

# March 2026 Monthly Weather Report

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

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## UK overview

Overall, March was a mild and changeable month for the UK, with periods of settled weather interspersed with periods of unsettled weather. The start of March was slightly warmer than average for many, and with rainfall less persistent than in recent months as the blocking pattern broke down. However, the rain grew heavy in Scotland on the 11th and extended further south on the 12th, before easing again. Strong winds later in the month caused some travel disruption. Temperatures overall were above average, although there were a few short cooler spells early in the month and towards the end of the month. Mid-month saw a week of fine weather for many, with temperatures above average and rainfall limited to a few scattered showers as high pressure dominated. The highest temperature of the year so far, 20.9°C, was reached in Gogerddan (Dyfed) on the 18th. Temperatures dropped again at the end of the month along with a return to unsettled, wet weather. However, the final day of the month saw sunshine and fine weather across parts of central and southern England and Wales, with Pershore in Worcestershire recording 20.9°C as well.

The provisional mean temperature for the UK was 1.3°C above average. All four nations saw temperatures above average, despite the cooler spells. The UK recorded its joint tenth warmest March on record, with Wales recording its joint fourth warmest and England its joint sixth warmest. Rainfall for the UK was slightly above average at 86.6mm (102% of the long-term average). There was strong regional variation, with western and northern Scotland and northern England recording above average rainfall and eastern Scotland and central and southern England seeing below average rainfall. Sunshine was above average across the UK, especially in the southeast of Scotland.

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

## Weather impacts

- **Dry, settled weather resulted in reports of wildfires in West Yorkshire and north Wales**
- **Strong winds towards the end of the month resulted in power outages and travel disruption across the country**

March comprised alternating periods of Atlantic west to southwesterly conditions with a couple of quieter anticyclonic spells, the latter lasting from the 3rd to the 8th and again from the 18th to the 23rd. The dominant airflow came from the southwest, resulting in another mild month with mean temperatures typically 1 to 2 degrees C above the long-term average. The rainfall distribution reflected the southwesterly nature of the month with northwest Scotland and Cumbria seeing wetter than average conditions whilst much of southern and eastern England, along with parts of eastern Scotland, had a drier than average month. In contrast to February, many parts of the UK were able to report somewhat above average sunshine totals which, combined with the mildness, resulted in another early spring in terms of vegetation growth. A feature of the month was the general lack of severe weather with only six low impact warnings issued over the entire month and no named storms.

The opening week of the month saw the first of the settled spells of weather and, unsurprisingly, a couple of wildfires made the news with reports of one fire from Marsden Moor in West Yorkshire and another near Llanfairfechan in North Wales. By the 10th, a much more mobile weather pattern was becoming established. A deep low centre to the north of Scotland on the 12th brought wet and windy conditions across most of the UK as an active set of weather fronts progressed southeastwards. Various minor impacts were reported after low impact wind warnings had been issued. In North Wales, a road between Caernarfon and Beddgelert was reportedly closed after an HGV loaded with pallets was blown over by a powerful gust. Additional reports of downed trees were received from Norfolk and Suffolk with up to 2100 properties reported to have temporarily lost power across Suffolk as a result of the strong winds. Fallen power cables reportedly closed an A road near Millom in southwest Cumbria. In Scotland, several schools were reportedly closed as a result of wind-related power outages in Aberdeenshire.

The 18th saw the start of the second spell of settled weather, and by the 22nd reports were coming in of further wildfire activity in north Wales. There was one outbreak at Bronaber near Trawsfynydd and a second fire in the hills above Llanfairfechan on the north Wales coast, close to the site of the outbreak earlier in the month. Meanwhile, a large fire reported from Dartmoor on the afternoon of the 23rd was confirmed by Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service as a controlled burn.

A strong, cold northwesterly outbreak on the 25th saw heavy and at times wintry/thunderly showers affect the northern half of the UK. The Barrow to Lancaster rail service was disrupted after a reported lightning strike on signalling. On the Yorkshire coast a lightning strike on a telegraph pole in Gristhorpe between Scarborough and Filey resulted in a power surge to several houses resulting in a number of blown sockets. In Essex, the gusty winds were reportedly responsible for downing a tree across a busy A road, and some 3000 properties across England were reportedly suffering power outages due to the strong winds at various stages during the day. Further windy weather developed on the 29th as weather fronts moved quickly southeastwards across the UK, followed by one or two active small-scale weather features. Although no warnings were in force at the time, there were multiple reports of wind-related impacts from the likes of Yorkshire, the East Midlands and East Anglia. In particular, Lincolnshire police reported receiving around 30 calls related to downed trees on the evening of the 29th. On the same day, Belfast City Airport reported an incoming aircraft performed an emergency landing due to the very gusty conditions.

## Monthly extremes

The table below lists UK monthly weather extremes recorded at individual weather stations during March 2026 from data available on 06/04/2026. The map shows the location of these stations.

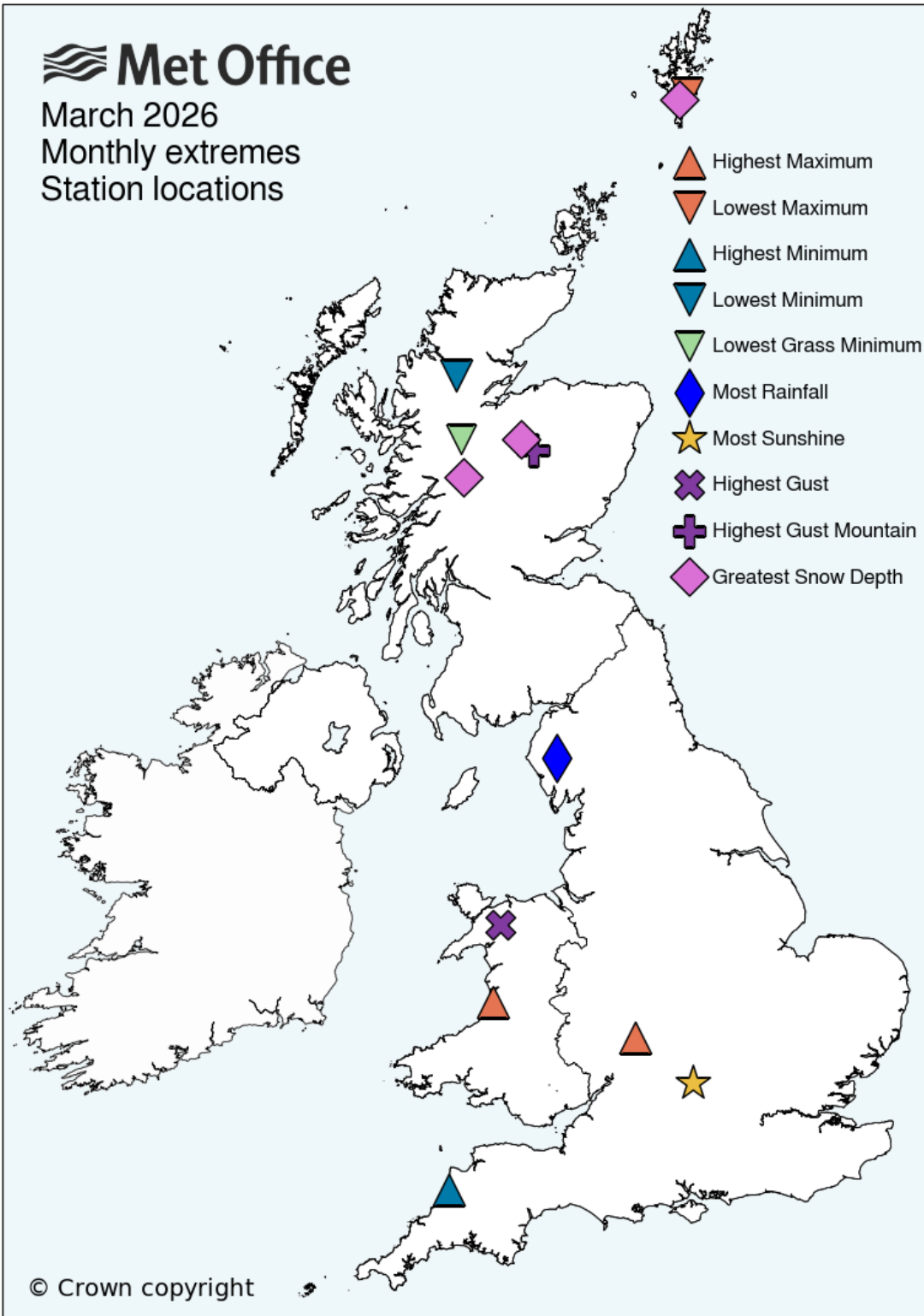
<b>Highest Maximum</b>	<b>20.9°C</b> on <b>18th</b> at Gogerddan (Dyfed, 31mAMSL) also on <b>31st</b> at Pershore (Hereford & Worcester, 35mAMSL)
<b>Lowest Maximum</b>	<b>2.6°C</b> on <b>25th</b> at Lerwick (Shetland, 82mAMSL)
<b>Highest Minimum</b>	<b>10.8°C</b> on <b>2nd</b> at Bude (Cornwall, 15mAMSL)
<b>Lowest Minimum</b>	<b>-6.1°C</b> on <b>6th</b> at Loch Glascarnoch (Ross & Cromarty, 269mAMSL)
<b>Lowest Grass Minimum</b>	<b>-10.5°C</b> on <b>26th</b> at Dundreggan Rewilding Centre (Inverness-shire, 123mAMSL)
<b>Most Rainfall</b>	<b>93.2mm</b> on <b>24th</b> at Honister Pass (Cumbria, 358mAMSL)
<b>Most Sunshine</b>	<b>11.7hr</b> on <b>18th</b> at Oxford (Oxfordshire, 63mAMSL)
<b>Highest Gust</b>	<b>68Kt 78mph</b> on <b>12th</b> at Capel Curig No 3 (Gwynedd, 216mAMSL)
<b>Highest Gust (mountain*)</b>	<b>99Kt 114mph</b> on <b>29th</b> at Cairngorm Summit (Inverness-shire, 1237mAMSL)
<b>Greatest Snow Depth at 0900 UTC</b>	<b>4cm</b> on <b>13th</b> at Aviemore (Inverness-shire, 228mAMSL) also on <b>25th</b> at Tulloch Bridge (Inverness-shire, 249mAMSL) also on <b>26th</b> at Lerwick (Shetland, 82mAMSL)

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

\*Mountain stations are above 500mAMSL.

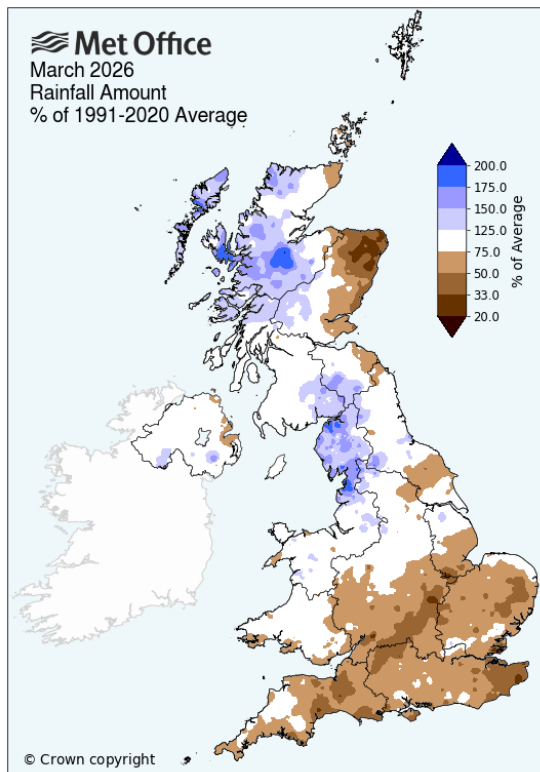
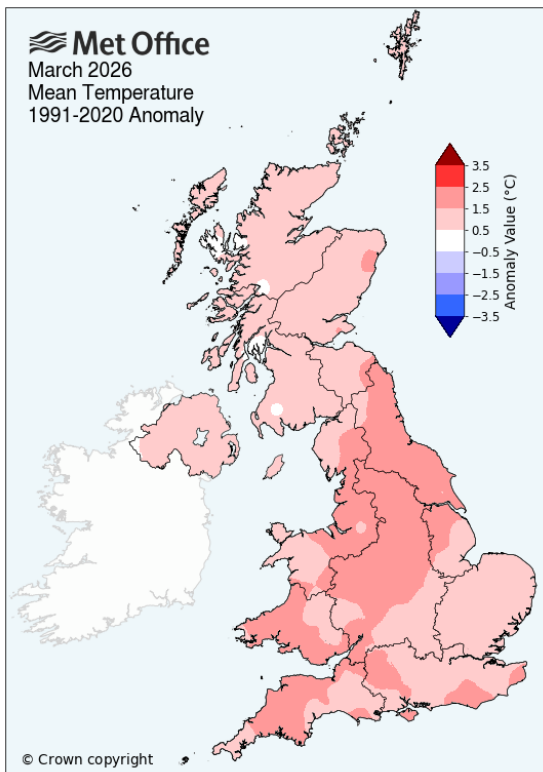
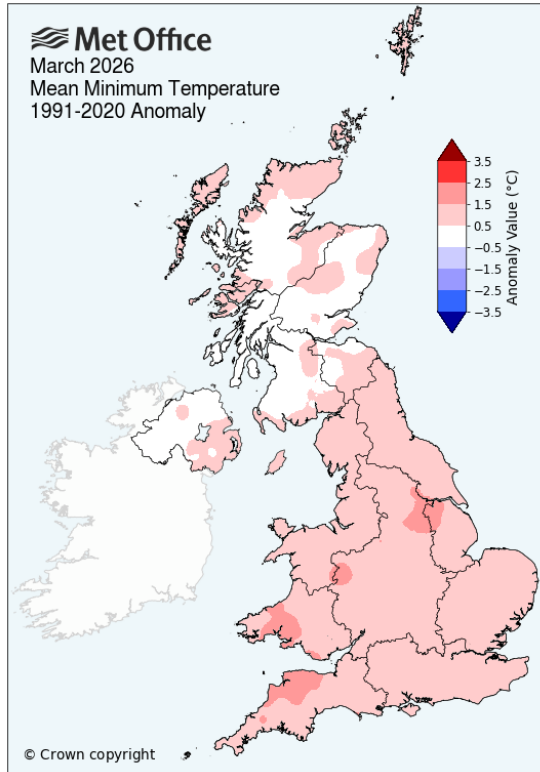
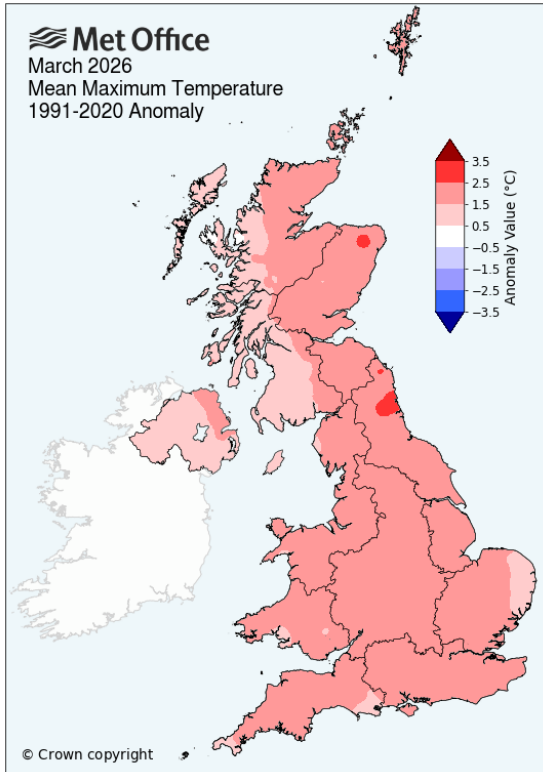


March 2026  
Monthly extremes  
Station locations

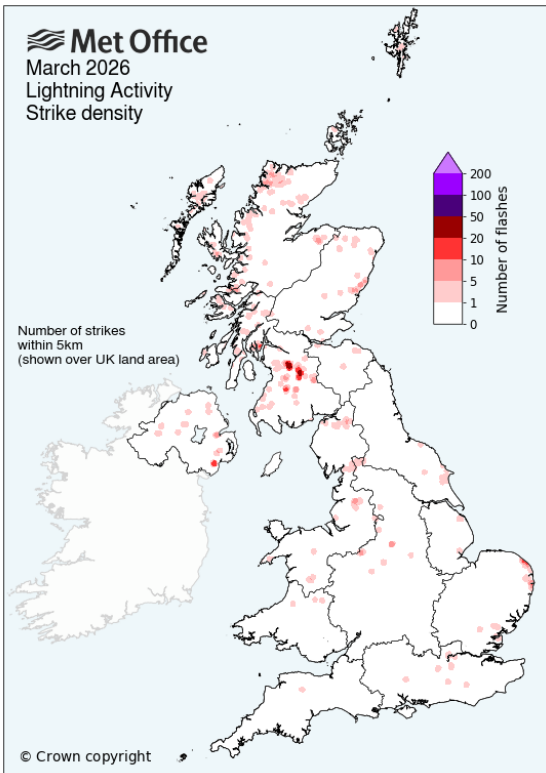
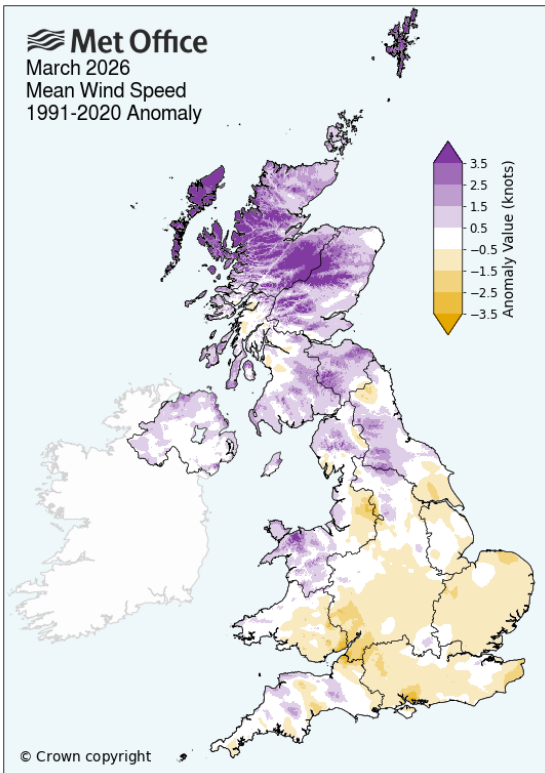
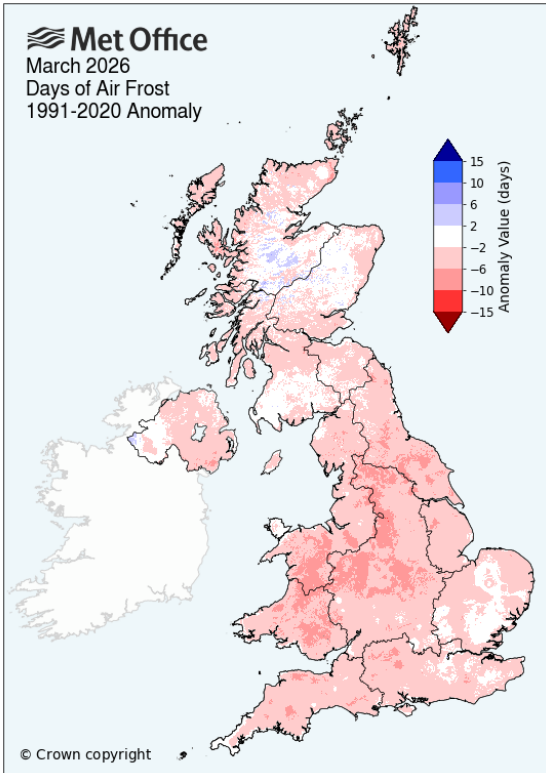
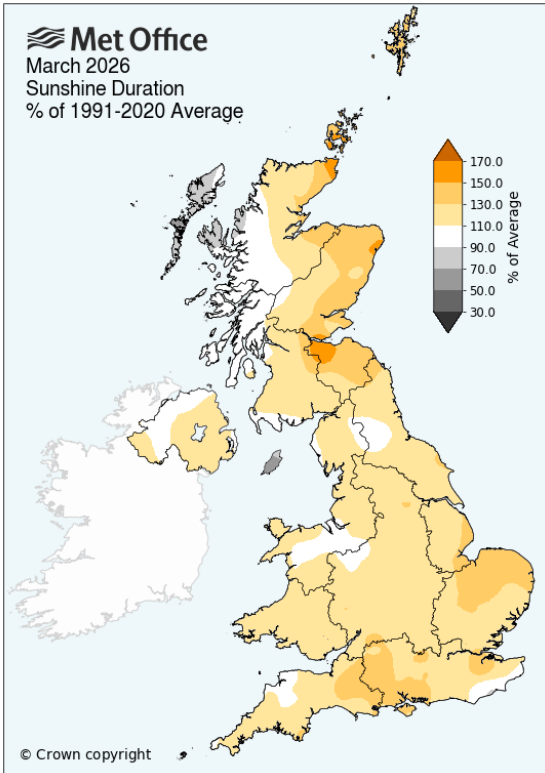


## Monthly maps

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



These maps show monthly sunshine, monthly air frost and monthly windspeed for March 2026 as anomalies relative to the March 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 March 2026 for max, min and mean temperature, rainfall, sunshine and windspeed as actual values and anomalies relative to the March 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	10.9	1.7	13	131	143
England	11.9	1.8	10	134	143
Wales	11.0	1.7	9	135	143
Scotland	9.2	1.6	11	133	143
Northern Ireland	10.8	1.3	13	131	143
Central England	12.3	1.8	11	139	149

### Mean minimum temperature

Region	Mintemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	3.1	0.9	16	128	143
England	3.9	1.2	12	132	143
Wales	3.9	1.3	10	134	143
Scotland	1.7	0.5	27	117	143
Northern Ireland	2.9	0.4	37	107	143
Central England	4.1	0.9	16	134	149

## Mean temperature

Region	Meantemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	7.0	1.3	10	134	143
England	7.9	1.5	6	138	143
Wales	7.5	1.5	6	138	143
Scotland	5.4	1.0	14	130	143
Northern Ireland	6.8	0.9	17	127	143
Central England	8.2	1.4	10	359	368

## Rainfall

Region	Rainfall (mm)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - wettest	Rank - driest	Series length (yrs)
UK	86.6	102	66	126	191
England	48.5	83	115	77	191
Wales	95.1	92	93	99	191
Scotland	148.6	119	31	161	191
Northern Ireland	81.9	94	86	106	191
EWP (England and Wales)	48.2	74	168	94	261

## Sunshine

Region	Sunshine (hours)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - sunniest	Rank - dullest	Series length (yrs)
UK	132.3	121	14	104	117
England	143.5	123	17	101	117
Wales	129.1	118	24	94	117
Scotland	117.8	121	11	107	117
Northern Ireland	115.2	114	31	87	117

## Windspeed

Region	Windspeed (knots)	1991-2020 Anomaly (knots)	Rank - windiest	Rank - calmest	Series length (yrs)
UK	10.7	0.4	22	37	58
England	8.8	-0.4	39	20	58
Wales	10.8	0.1	28	31	58
Scotland	13.9	2.0	10	49	58
Northern Ireland	10.1	0.6	19	40	58

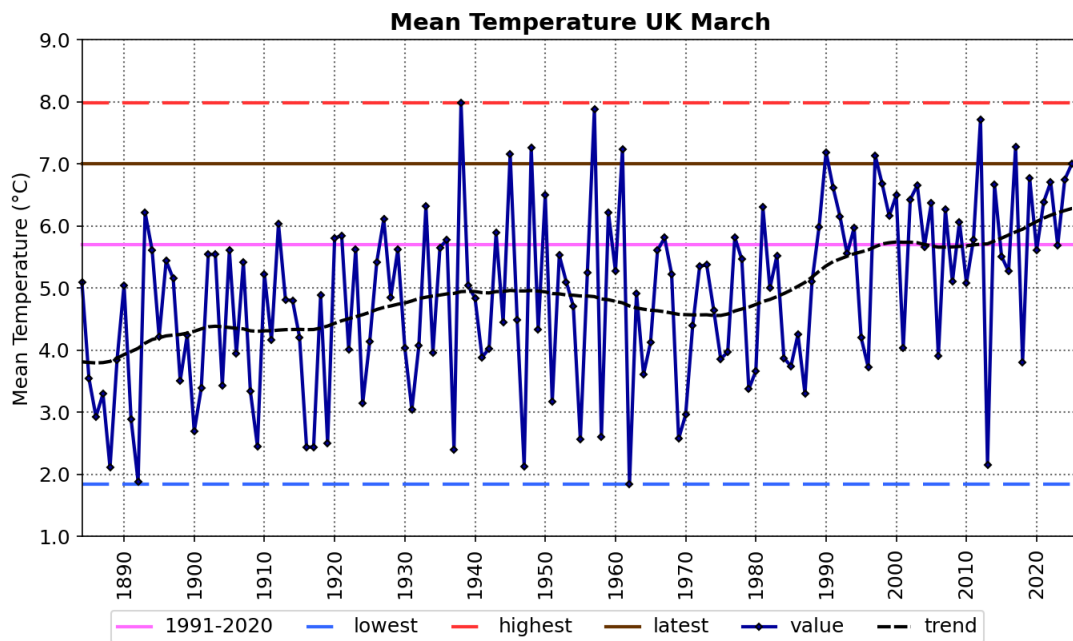
# Monthly time-series

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

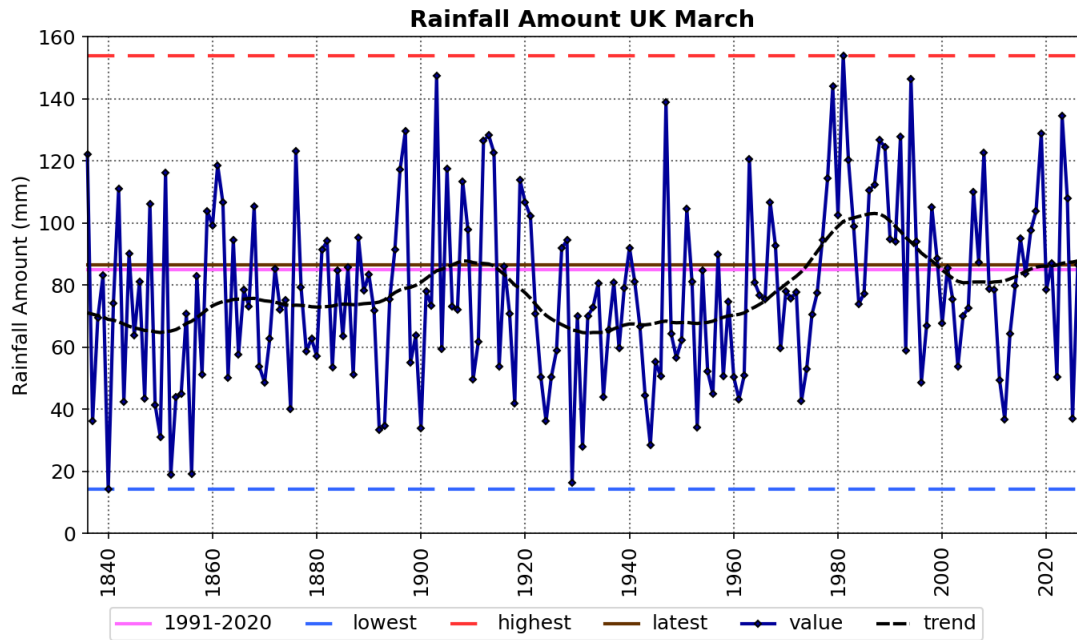


Source: HadUK-Grid 01/04/2026 11:34

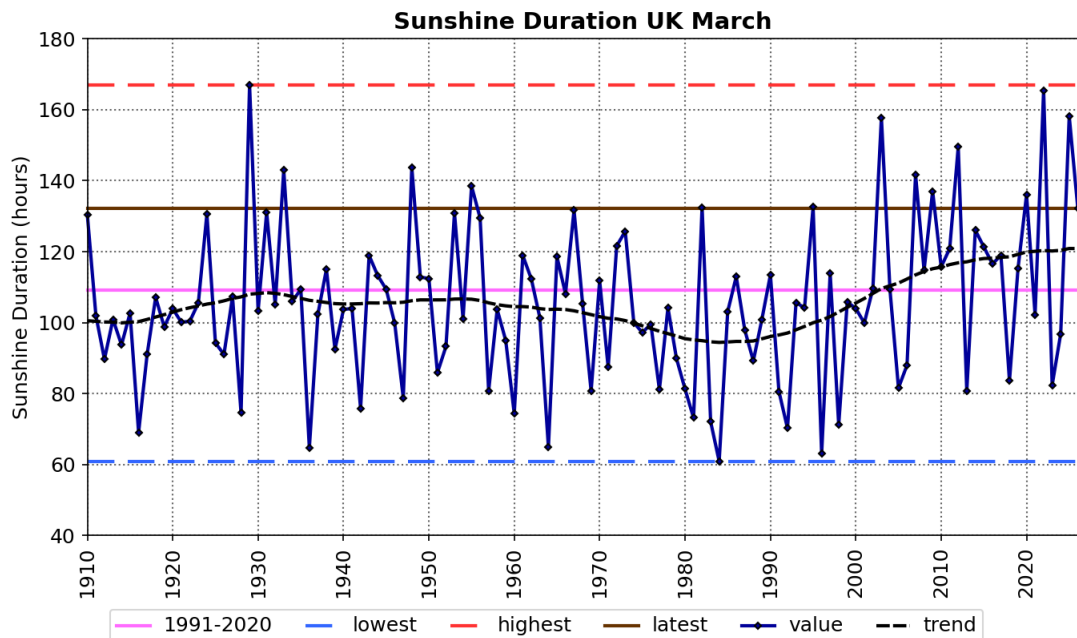
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Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Meantemp (°C)	4.7	5.7	6.3	7.0



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Rainfall (mm)	91.0	85.1	91.3	86.6



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Sunshine (hours)	99.9	109.2	119.1	132.3

# Daily time-series

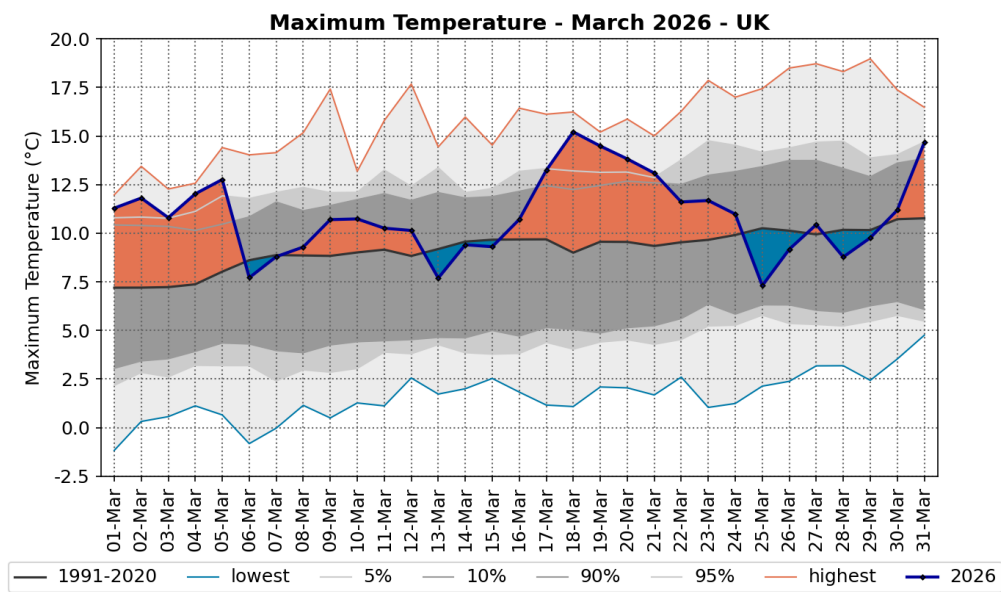
These charts show time-series of UK area-average daily maximum and daily minimum temperature and daily rainfall for each day of March 2026. The areas shaded in grey show the highest and lowest values in the daily temperature series (from 1960) and daily rainfall series (from 1891) together with percentiles 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



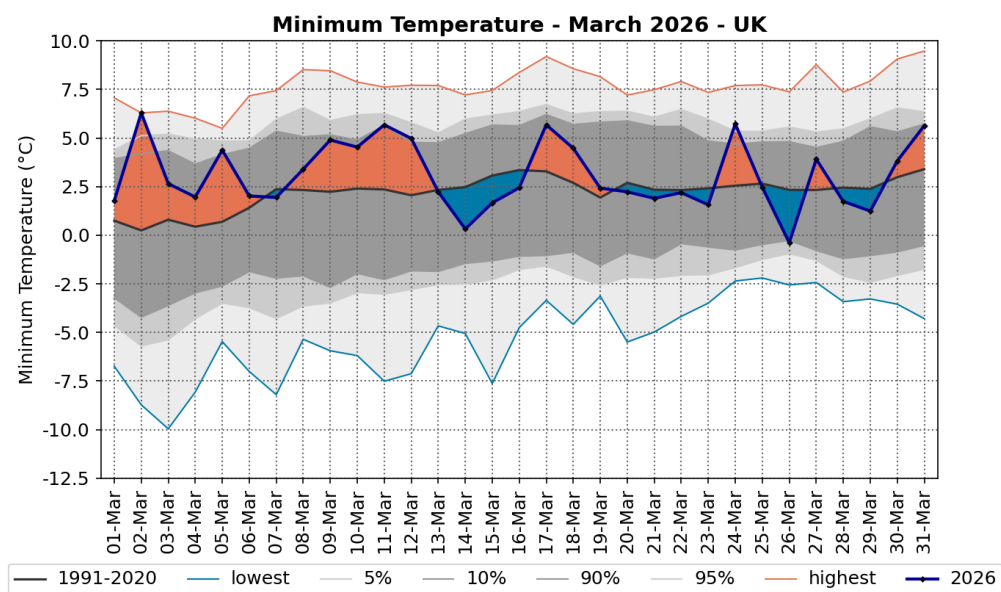
Source: HadUK-Grid 01/04/2026 11:39

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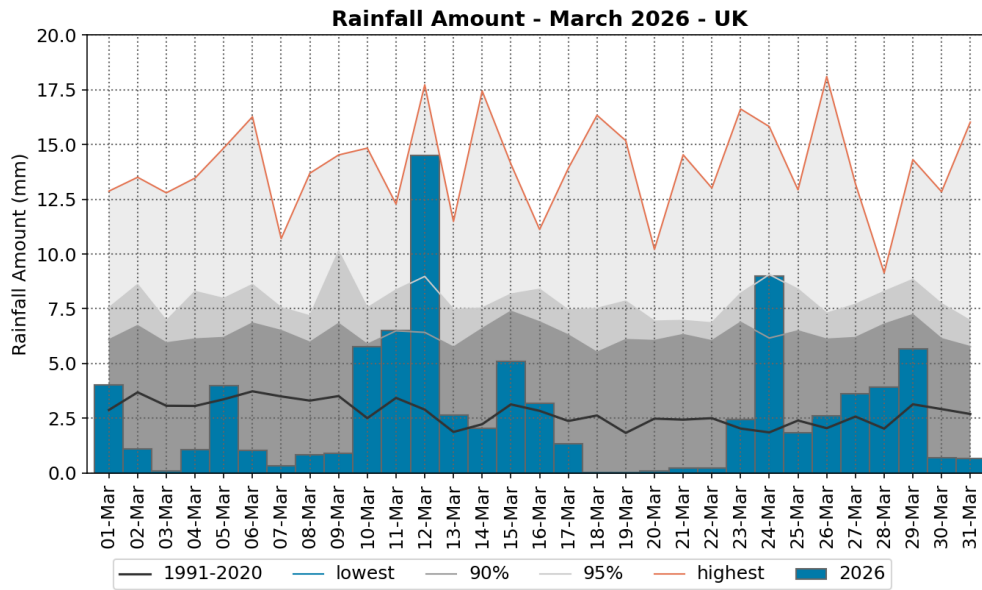


# Daily rainfall and rainfall accumulation

Met Office

Source: HadUK-Grid 01/04/2026 11:40

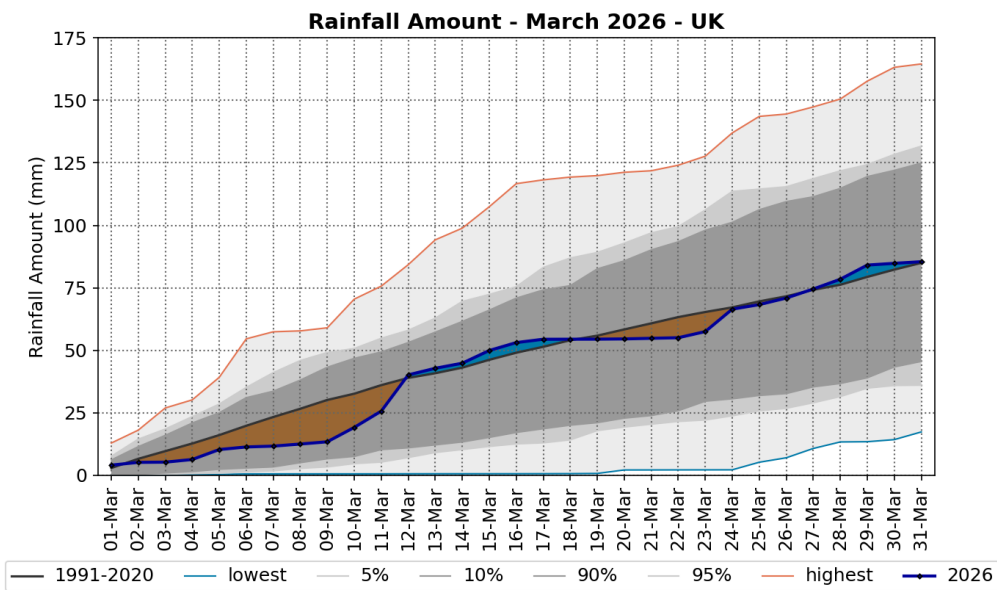
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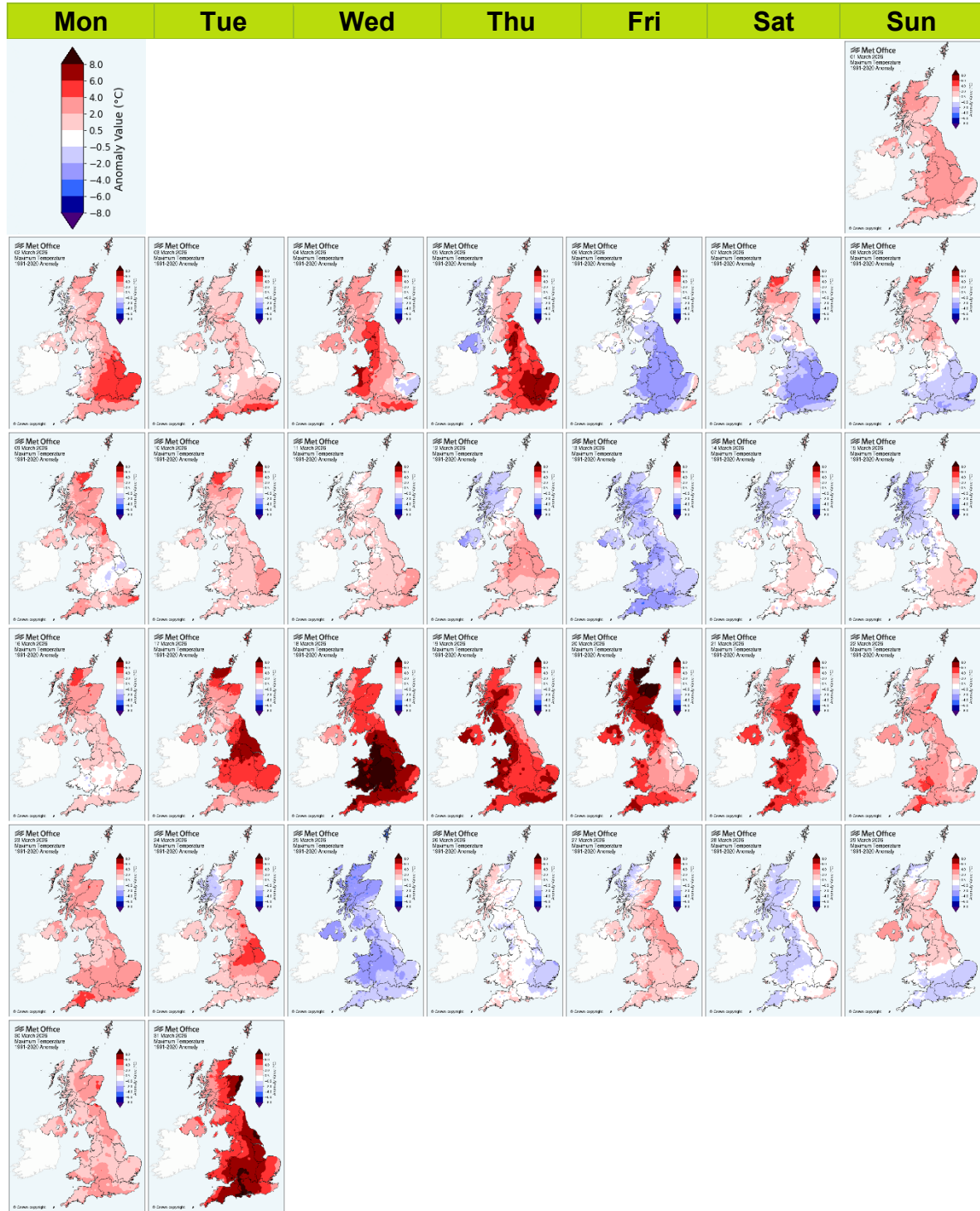
Source: HadUK-Grid 01/04/2026 11:42

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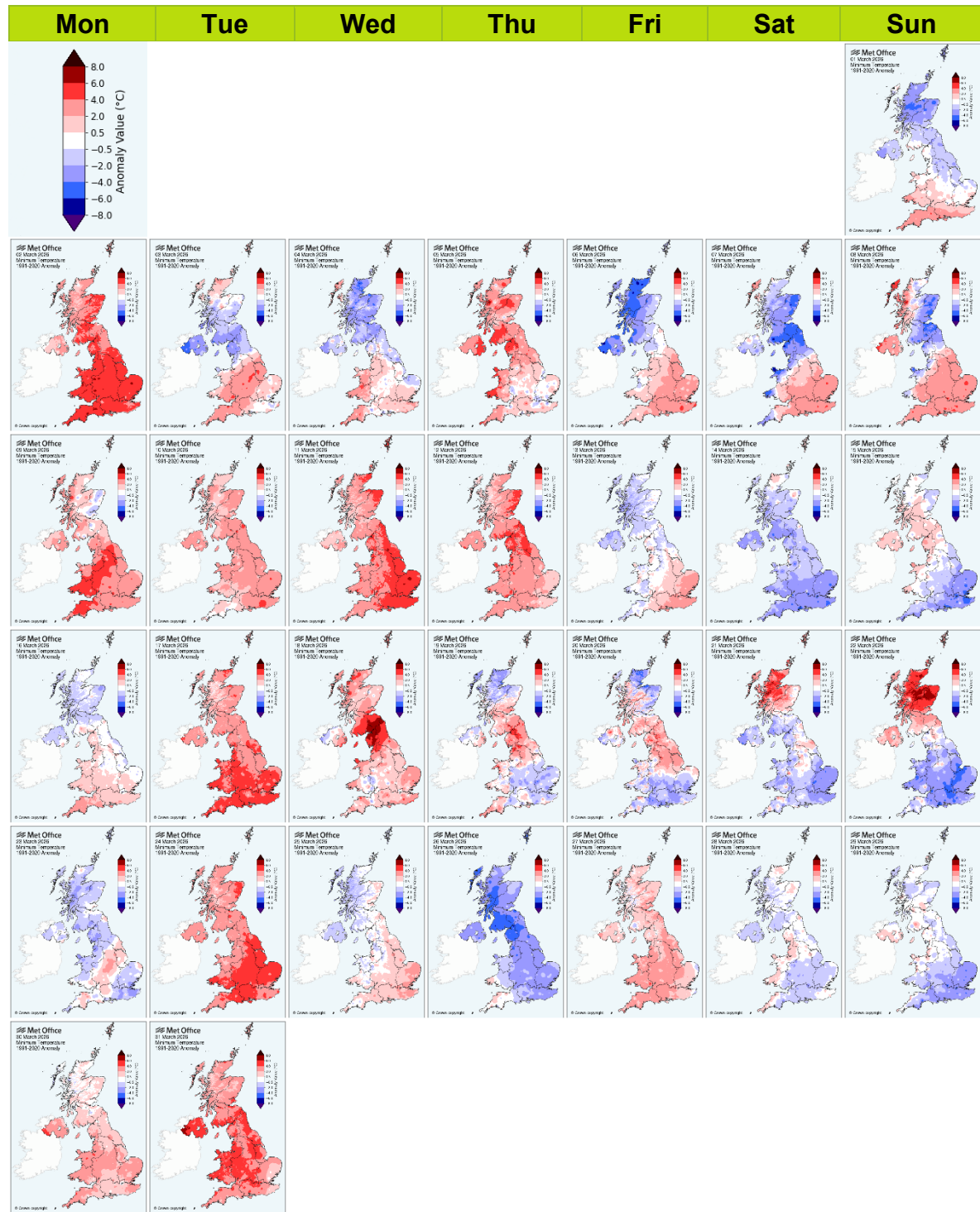
# Daily maximum temperature maps - calendar view

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



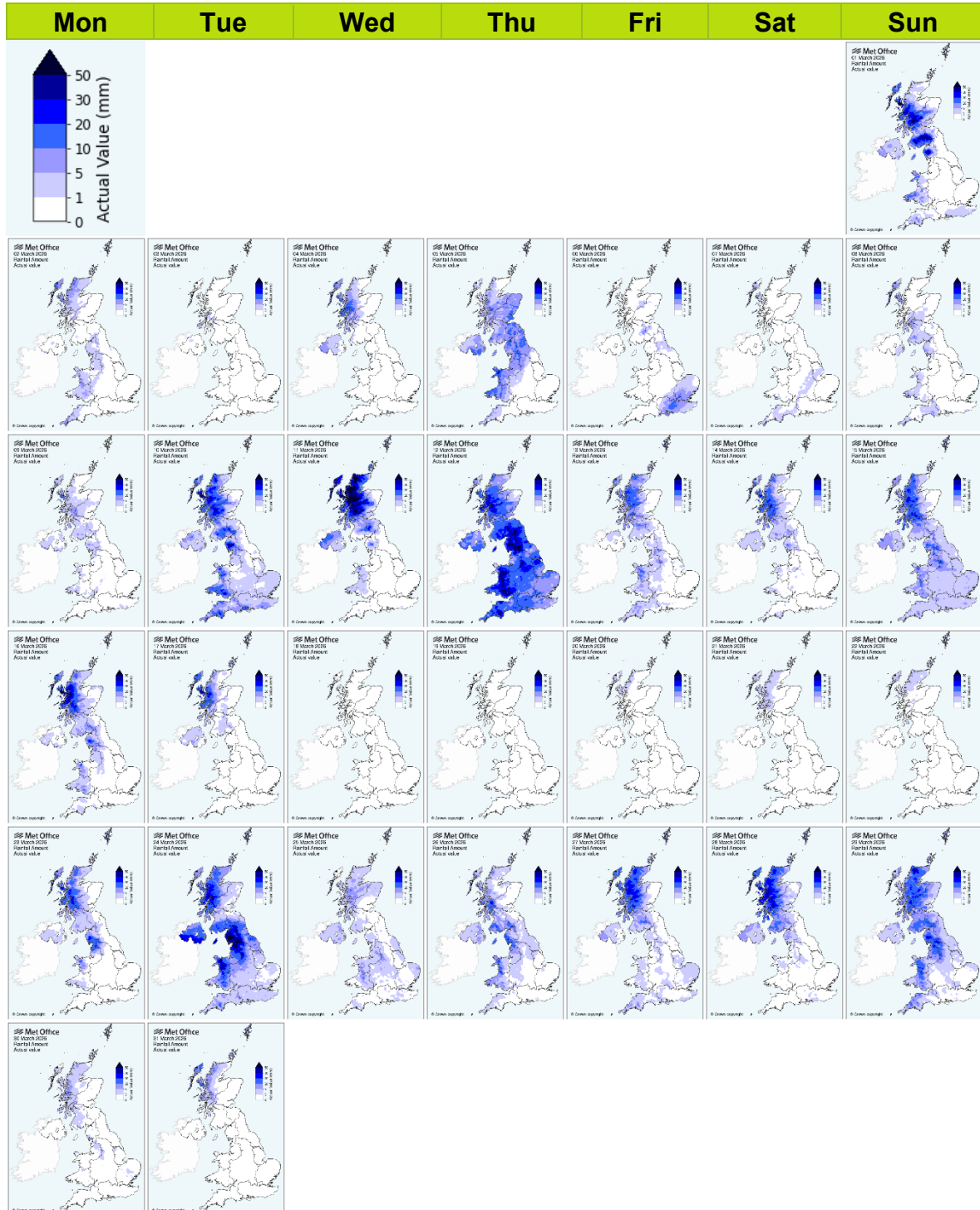
# Daily minimum temperature maps - calendar view

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

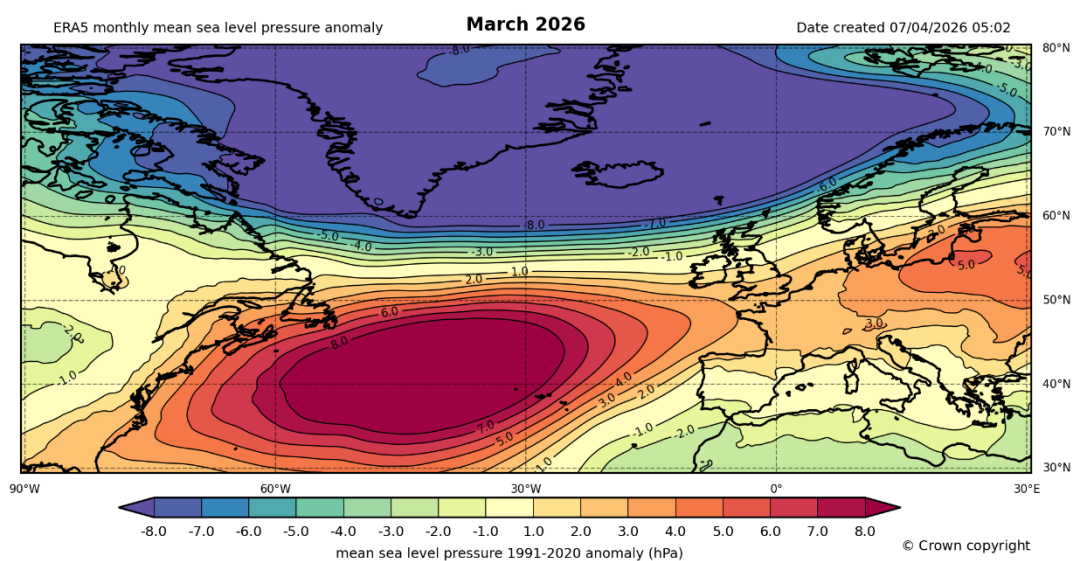
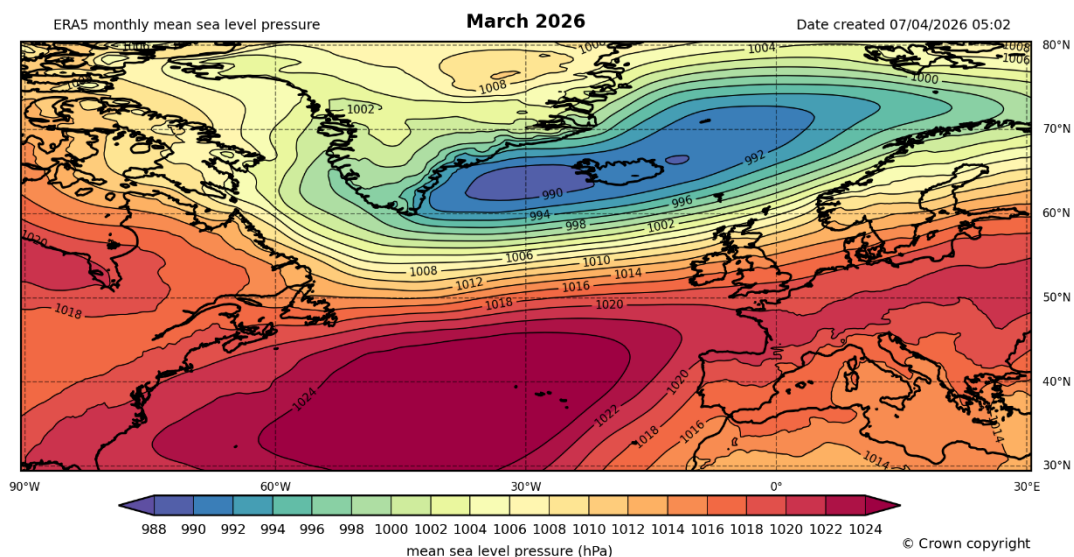


# Monthly atmospheric circulation

## Mean sea level pressure

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

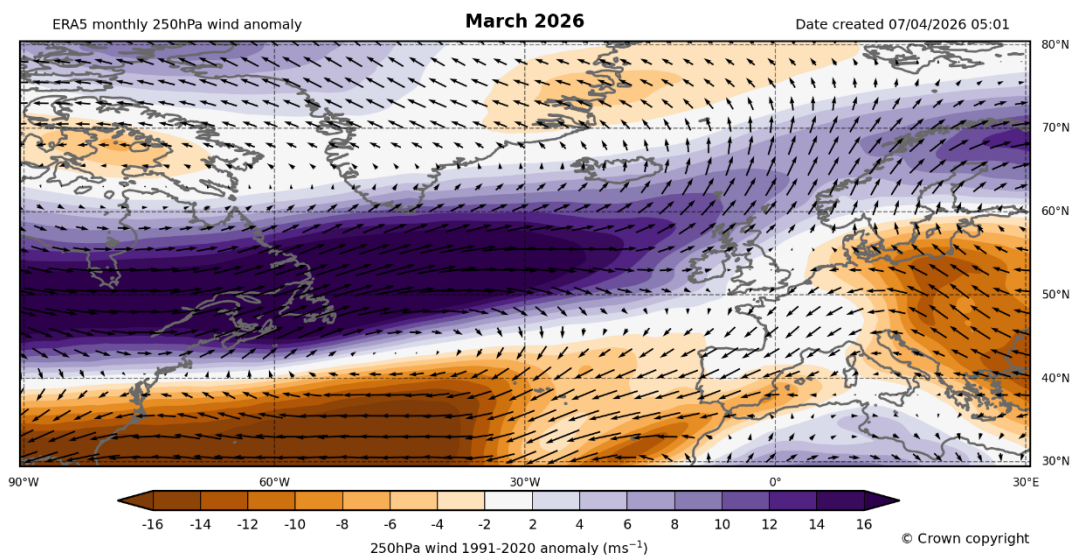
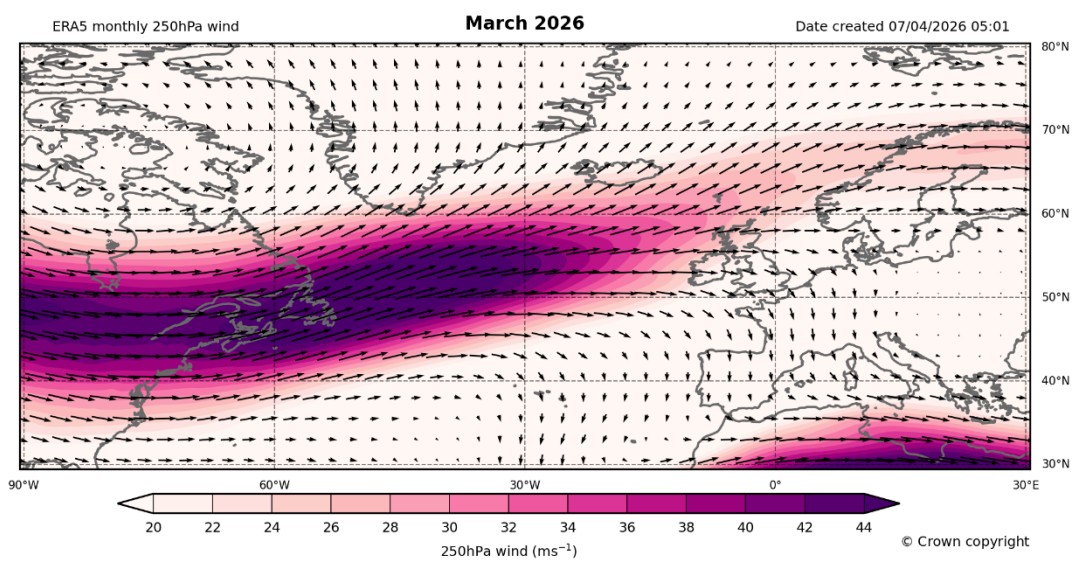
March saw anomalously high pressure centred over the mid-Atlantic and anomalously low pressure over Greenland and Iceland, resulting in a gradient across the UK with higher pressure in the south and lower pressure in the north.



## 250hPa wind speed and direction

These charts show the monthly 250hPa wind speed and direction for March 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 March 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 north in March than average, with increased flow over Scotland and decreased flow over southern England.



## Weather diary

- **Very changeable, generally mild**

Meteorological spring began with a mixture of Atlantic depressions and transient ridges of high pressure crossing the UK in the first 2 weeks of March. Fog was prevalent especially in England and Wales from the 4th.

From the 5th onwards, the weather was dominated by a series of low pressure systems bringing very mild, but also wet and windy conditions over the UK. Maximum temperatures in southeast England hit 19deg C on the 5th and 6th. Conversely, overnight minima across Scotland dropped as low as minus 7deg C. Sites in all regions recorded gusts ranging from 50 to 75mph on the 11th and 12th, and the northwest of Scotland saw the heaviest rainfall, with totals exceeding 60mm in parts of the highlands. The mild theme ended on the 13th with maxima generally struggling to double figures in all regions.

By the 18th, with low pressures now tracking further north, and also splitting to move south over Iberia, high pressure was able to establish itself over the UK, settling things down, but bringing a cooler easterly airflow briefly to all regions, with overnight frosts and foggy conditions, the fog not clearing from some spots until the afternoon. However, by the 18th, with winds now generally from the south, there was a warming trend over all regions, with maxima now hitting 20deg Celsius in southern England and west Wales. A frontal system produced some local record rainfall for places in Cumbria and Lancashire. Totals generally around 30 to 40mm but as high as 90mm were recorded across these areas on the 24th.

As the high pressure retreated, allowing the Atlantic to reassert its influence over the UK, by the 25th, a cold northwesterly had established over the country dropping temperatures back to single figures away from the south coast, with lying snow being reported in parts of Invernesshire.

There was a slow warming trend to the end of the month, but also wet and windy conditions too, interspersed with transient ridges of high pressure. The month ended with the UK in warm sector conditions, with cloudy skies, patchy rain, but mild temperatures.

## 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 07/04/2026 14:36. 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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