

# April 2026 Monthly Weather Report

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

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## UK overview

April saw an unsettled start, with spells of below average temperatures and rain showers for much of the country. The fourth named storm of the season, Storm Dave, arrived on the 4th/5th and brought heavy rainfall to Scotland and Northern Ireland and strong winds across the UK. Showers and frontal systems followed, with gusty winds in some areas. Mid-month saw showers, occasionally heavy and sometimes with hail or snow at higher elevations, and some isolated thunderstorms. However, the second half of the month was dominated by high pressure conditions, resulting in clear skies, mild temperatures and very little rainfall.

The provisional mean temperature for the UK was 9.0°C, 1.1°C above the long-term average and the seventh warmest April on record. All four nations recorded mean temperatures above average, with England and Wales both recording their sixth warmest Aprils on record. There was strong regional variation in rainfall in April, with northern areas recording average to above average rainfall while southern areas were much drier. England provisionally recorded just 38% of the long-term average April rainfall, while Scotland recorded 117% of the average. Cambridgeshire provisionally recorded its second driest April on record, Norfolk its third, and Bedfordshire its fourth, while several other counties were in the top ten driest Aprils on record. Sunshine was above average across the country: England recorded its third sunniest April on record, the UK its fourth sunniest, and Scotland its sixth sunniest.

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

## Weather impacts

- **The fourth named storm of the season, Storm Dave, brought strong winds to Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England**
- **Dry, sunny and windy days later in the month contributed to an elevated fire risk, with outbreaks in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales**

April began with changeable weather patterns, with some notably deep Atlantic low-pressure centres either crossing the northern UK (as in the case of Storm Dave on the 4th/5th) or, more typically, steering to the west of the UK and taking the worst of their rain/winds with them. After the 18th, however, a much more anticyclonic pattern prevailed. With the majority of the month's active weather confined to the northwestern half of the UK, there was a very sharp cross-national divide in rainfall with Scotland, Northern Ireland and Cumbria seeing near or above average totals while east and southeast England recorded a very dry month. The rather warm feel to the month was derived mainly from warmer than average days during the more settled spells, whereas the nights were close to average with the drier, clearer conditions in the second half of the month encouraging some chilly minima. The increasing influence of high pressure was reflected in the above average sunshine totals across most of the UK.

The opening days of the month were unsettled and, as early as the 1st, there were strong indications of a major development expected to impact the northern UK around the forthcoming Easter weekend period of the 4th and 5th. Two medium impact yellow wind warnings were issued covering all areas north of mid-Wales to Teesside. On the 2nd Storm Dave was officially named, the yellow wind warnings updated, and an additional medium impact yellow snow warning issued for parts of the Highlands along with the Western Isles. At lunchtime on the 4th the wind aspect of Storm Dave was escalated to amber for an area including northwest Wales, much of northern England and the extreme south of Scotland.

Storm Dave crossed the far northwest of Ireland and then the Scottish Highlands on the night of the 4th/5th. The area within the amber wind warning recorded a number of gusts in excess of 70mph with a maximum gust of 93mph at Capel Curig, Gwynedd. The overall impact of Storm Dave was limited to some extent by its nocturnal passage. Nevertheless, more than 10,000 properties across Scotland, northern England and Northern Ireland were reportedly affected by power outages as a result of the strength of the winds. Several trees were also brought down across Scotland and Northern England, resulting in several temporary road closures including north of Carlisle City Centre. In Plawsworth, County Durham, a van had its windscreen and bonnet crushed by a falling tree. The winds were also responsible for some structural damage, including the gable end of a house in Blackpool which collapsed at the height of the winds and damage to structures at Durham's county

cricket ground which made it unsafe for spectators to attend East Sunday's play at the ongoing fixture. Reports of walls damaged by the winds emerged from both Galashiels in the Scottish Borders (cemetery wall) and from Benwell Hill cricket club in Newcastle-upon-Tyne (perimeter wall). There were also reports of local disruption to rail travel: an object on the overhead lines between South Gosforth and Cullercoats brought Metro services to a standstill, and damage to the overhead wires between Bolton and Preston resulted in cancellations and long delays on Easter Sunday morning.

Once Storm Dave passed there were little or no direct weather-related impacts reported. As high pressure became more dominant during the second half of the month, attention shifted to the potential for wildfire with several outbreaks reported in the final week of the month in Scotland, Northern Ireland and mid-Wales. Several dry, sunny, low humidity but rather windy days in the last ten days of the month contributed to the elevated fire risk. The level of anthropogenic input to the outbreaks has not yet been quantified. The Scottish wildfires were focused around the weekend of the 25th/26th with reports of grass fire outbreaks near Lochinver in the Northwest Highlands, Tarbet in Strathclyde, and on the Isle of Skye. In Northern Ireland over the same period the Mourne Mountains in County Down saw more than 50 firefighters engaged in combatting wildfires. The most sustained outbreaks of all were reported from the Elan Valley region of mid-Wales where helicopter assistance was used to combat multiple fire fronts which had been burning for several days. A separate outbreak was reported from the southern end of the Bannau Brycheiniog national park; dense smoke from this fire reportedly closed the A470 near Garwnant for a time on the night of the 29th/30th. As the month closed out there was the prospect of some much-needed rainfall during the forthcoming Bank Holiday weekend which would hopefully ameliorate the ongoing situation.

## Monthly extremes

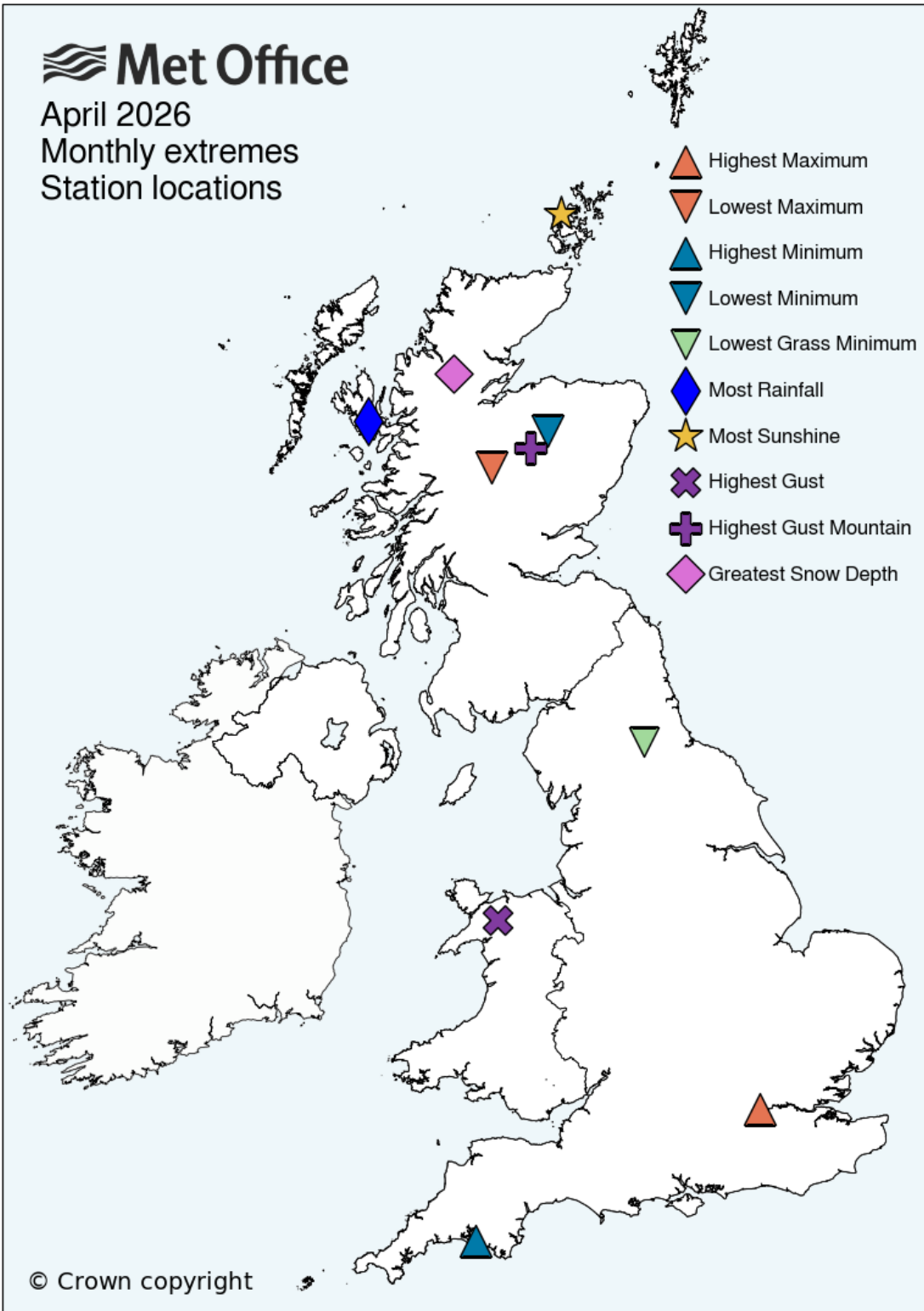
The table below lists UK monthly weather extremes recorded at individual weather stations during April 2026 from data available on 05/05/2026. The map shows the location of these stations.

<b>Highest Maximum</b>	<b>26.6°C</b> on <b>8th</b> at Kew Gardens (Greater London, 6mAMSL)
<b>Lowest Maximum</b>	<b>3.1°C</b> on <b>5th</b> at Dalwhinnie No 2 (Inverness-shire, 351mAMSL)
<b>Highest Minimum</b>	<b>13.3°C</b> on <b>30th</b> at Plymouth, Mountbatten (Devon, 50mAMSL)
<b>Lowest Minimum</b>	<b>-7.0°C</b> on <b>23rd</b> at Tomintoul No 6 (Banffshire, 320mAMSL)
<b>Lowest Grass Minimum</b>	<b>-11.5°C</b> on <b>24th</b> at Copley (Durham, 253mAMSL)
<b>Most Rainfall</b>	<b>93.8mm</b> on <b>2nd</b> at Skye: Alltdearg House (Inverness-shire, 55mAMSL)
<b>Most Sunshine</b>	<b>15.0hr</b> on <b>30th</b> at Orkney: Loch Of Hundland (Orkney, 28mAMSL)
<b>Highest Gust</b>	<b>81Kt 93mph</b> on <b>4th</b> at Capel Curig No 3 (Gwynedd, 216mAMSL)
<b>Highest Gust (mountain*)</b>	<b>96Kt 110mph</b> on <b>10th</b> at Cairngorm Summit (Inverness-shire, 1237mAMSL)
<b>Greatest Snow Depth at 0900 UTC</b>	<b>5cm</b> on <b>5th</b> at Loch Glascarnoch (Ross & Cromarty, 269mAMSL)

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

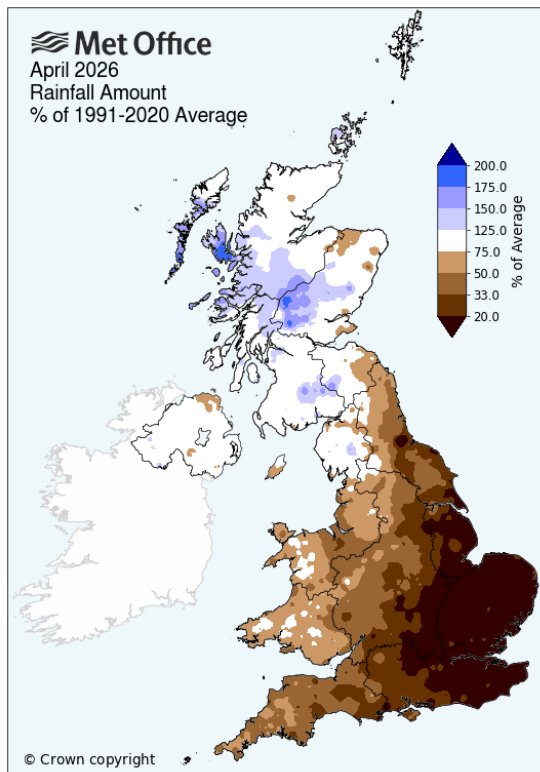
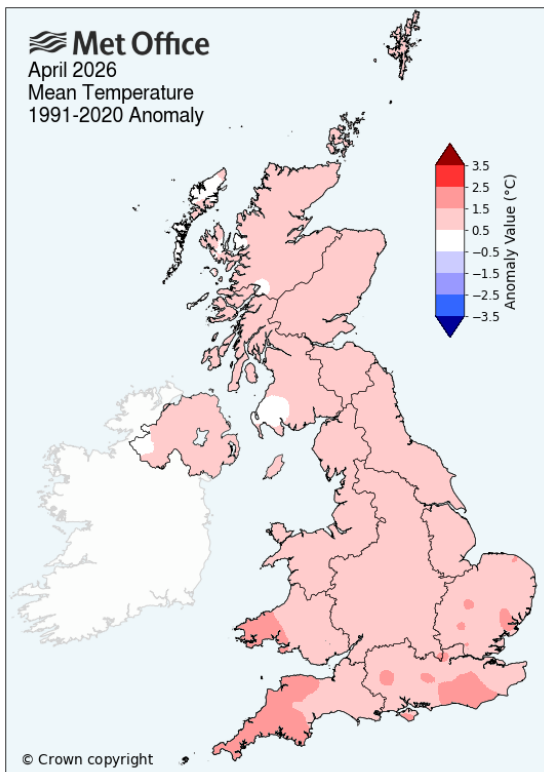
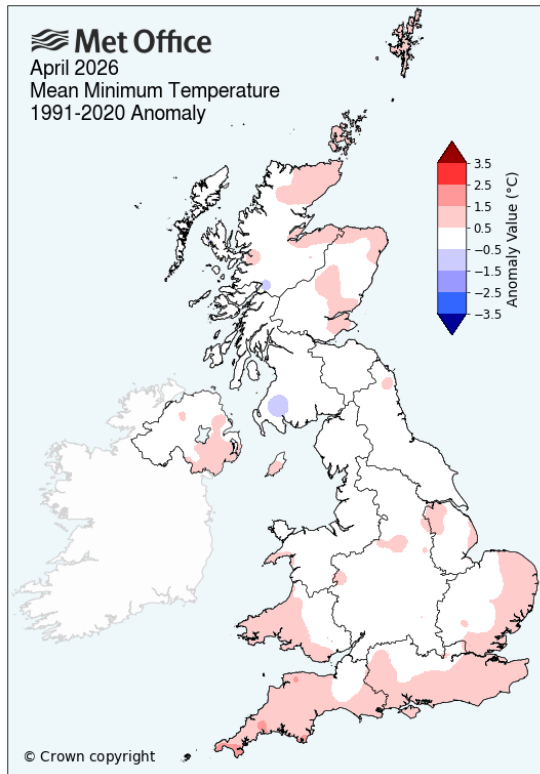
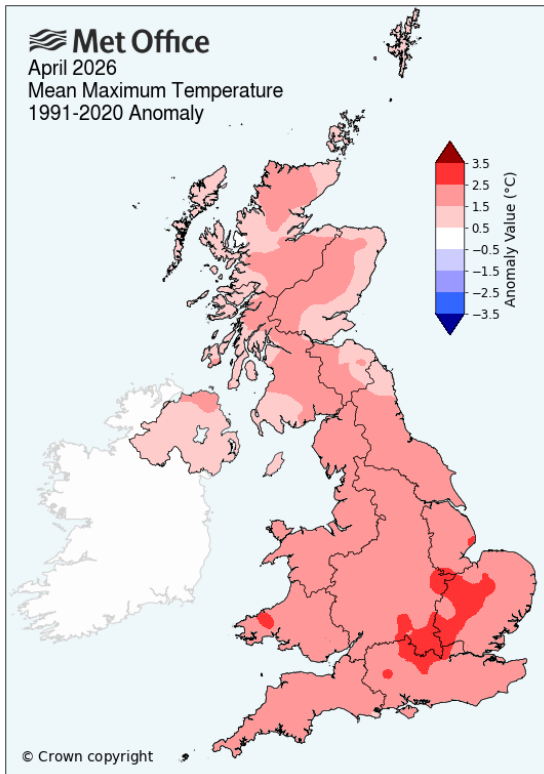
\*Mountain stations are above 500mAMSL.

April 2026  
Monthly extremes  
Station locations

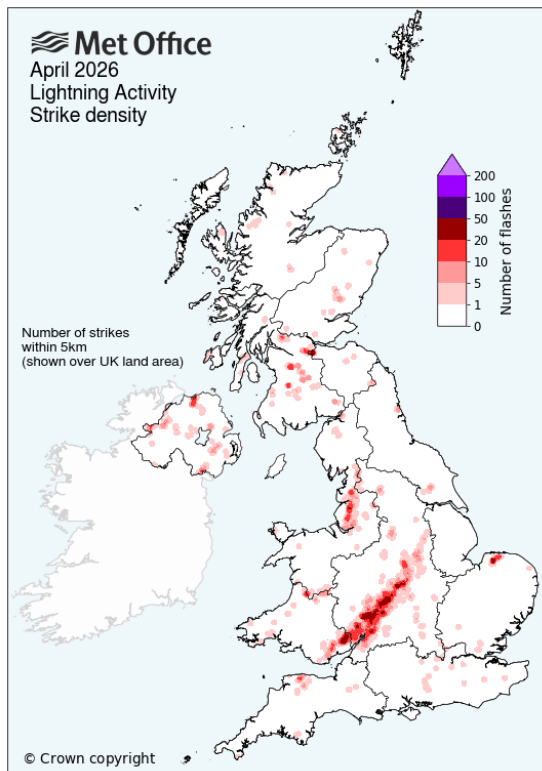
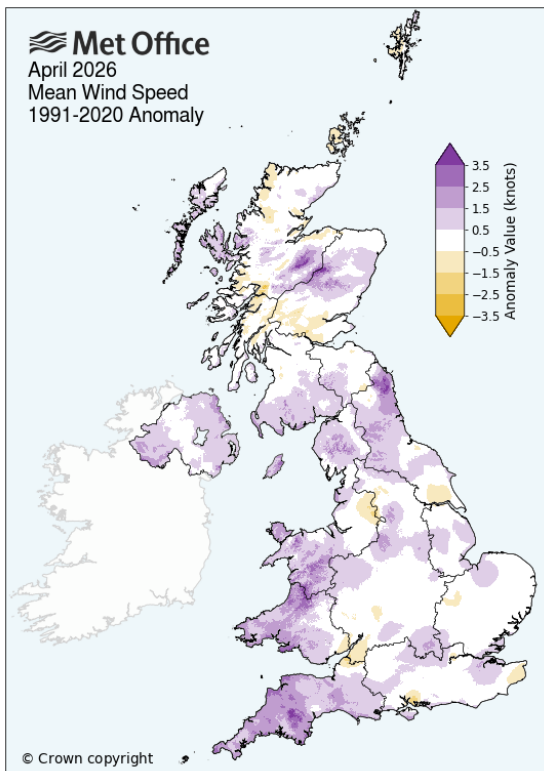
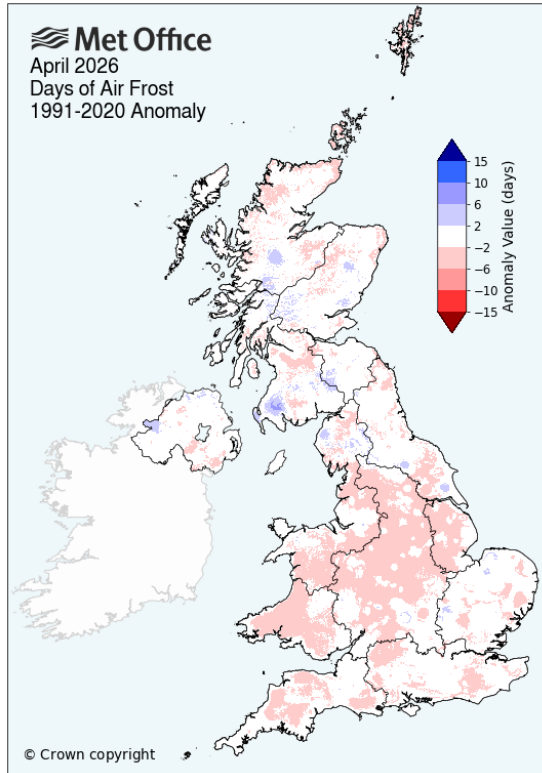
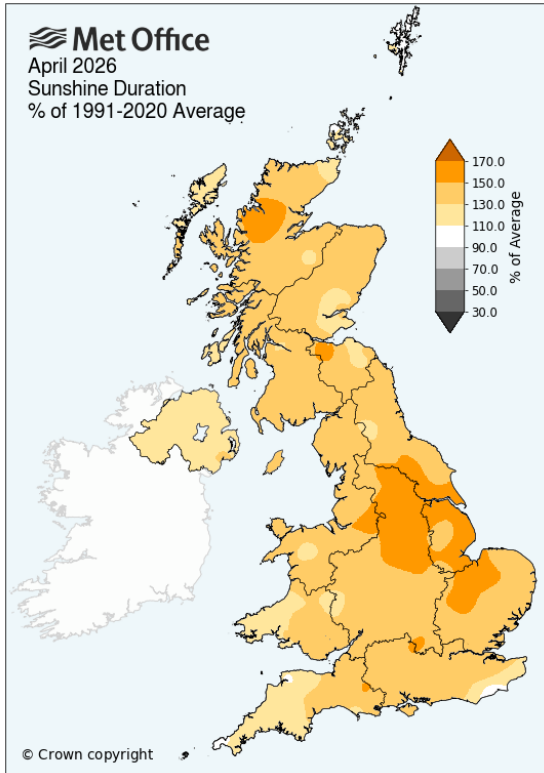


## Monthly maps

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



These maps show monthly sunshine, monthly air frost and monthly windspeed for April 2026 as anomalies relative to the April 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 April 2026 for max, min and mean temperature, rainfall, sunshine and windspeed as actual values and anomalies relative to the April 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	13.9	1.9	6	138	143
England	15.2	2.2	6	138	143
Wales	14.2	2.1	6	138	143
Scotland	11.8	1.5	8	136	143
Northern Ireland	13.1	1.1	10	134	143
Central England	15.9	2.4	6	144	149

### Mean minimum temperature

Region	Mintemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	4.1	0.4	20	124	143
England	4.7	0.4	18	126	143
Wales	4.5	0.4	21	123	143
Scotland	3.0	0.2	33	111	143
Northern Ireland	4.3	0.4	28	116	143
Central England	4.9	0.2	31	119	149

## Mean temperature

Region	Meantemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	9.0	1.1	7	137	143
England	10.0	1.3	6	138	143
Wales	9.3	1.2	6	138	143
Scotland	7.4	0.8	11	133	143
Northern Ireland	8.6	0.7	15	129	143
Central England	10.4	1.3	8	361	368

## Rainfall

Region	Rainfall (mm)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - wettest	Rank - driest	Series length (yrs)
UK	55.0	77	122	70	191
England	21.3	38	170	22	191
Wales	55.5	63	136	56	191
Scotland	108.8	117	39	153	191
Northern Ireland	68.0	92	93	99	191
EWP (England and Wales)	20.6	33	240	22	261

## Sunshine

Region	Sunshine (hours)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - sunniest	Rank - dullest	Series length (yrs)
UK	215.2	139	4	114	117
England	232.4	142	3	115	117
Wales	209.5	133	8	110	117
Scotland	194.3	137	6	112	117
Northern Ireland	178.1	120	16	102	117

## Windspeed

Region	Windspeed (knots)	1991-2020 Anomaly (knots)	Rank - windiest	Rank - calmest	Series length (yrs)
UK	9.8	0.5	14	45	58
England	8.9	0.5	14	45	58
Wales	10.8	1.3	10	49	58
Scotland	11.2	0.3	21	38	58
Northern Ireland	9.5	0.8	12	47	58

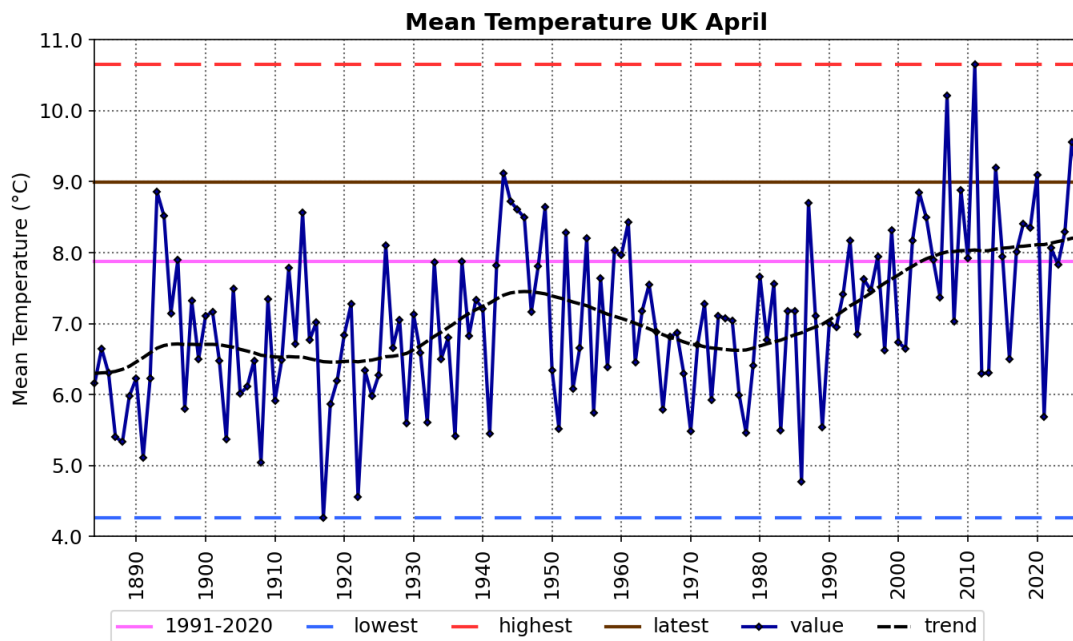
# Monthly time-series

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

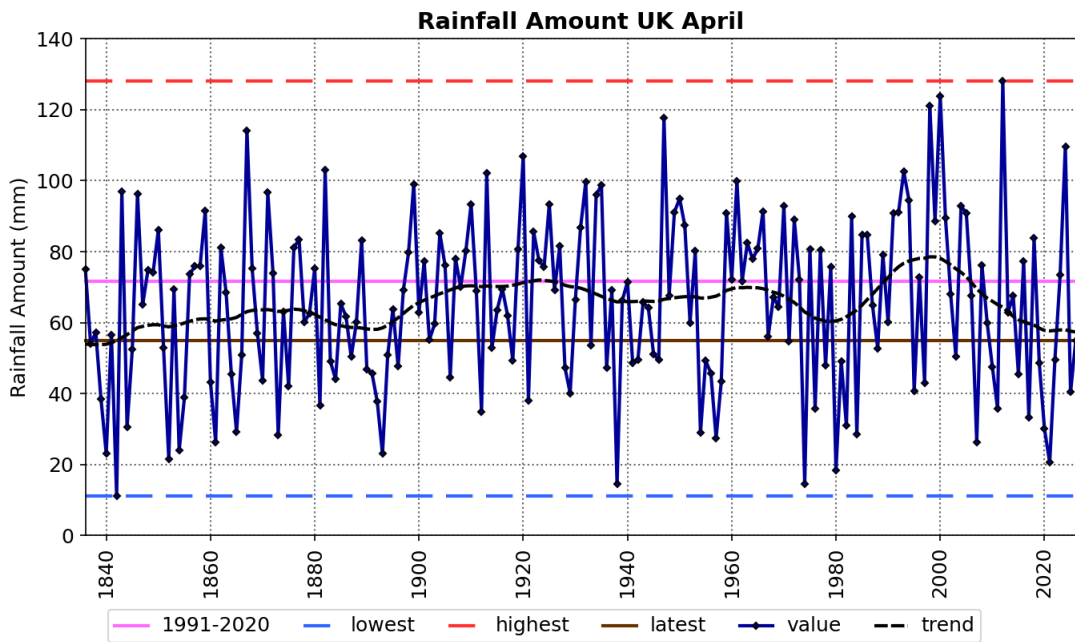


Source: HadUK-Grid 01/05/2026 11:31

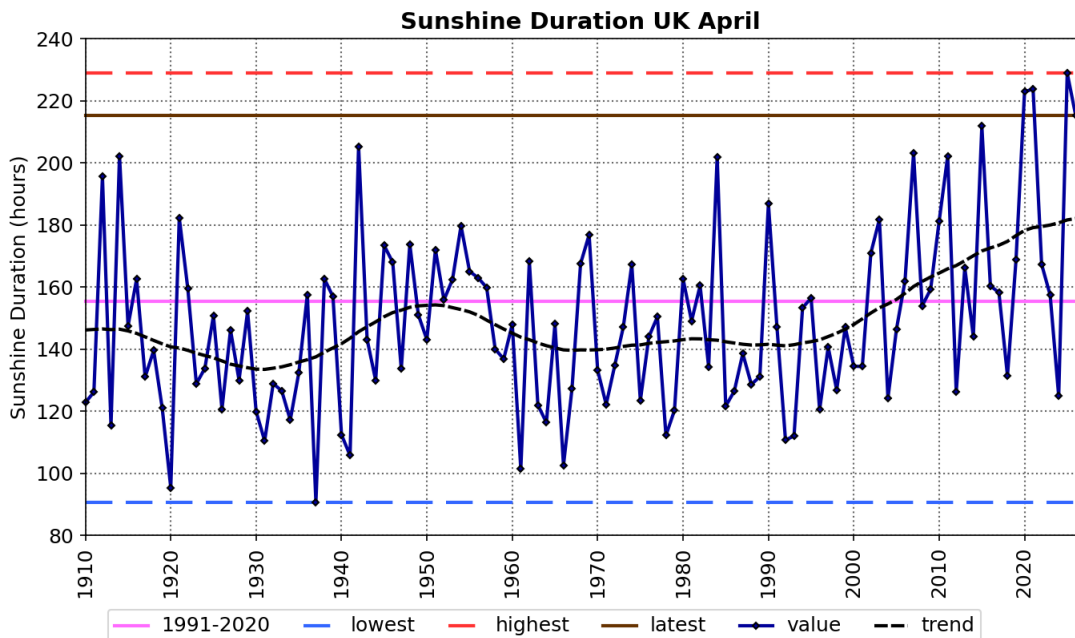
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Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Meantemp (°C)	6.7	7.9	8.2	9.0



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Rainfall (mm)	66.0	71.7	54.4	55.0



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Sunshine (hours)	140.9	155.3	179.9	215.2

# Daily time-series

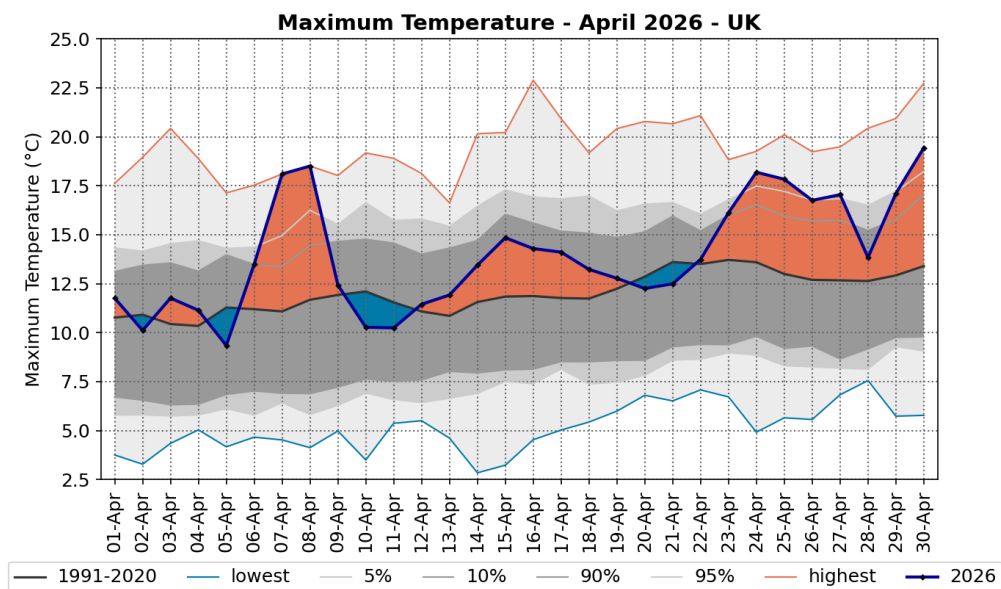
These charts show time-series of UK area-average daily maximum and daily minimum temperature and daily rainfall for each day of April 2026. The areas shaded in grey show the highest and lowest values in the daily temperature series (from 1960) and daily rainfall series (from 1891) together with percentiles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



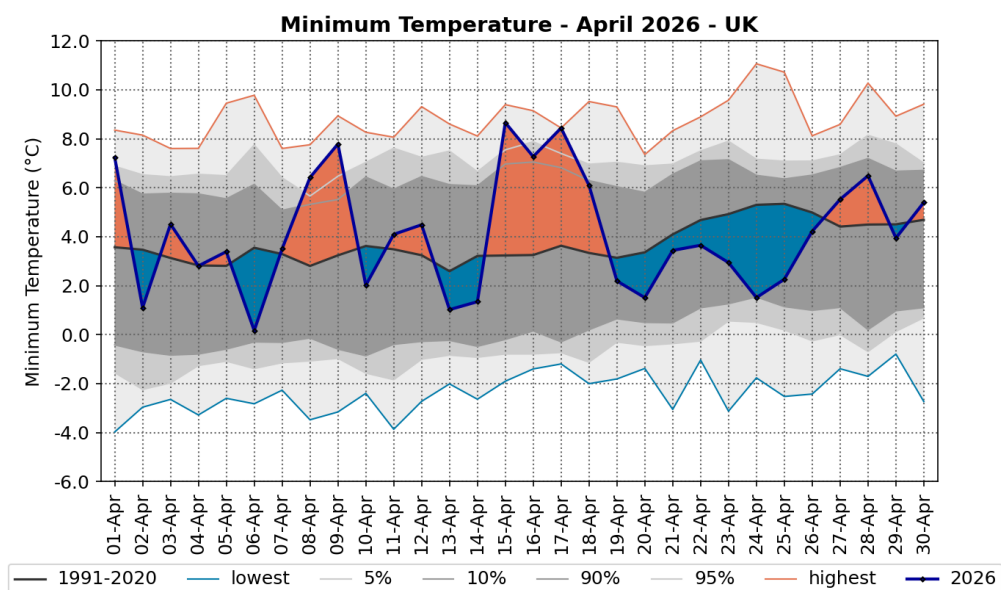
Source: HadUK-Grid 01/05/2026 11:37

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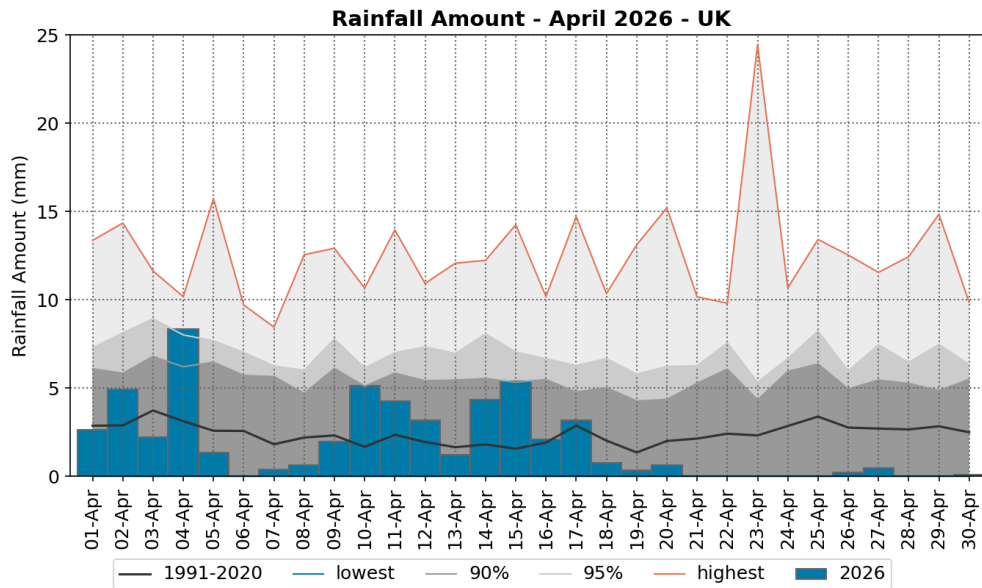


# Daily rainfall and rainfall accumulation

Met Office

Source: HadUK-Grid 01/05/2026 11:37

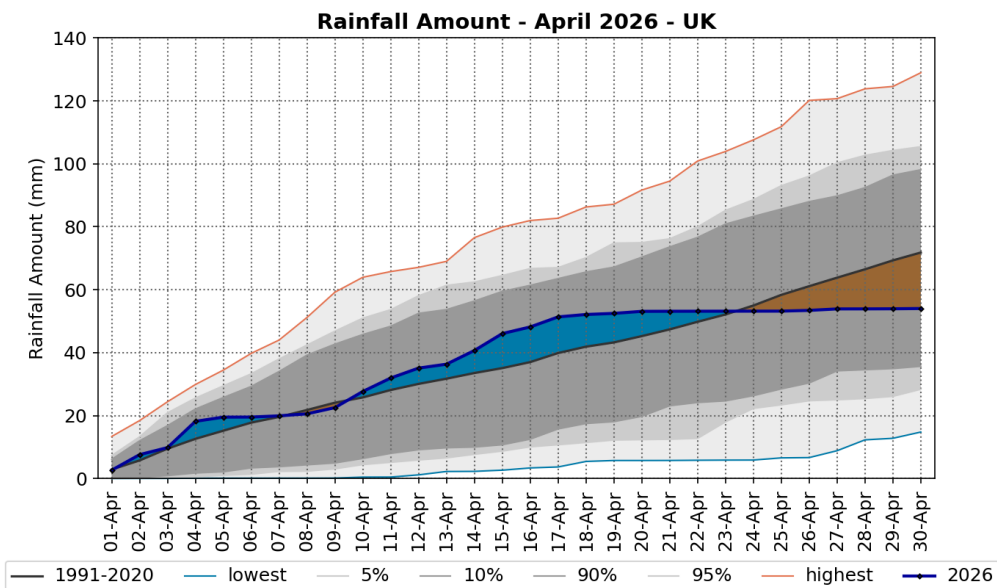
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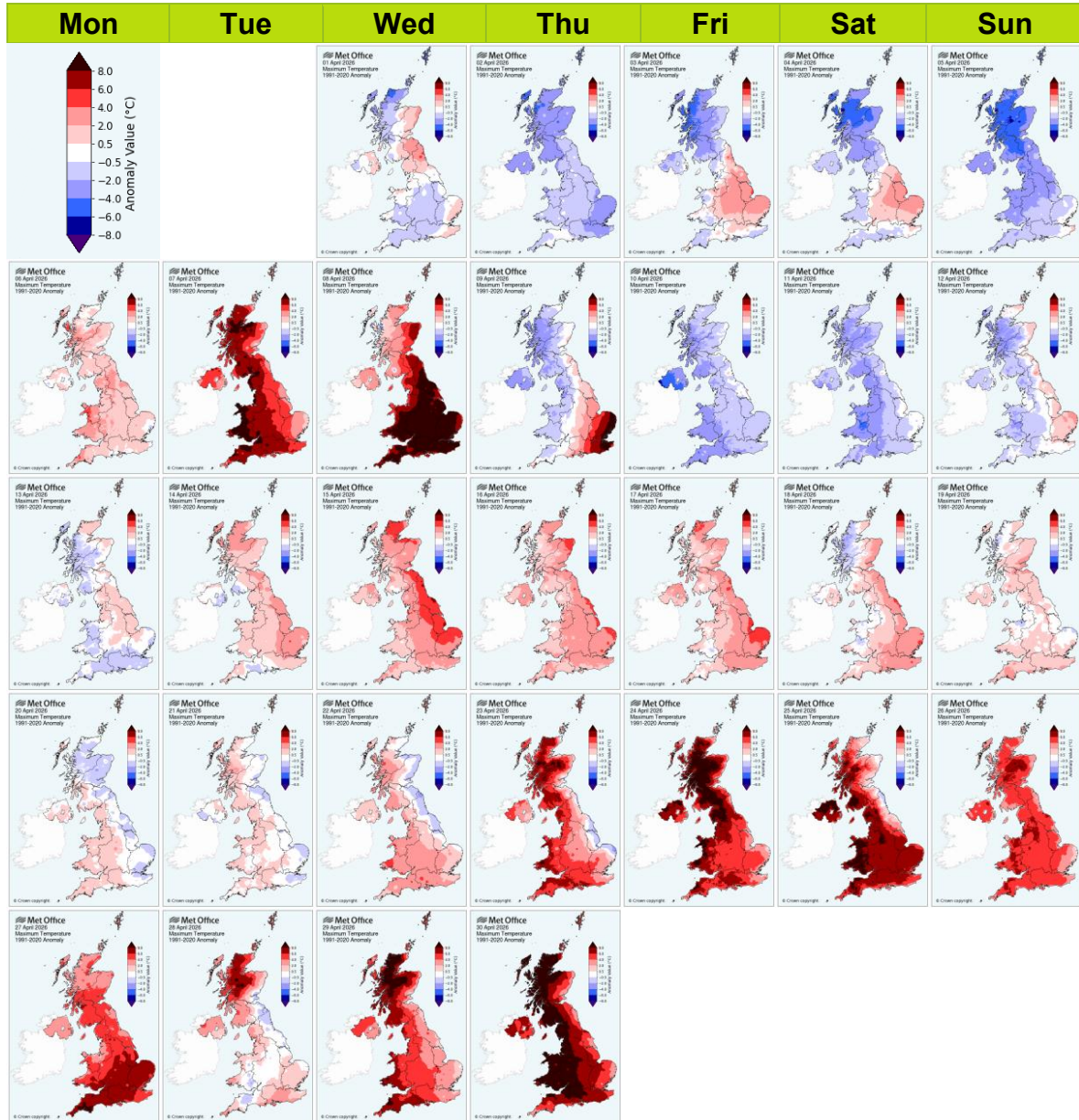
Source: HadUK-Grid 01/05/2026 11:40

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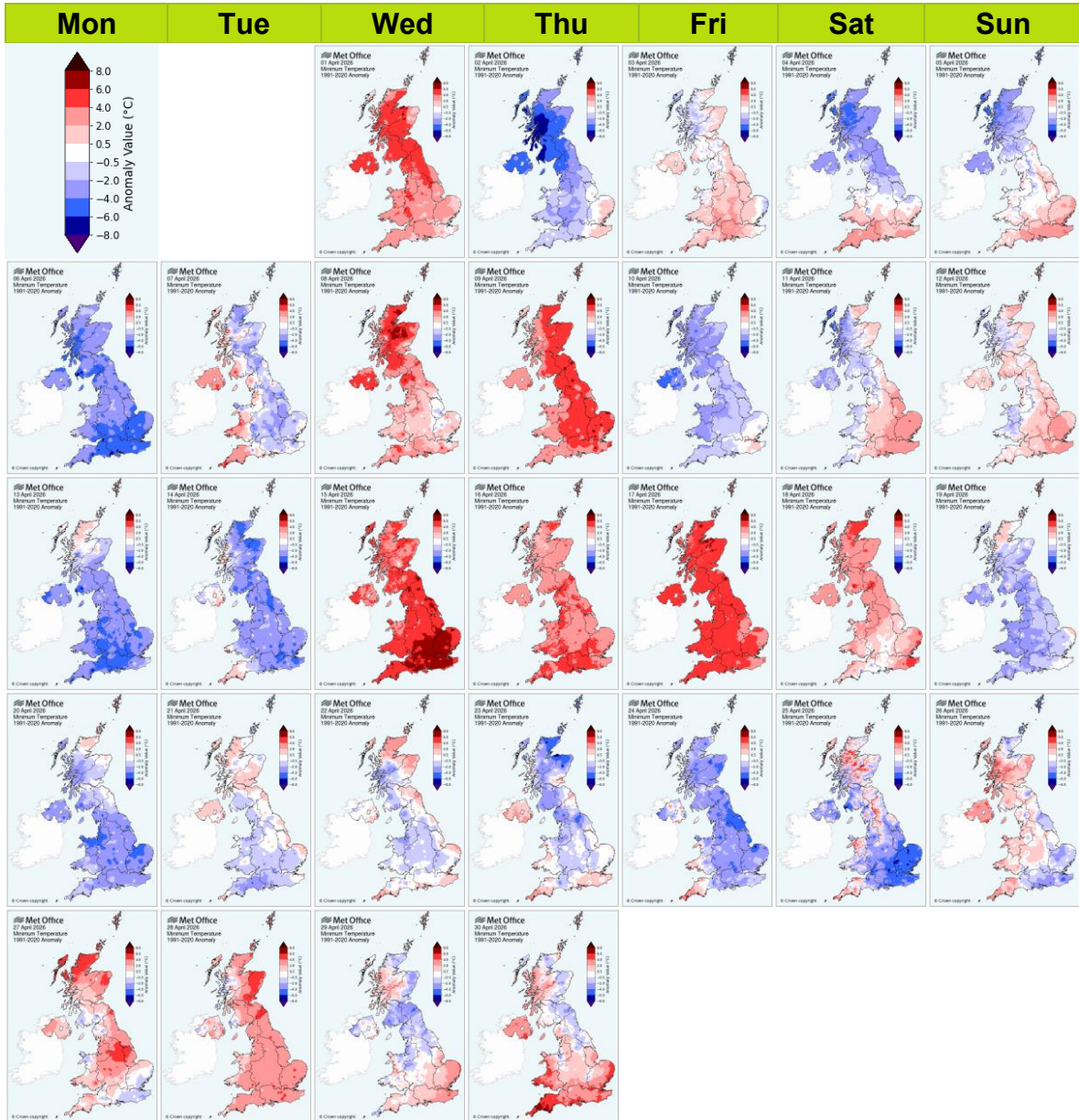
# Daily maximum temperature maps - calendar view

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



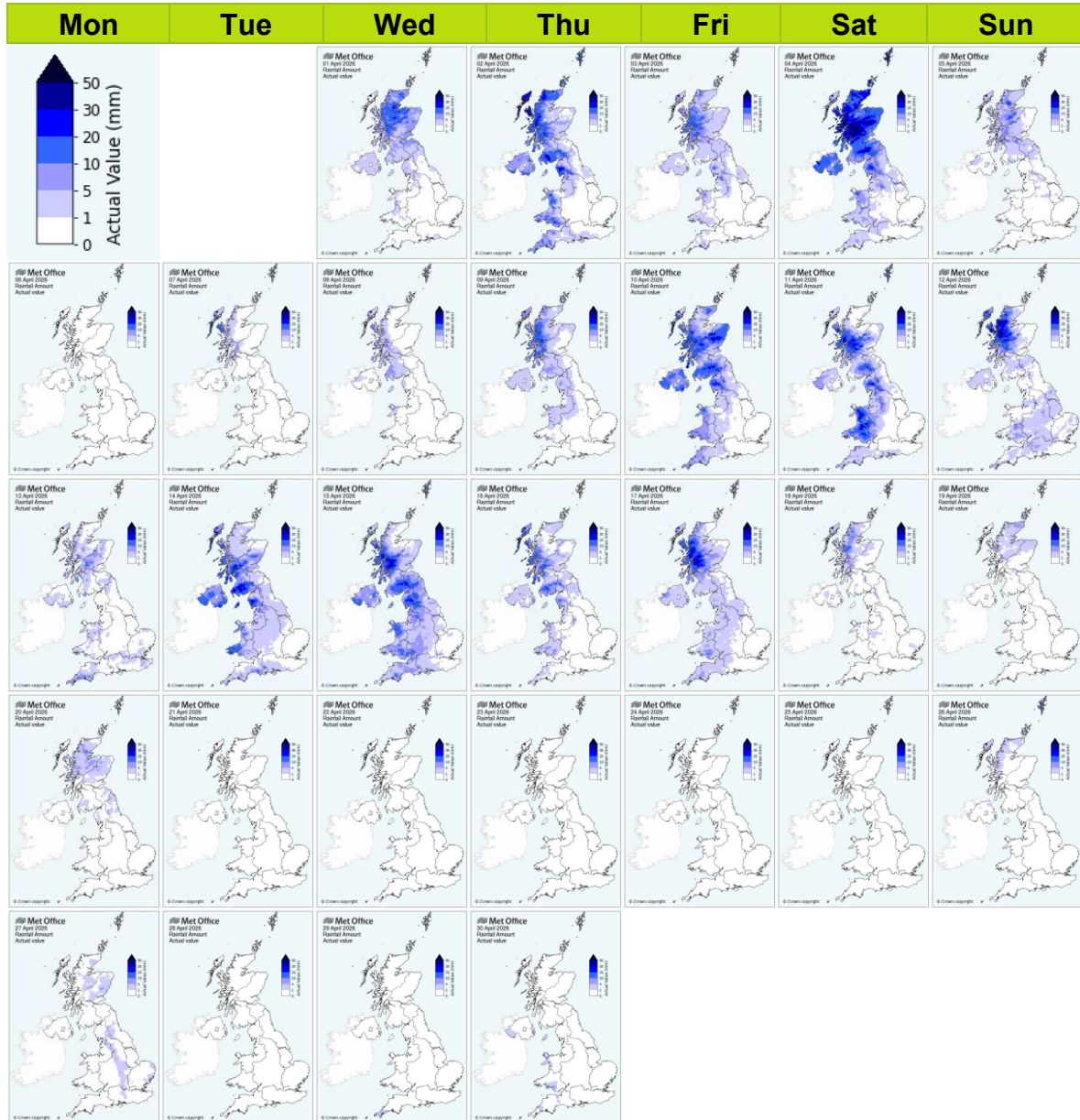
# Daily minimum temperature maps - calendar view

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

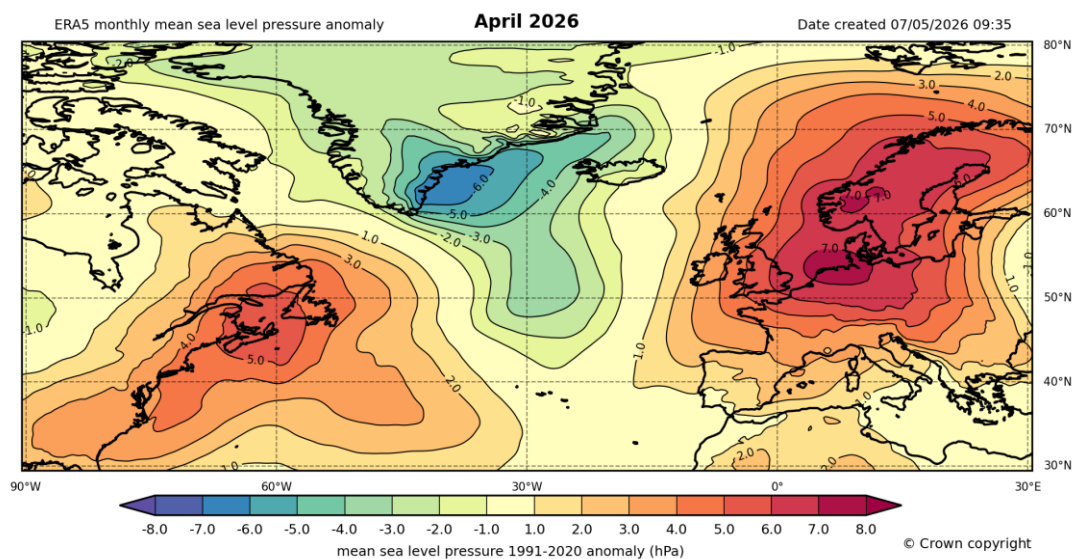
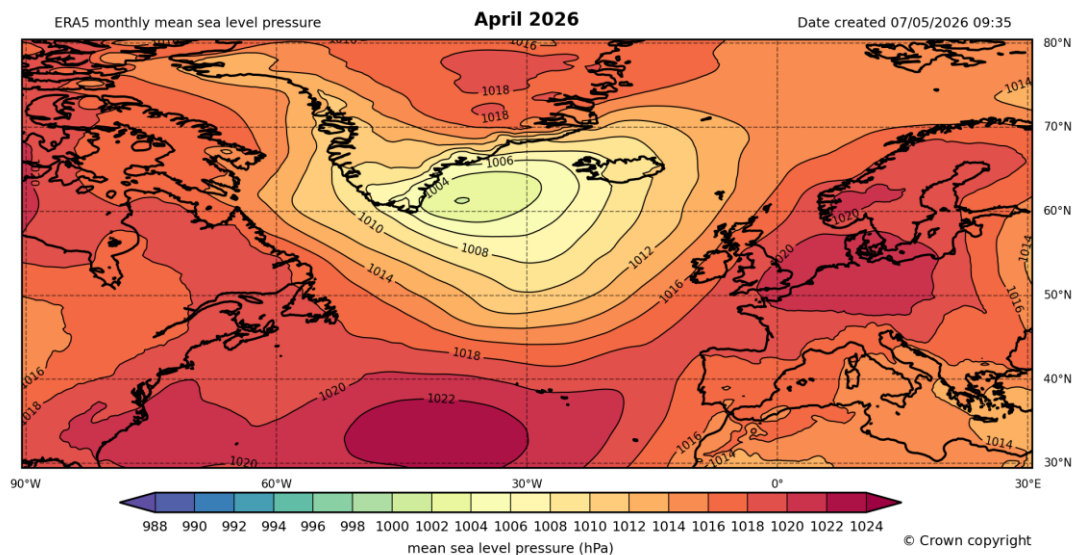


# Monthly atmospheric circulation

## Mean sea level pressure

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

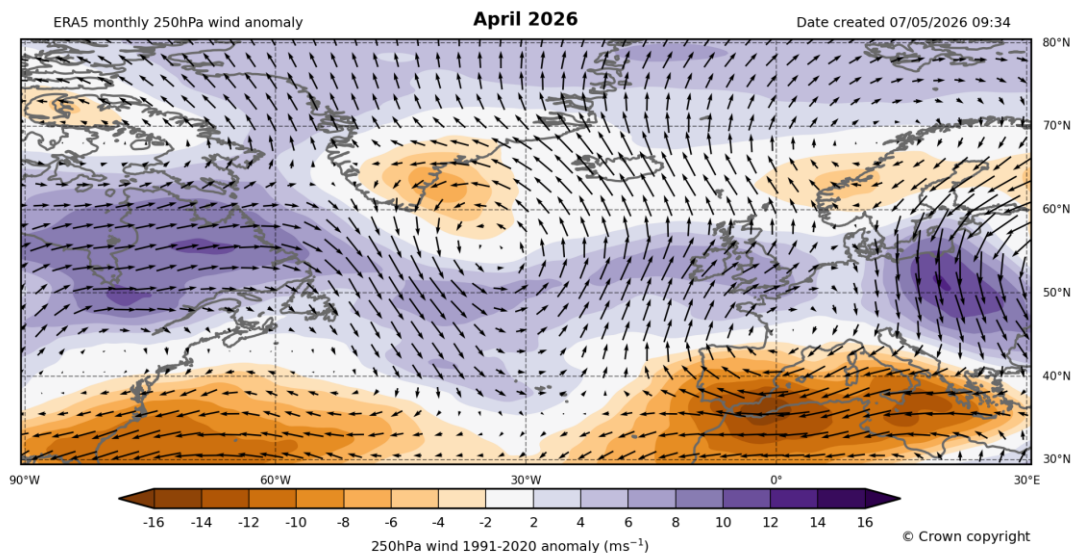
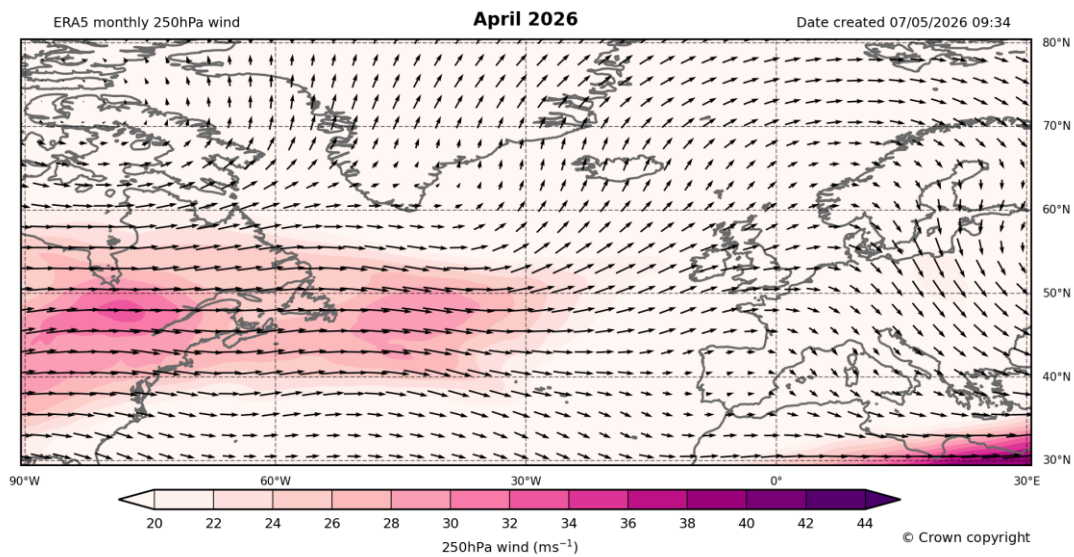
April saw higher than average pressure to the east of the UK, resulting in above average MSLP across the UK, especially in the southeast.



## 250hPa wind speed and direction

These charts show the monthly 250hPa wind speed and direction for April 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 April 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 slightly stronger than average across the UK, and weaker than average across the Iberian peninsula.



## Weather diary

- **Very changeable, stormy early in the month, very warm at times**

Showers, snow, hail, thunder, storms, and record breaking temperatures. April 2026 had it all!

The month started on a mild and fairly quiet note with a ridge of high pressure over the UK and a cold front bringing rain to Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England. By the 3rd, however, weather systems off the Atlantic were to win out, bringing wet and windy weather to all parts.

The 4th saw the arrival of Storm Dave, the centre of which tracked across central Scotland. Winds during the storm hit 60mph over a wide area of the UK, 75mph in parts of northwest England, and over 90mph in north Wales. Rainfall was not particularly a feature of this storm but some sites in northwest Scotland did see totals reach 30mm. As Dave headed off into Scandinavia during the 5th, calmer and significantly warmer conditions spread across all regions.

Maximum temperatures from the 6th to the 8th were well above average, thanks to a high pressure centred to the southeast of England and a southerly airflow. The April absolute maximum of 23.4°C at Mona, Isle of Anglesey (northwest Wales) was beaten on the 7th, and temperatures were also high in southeast England on the 8th, with sites around London hitting 26°C.

A series of cold fronts off the Atlantic brought the early spring warmth to an end on the 9th, and the UK was back in a pattern of deep Atlantic low interspersed with transient ridges of high pressure. One such low stalled off the northwest coast of Scotland, bringing a wintry mix of cold winds, and squally showers with snow, hail and thunder, mainly to central and northern parts but all areas were affected to a certain extent.

The unsettled theme continued until the 18th with an area of high pressure becoming established off the southwest coast of Ireland. This area had drifted north towards Iceland by the 20th, allowing a cool but relatively cloud free easterly airstream to affect all regions. Maxima along eastern coasts were restricted to low double figures, with sunnier western parts reaching 20°C. The settled theme continued up to the end of the month with some places especially in the west setting new maximum temperature records.

## 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 08/05/2026 09:28. 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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