti, named by Meteo France, brought havoc to southwest England and the Channel Islands. Winds gusted to 60 to 70mph across a wide swathe of southern England and up to 99mph in the Isles of Scilly. On the northern edge of the storm, snow was widely reported across the Midlands, with 25cm falling in parts of Derbyshire. Rainfall was plentiful for Wales and southwest England with 24 hour totals between the 8th and 9th ranging between 40 and 60mm. 30mm was commonplace across the Midlands and south of the country.

A vigorous depression off the Atlantic brought milder conditions but also very strong winds and persistent and heavy rainfall to the UK between the 10th and 12th with the west being hardest hit and particularly northwestern counties, totals over this period ranging from 80 to 175mm. Winds across northern Scotland and the Northern Isles touched 70mph at times. As that system cleared away into the North Sea, there was a brief respite on the 14th before a small scale feature crossed southern and southeastern counties of England on the 15th bringing some significant rainfall. The pattern was repeated on the 16th.

By the 17th, high pressure had established itself over Scandinavia and eastern Europe creating a block for any systems coming off the Atlantic. As a result, depressions stalled to the west of the UK, tracking down to the southwest approaches. Winds were generally on the mild side from the south, although much colder continental air covered northern England and eastern Scotland, and frontal systems were slow moving across the UK. Consequently, many parts of England, Wales and Northern Ireland were subject to very strong winds, and significant rainfall, with snowfall prevalent across the Pennines and over the Grampians. From the 20th, a series of deep depressions developed off the coast of Cornwall, including two named storms, Ingrid (24th) and Chandra (27th) bringing very strong winds and copious rainfall to all parts but particularly the southwest, Wales and Northern Ireland. Gales were widespread and gusts widely reached 50 to 60 mph, with rainfall totals generally topping 50 to 60mm, and as high as 100mm over higher parts of Devon and Cornwall, and Northern Ireland.

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 09/02/2026 13:55. 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.

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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