

July 2026 Monthly Weather Report

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

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UK overview

July was a hot and dry month for many, with high pressure conditions dominating for most of the month. The month opened with some rain across Scotland and western areas, whilst the south of the UK saw more settled conditions. Temperatures soon began to rise in the south, and heatwave conditions were met across England and Wales as high pressure settled over the UK. This resulted in nearly two weeks of temperatures above 25°C, and often above 30°C, in many areas. Although temperatures then decreased to average or below average for some areas around the 18th/19th, especially eastern areas, this cooler weather did not last and temperatures soon increased to above average again across most of the UK, although not quite as hot as in the beginning of the month. July ended with a north/south divide as temperatures remained above average in the south, especially the southeast, but dropped to below average in the north, which also saw some more rainfall. Rain was in short supply in the south of the UK, with some areas seeing little to no rain across the entire month. In combination with the heat and abundant sunshine, this led to drought conditions affecting the whole of Wales and around half of England.

The month saw above average temperatures and sunshine but below average rainfall for the UK. This was the sixth consecutive month where the UK mean temperature was over 1°C above the long-term average: the month closed with the UK seeing its second warmest July on record, with a provisional anomaly of 2.1°C above the 1991-2020 average. It was England's second warmest July as well, and Wales's joint warmest on record. Rainfall was particularly scarce, with the UK overall provisionally seeing just 35% of the long-term average, the third driest July on record. England and Wales both recorded their driest Julys, seeing less than 10mm of rainfall over the entire month. Nineteen counties including Berkshire and Surrey recorded less than 1mm of rainfall in July. Although Scotland saw more rain than other parts of the UK, it still recorded below average rainfall, provisionally just 69% of the long-term average. Northern Ireland was also very dry, with counties Down and Armagh both recording their driest Julys on record. Sunshine hours were well above average in July, leading to the sunniest July on record for the UK, England and Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland also saw well above average sunshine in July.

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

Weather impacts

- **Heat across southern England and Wales led to heat health alerts between the 6th and 12th as well as impacts to rail services reported**
- **Extensive wildfires throughout the month led to site evacuations and road closures**

After the heatwaves of May and June, July was another record-breaking month, particularly in terms of lack of rainfall. This was the driest July on record for England and Wales and the third driest for the UK. Although Scotland saw more rain than the south, it was still well below average. July was a month dominated by high pressure, sustained high temperatures (especially across southern areas) and plentiful sunshine. A number of days saw 30C exceeded, although the temperatures never reached those of June's peak and combined with somewhat lower humidity resulted in an absence of extreme heat warnings throughout the month. The only weather warning for the month was a low impact rain warning issued on the 5th for parts of Scotland.

Mean temperature anomalies for the month were in excess of +3C across large parts of southwest and central England, reducing gradually northwards to near zero in the far northwest of Scotland, which was the only part of the UK to see average to above average rainfall. Despite the pronounced warmth, it was the dryness across southern parts of Northern Ireland and most of England and Wales which took the headlines, placing the majority of England and Wales under official drought conditions by the end of the month. The dryness, warmth and abundant sunshine all contributed to a very busy wildfire month with the majority of reported impacts linked to wildfire outbreaks.

The first week of the month was relatively cool across the northern half of the UK and Atlantic fronts brought some rainfall, mainly to Scotland. Strong winds early on the 2nd were linked to reports of a tree down on the A78 between Inverkip and Wemyss Bay in Inverclyde as well as a tree blocking the rail line between Ardlui and Garelochhead in Argyll and Bute. Also on the 2nd came the first wildfire reports from southern England with Fire & Rescue services tackling two outbreaks, one at Whitmoor Common Nature Reserve in Surrey and a second on Salisbury Plain on land used for defence exercises. The 3rd saw a stretch of the M5 and A38 near Exeter reported closed for around 18 hours after a grassfire affected part of the central reservation and surrounding embankments. On the 6th, firefighters were called to deal with a 100-acre crop fire reported near Cholsey, Oxfordshire.

The period from the 6th to the 12th saw 30C regularly exceeded across the southern half of England and Wales. Amber heat health alerts were issued by the UK Health and Safety Agency and on the 8th it was reported that East Midlands Railway would suspend some

services in response to the unfolding high temperatures. Also on the 8th, Walsall Manor Hospital in the west Midlands reported a surge in heatstroke-related admissions. By the 9th rail disruption was being reported more widely with delays and suspensions affected services operated by Transport for Wales, London Northwestern Railways, West Midlands Railways, Southwestern Railways and Great Western Railways. The 10th saw rail disruption extend to northwestern England with services reduced or suspended altogether. As the heat caused water demand to surge, Thames Water reported several postcode areas, mainly across Oxfordshire, having much reduced or near zero water pressure in their taps. By the 13th, Southwest Water had announced a hosepipe ban for areas of mid/east Devon and Dorset from the next day.

By mid-month several wildfire outbreaks were dominating the news with major moorland blazes reported from England, Wales and Scotland. In the Scottish Highlands, a wildfire began on the 15th in the Cairngorms National Park which would continue into August, consuming of the order of 25 square kilometres of moorland in the process and necessitating multiple site evacuations. A fire on Tintwistle Moor in the Derbyshire Peak District which had begun on the 24th June flared up again and was declared a major incident on the 13th. This was joined by a new blaze just over the border into Greater Manchester above Dove Stones reservoir, the whole fire area again staying alive throughout the remainder of July into August. In Wales a fire on Conwy Mountain was declared a major incident with homes evacuated. This one was, however, successfully brought under control by the 13th. Two additional fires, one in the Rynogydd mountain range above Llanbedr, Gwynedd and the other near Blaenavon in Torfaen, southeast Wales, started around the middle of July and burned for much of the remainder of the month. Conditions for the firefighters were rendered more difficult by the lack of any rain assistance as well as by changing wind directions as the main centre of the high pressure moved to the north of the UK for several days mid-month before drifting back to a more typical location to the west or southwest of the UK around the 16th/17th. As the major moorland fires were continuing, a host of smaller scale wildfires were also reported from various parts of the UK, too numerous to mention here but all requiring valuable Fire Service resources.

The odd brief interruption to the settled theme did occur with heavy thundery downpours developing across Cumbria and the northeast on the 11th and some very localised storms affecting parts of the southwest, e.g. Okehampton on the evening of the 16th. By the 21st, however, Thames Water were introducing a hosepipe ban across their supply area and on the 24th the Cairngorms wildfire, already in its tenth day, was declared a major incident after a significant change in wind direction. Freshening winds on the 25th were reportedly responsible for a number of flare-ups at various wildfire sites across Wales and also at the Dove Stones/Tintwistle site, whilst smoke from the Cairngorms fire was now reaching as far afield as Aberdeen. A further major fire erupted on the 29th at Dunwich Heath near the

Suffolk coast which was also declared a major incident and which consumed around 150 hectares of nature reserve, forcing some property evacuations. The last 10 days of the month saw somewhat cooler, more changeable weather across the northern half of the UK with dry, warm conditions persisting further south. The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow took a notable drenching on the evening of the 28th, in stark contrast to so much of what had gone before.

Monthly extremes

The table below lists UK monthly weather extremes recorded at individual weather stations during July 2026 from data available on 04/08/2026. The map shows the location of these stations.

Highest Maximum	35.5°C on 9th at Wisley (Surrey, 38mAMSL)
Lowest Maximum	12.1°C on 6th at Fair Isle (Shetland, 57mAMSL)
Highest Minimum	21.3°C on 10th at Heathrow (Greater London, 24mAMSL)
Lowest Minimum	0.3°C on 27th at Tomintoul No 6 (Banffshire, 320mAMSL)
Lowest Grass Minimum	-2.6°C on 27th at Tomintoul No 6 (Banffshire, 320mAMSL)
Most Rainfall	66.2mm on 5th at Loch Shiel, Polloch (Argyll (in Highland Region), 24mAMSL)
Most Sunshine	15.7hr on 14th at Stornoway Airport (Western Isles, 15mAMSL)
Highest Gust	53Kt 61mph on 2nd at Brizlee Wood (Northumberland, 250mAMSL)
Highest Gust (mountain*)	81Kt 93mph on 6th at Cairngorm Summit (Inverness-shire, 1237mAMSL)
Greatest Snow Depth at 0900 UTC	No non-zero values.

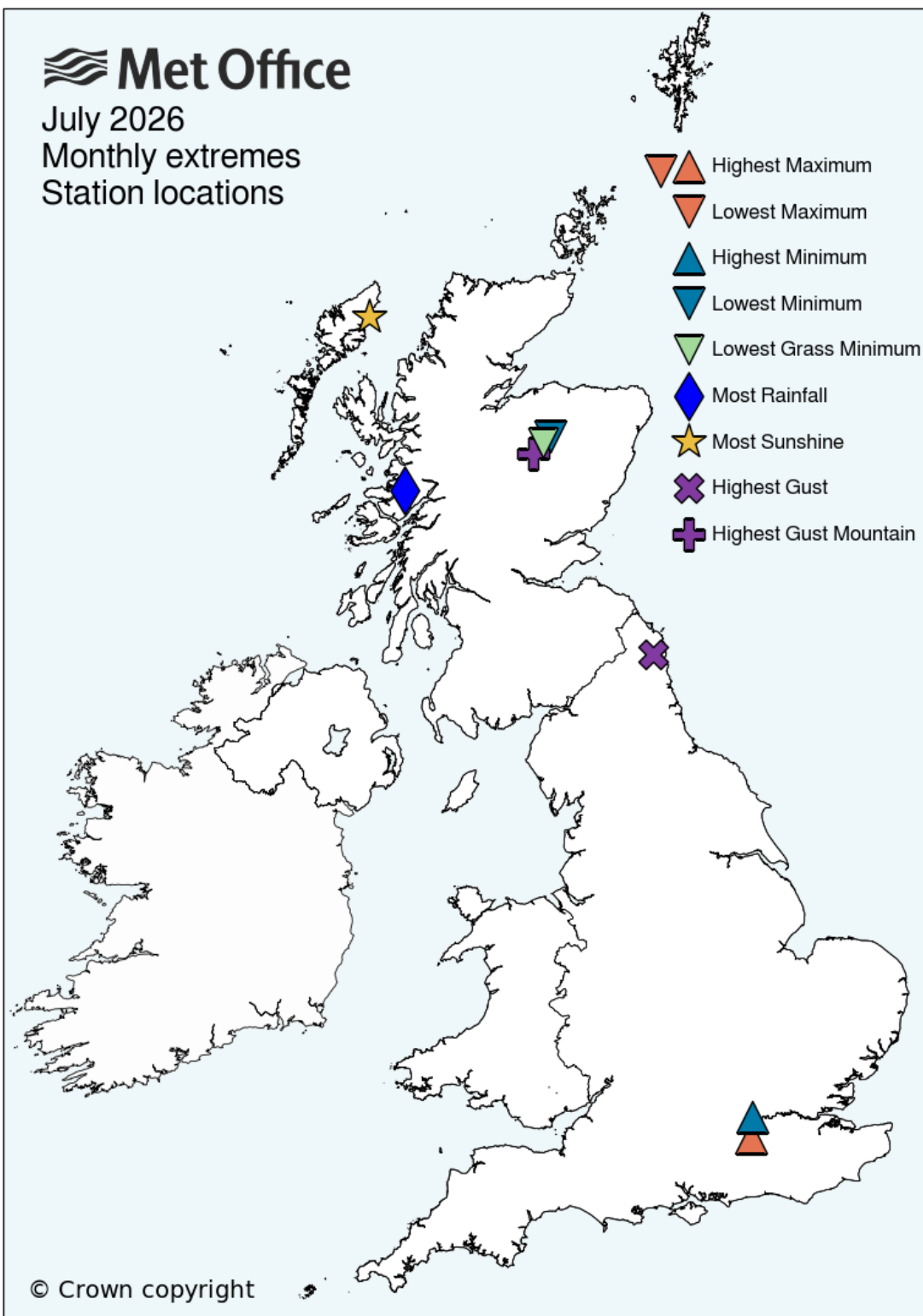
mAMSL refers to station elevation in metres above mean sea level.

*Mountain stations are above 500mAMSL.

July 2026

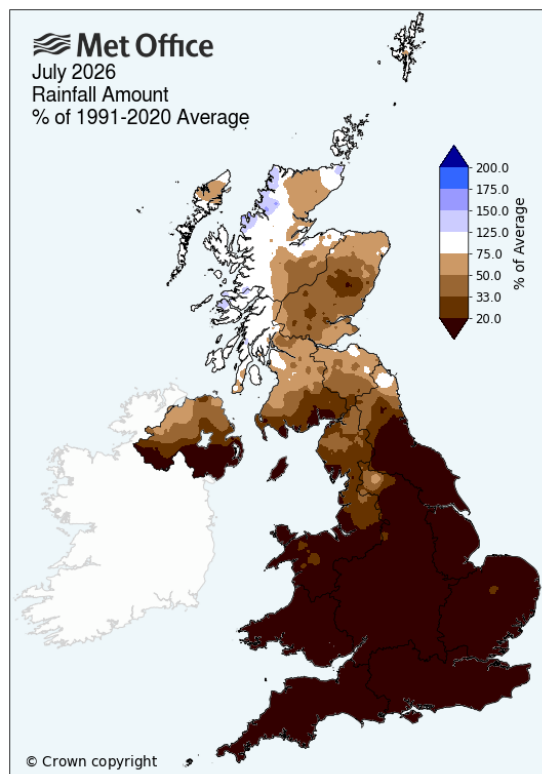
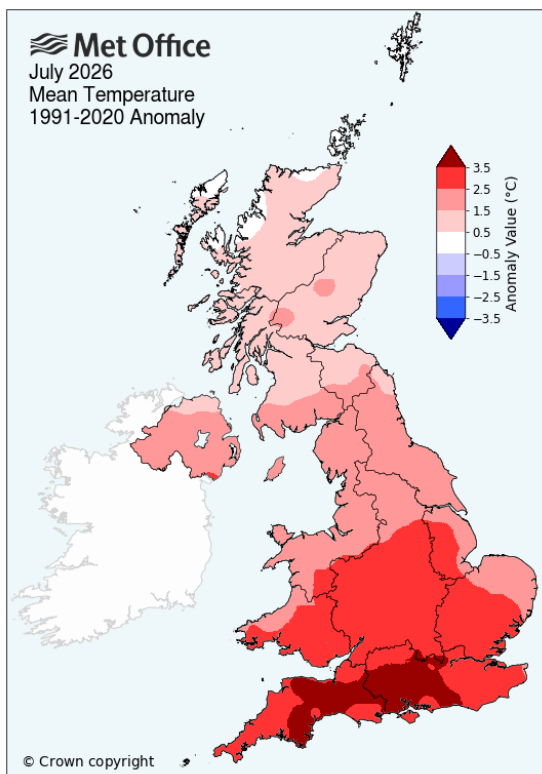
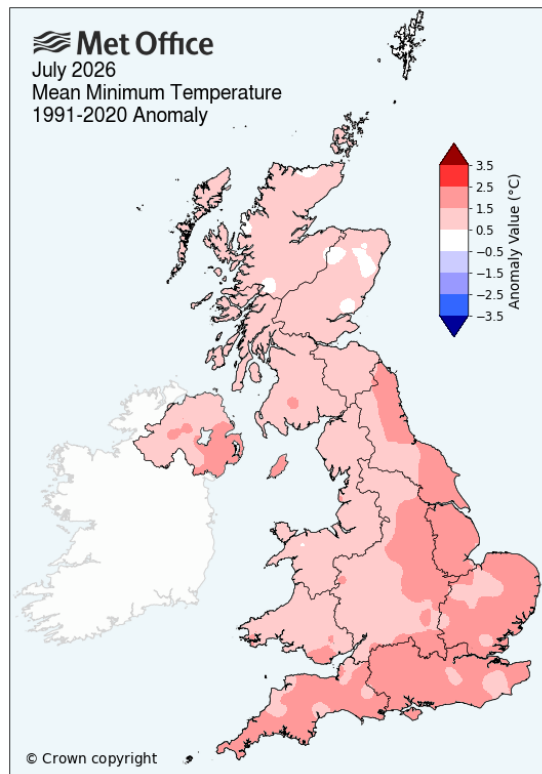
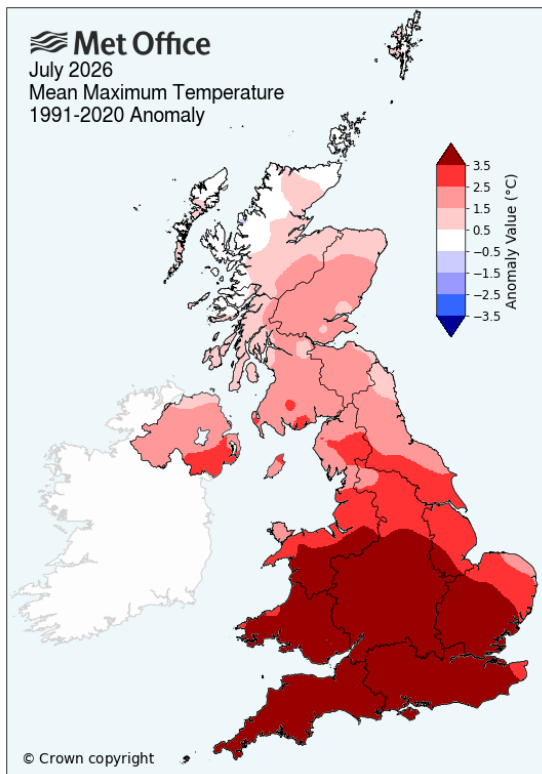
Monthly extremes

Station locations

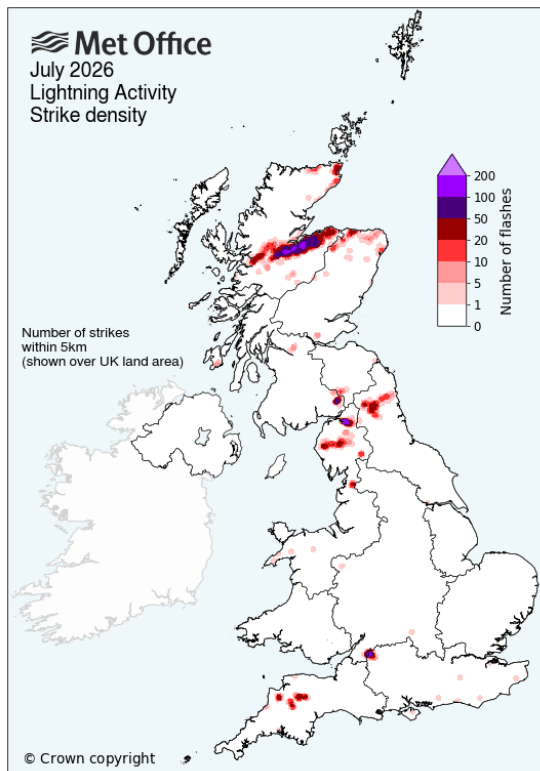
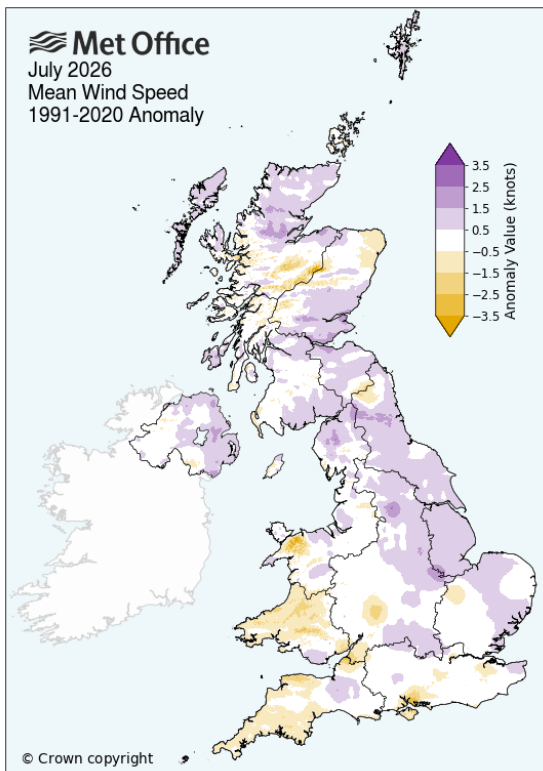
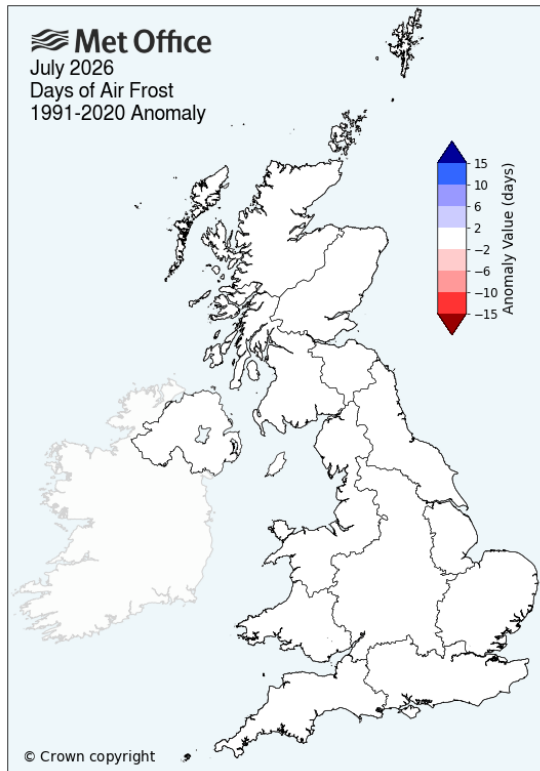
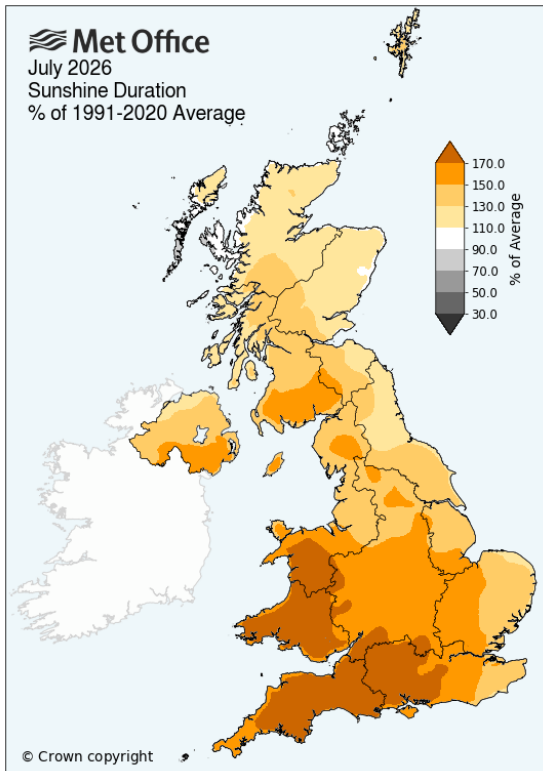


Monthly maps

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



These maps show monthly sunshine, monthly air frost and monthly windspeed for July 2026 as anomalies relative to the July 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 July 2026 for max, min and mean temperature, rainfall, sunshine and windspeed as actual values and anomalies relative to the July 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	22.6	3.0	2	142	143
England	25.1	4.0	2	142	143
Wales	23.3	4.0	1	143	143
Scotland	18.5	1.2	16	128	143
Northern Ireland	20.7	2.1	7	137	143
Central England	25.6	4.2	1	149	149

Mean minimum temperature

Region	Mintemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	12.3	1.3	3	141	143
England	13.3	1.5	2	142	143
Wales	12.3	1.1	5	139	143
Scotland	10.5	0.8	10	134	143
Northern Ireland	12.3	1.5	1	143	143
Central England	13.4	1.2	4	146	149

Mean temperature

Region	Meantemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	17.4	2.1	2	142	143
England	19.2	2.8	2	142	143
Wales	17.8	2.5	2	142	143
Scotland	14.5	1.1	15	129	143
Northern Ireland	16.4	1.8	4	140	143
Central England	19.5	2.7	2	367	368

Rainfall

Region	Rainfall (mm)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - wettest	Rank - driest	Series length (yrs)
UK	28.9	35	189	3	191
England	6.5	10	191	1	191
Wales	9.3	9	191	1	191
Scotland	72.0	69	161	31	191
Northern Ireland	26.9	30	184	8	191
EWP (England and Wales)	6.5	9	261	1	261

Sunshine

Region	Sunshine (hours)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - sunniest	Rank - dullest	Series length (yrs)
UK	258.7	149	1	117	117
England	305.6	156	1	117	117
Wales	308.0	174	1	117	117
Scotland	178.6	127	16	102	117
Northern Ireland	194.2	143	9	109	117

Windspeed

Region	Windspeed (knots)	1991-2020 Anomaly (knots)	Rank - windiest	Rank - calmest	Series length (yrs)
UK	8.1	0.2	28	31	58
England	7.5	0.3	23	36	58
Wales	7.7	-0.5	34	25	58
Scotland	9.2	0.3	25	34	58
Northern Ireland	7.8	0.6	20	39	58

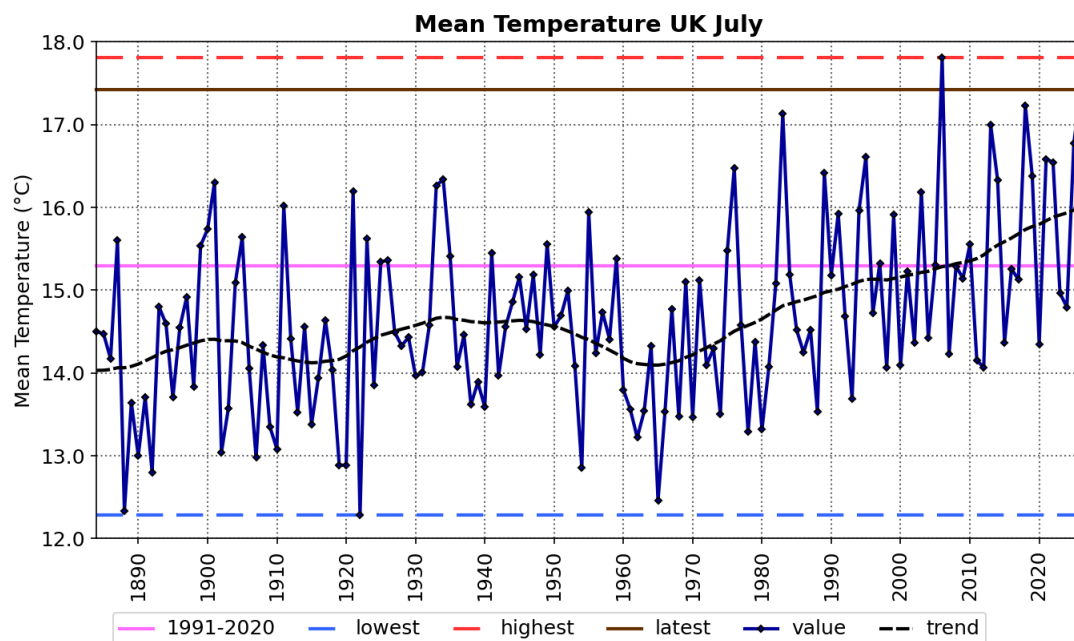
Monthly time-series

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

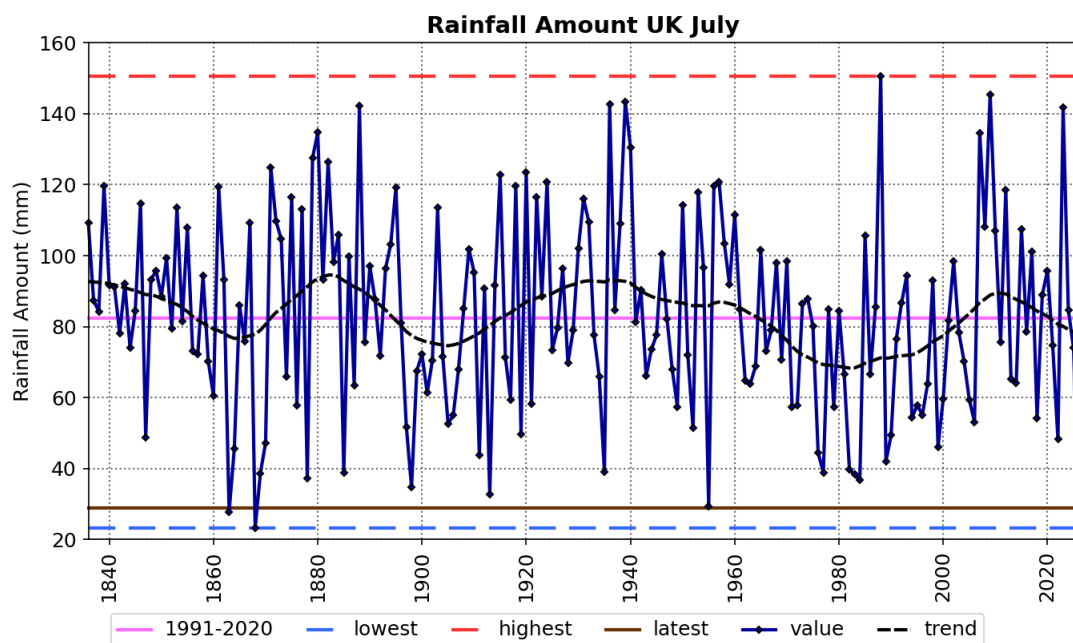


Source: HadUK-Grid 03/08/2026 09:28

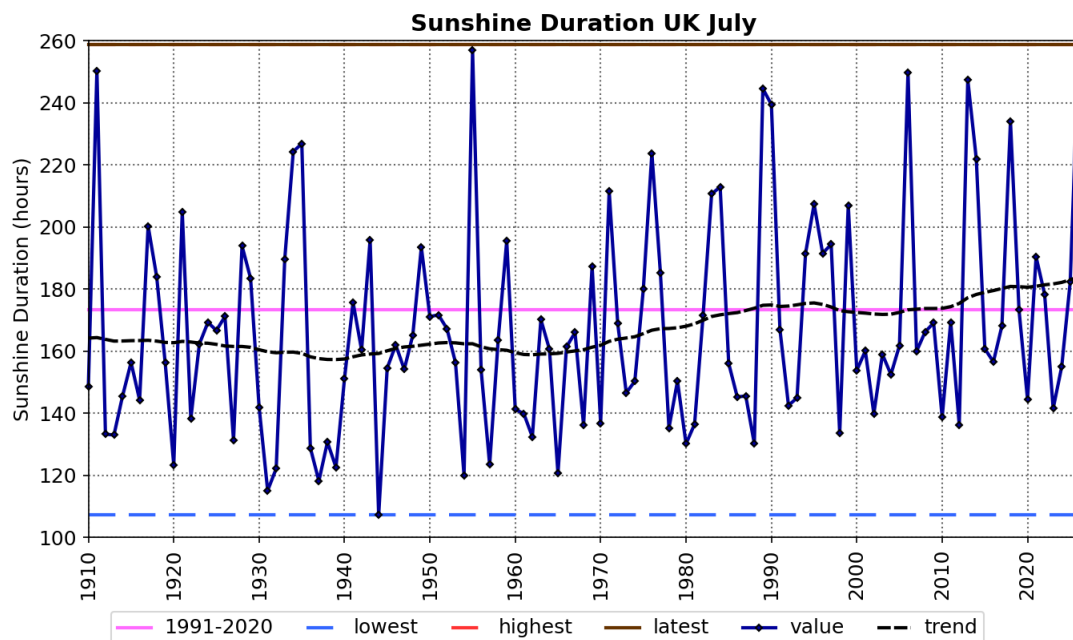
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Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Meantemp (°C)	14.4	15.3	16.0	17.4



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Rainfall (mm)	72.1	82.5	79.2	28.9



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Sunshine (hours)	166.2	173.4	182.6	258.7

Daily time-series

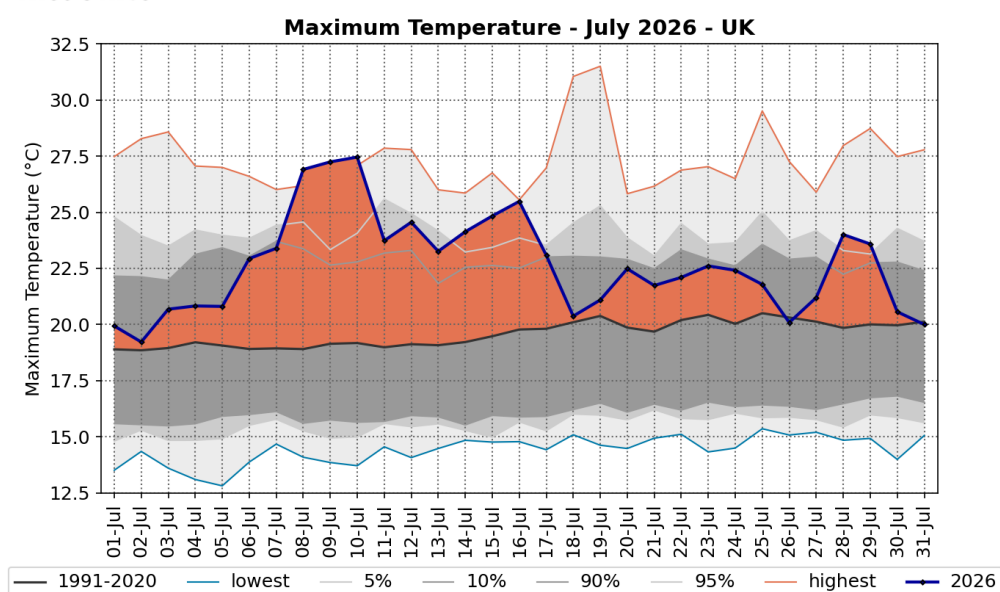
These charts show time-series of UK area-average daily maximum and daily minimum temperature and daily rainfall for each day of July 2026. The areas shaded in grey show the highest and lowest values in the daily temperature series (from 1960) and daily rainfall series (from 1891) together with percentiles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



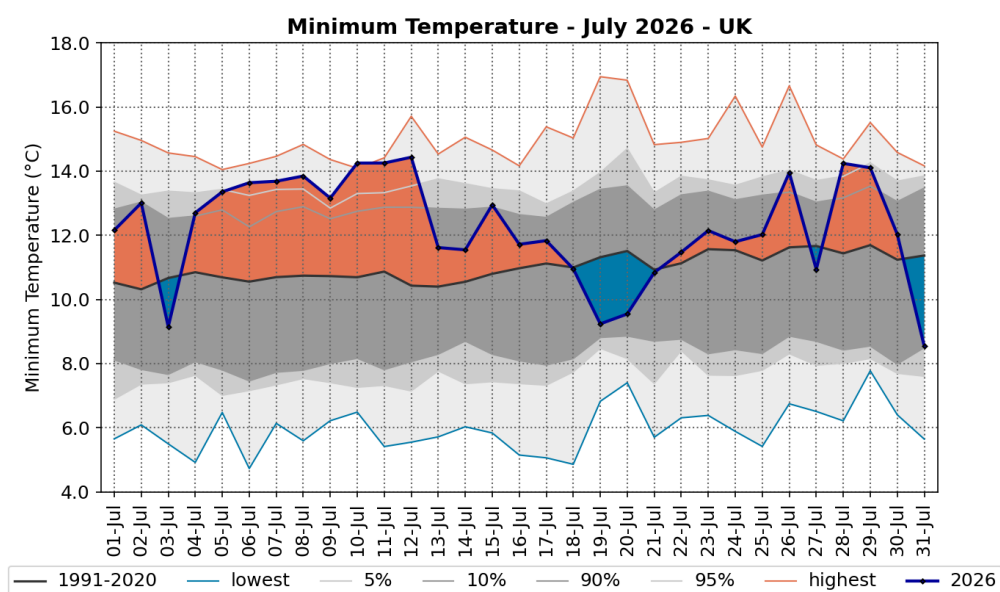
Source: HadUK-Grid 03/08/2026 09:32

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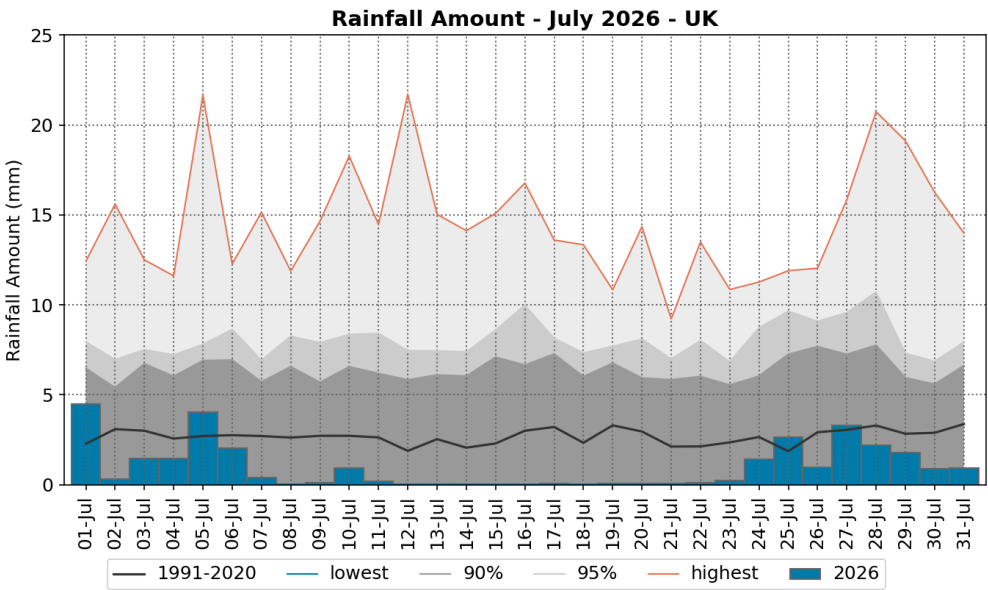


Daily rainfall and rainfall accumulation

Met Office

Source: HadUK-Grid 03/08/2026 09:33

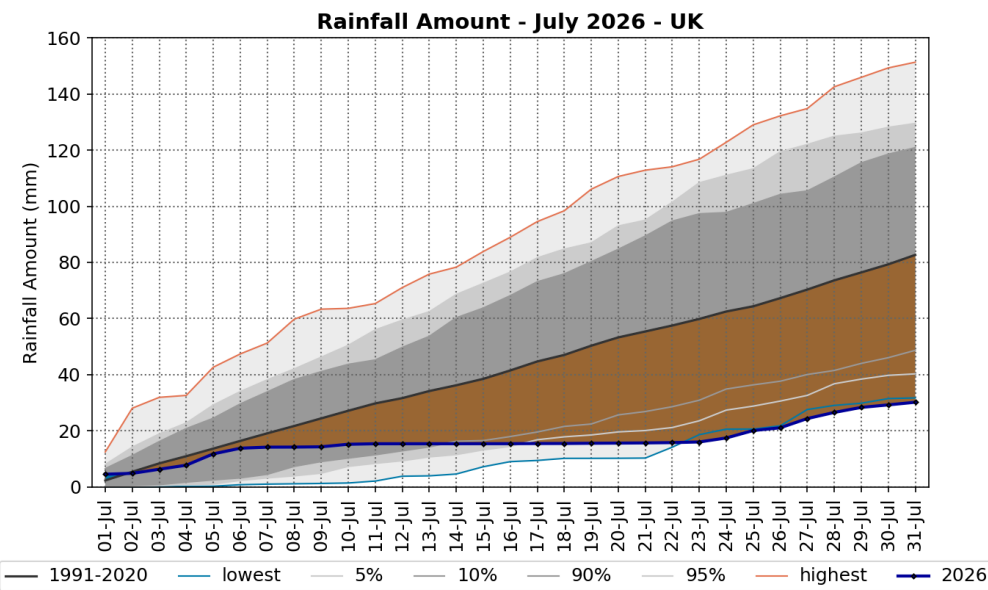
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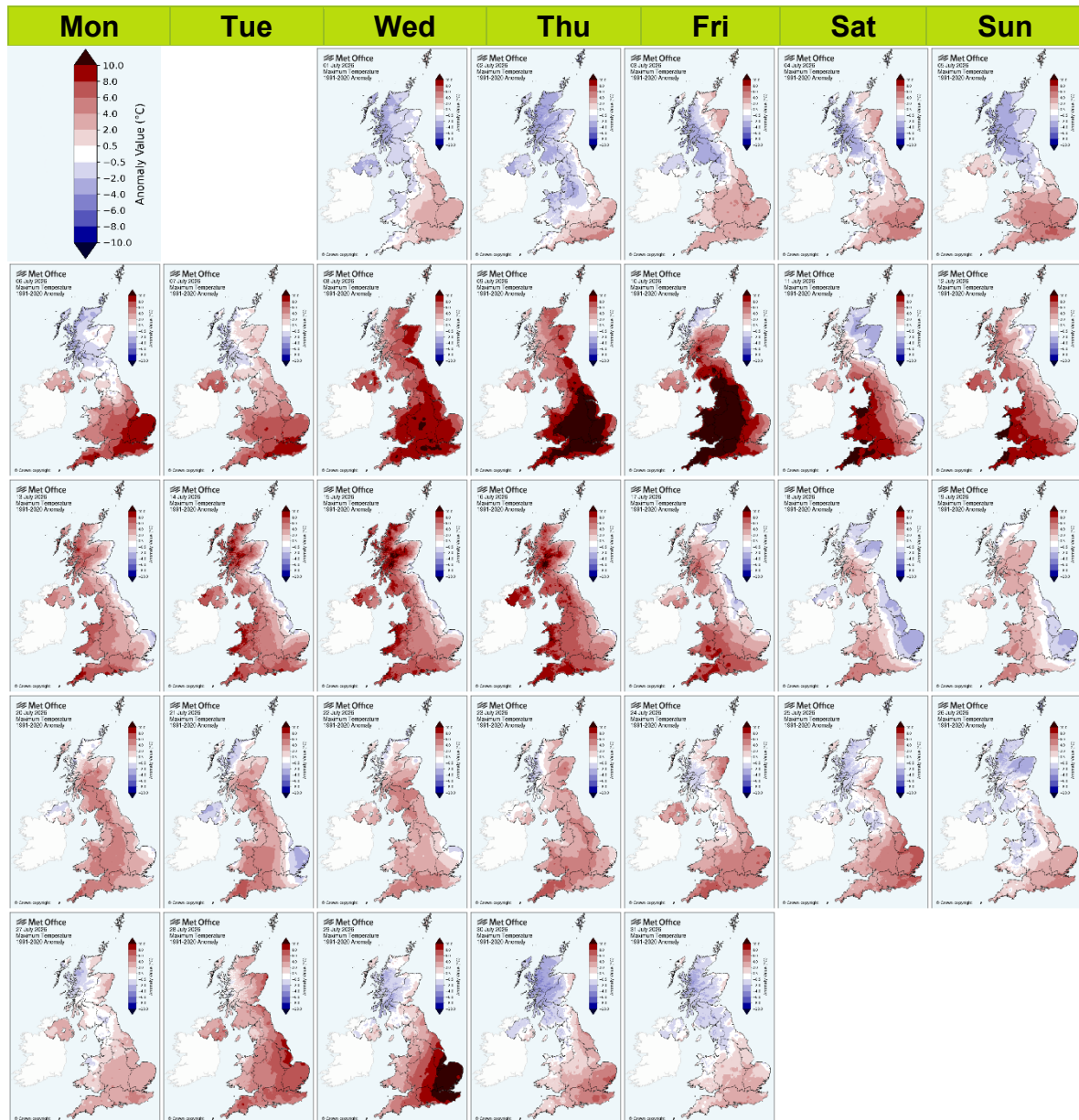
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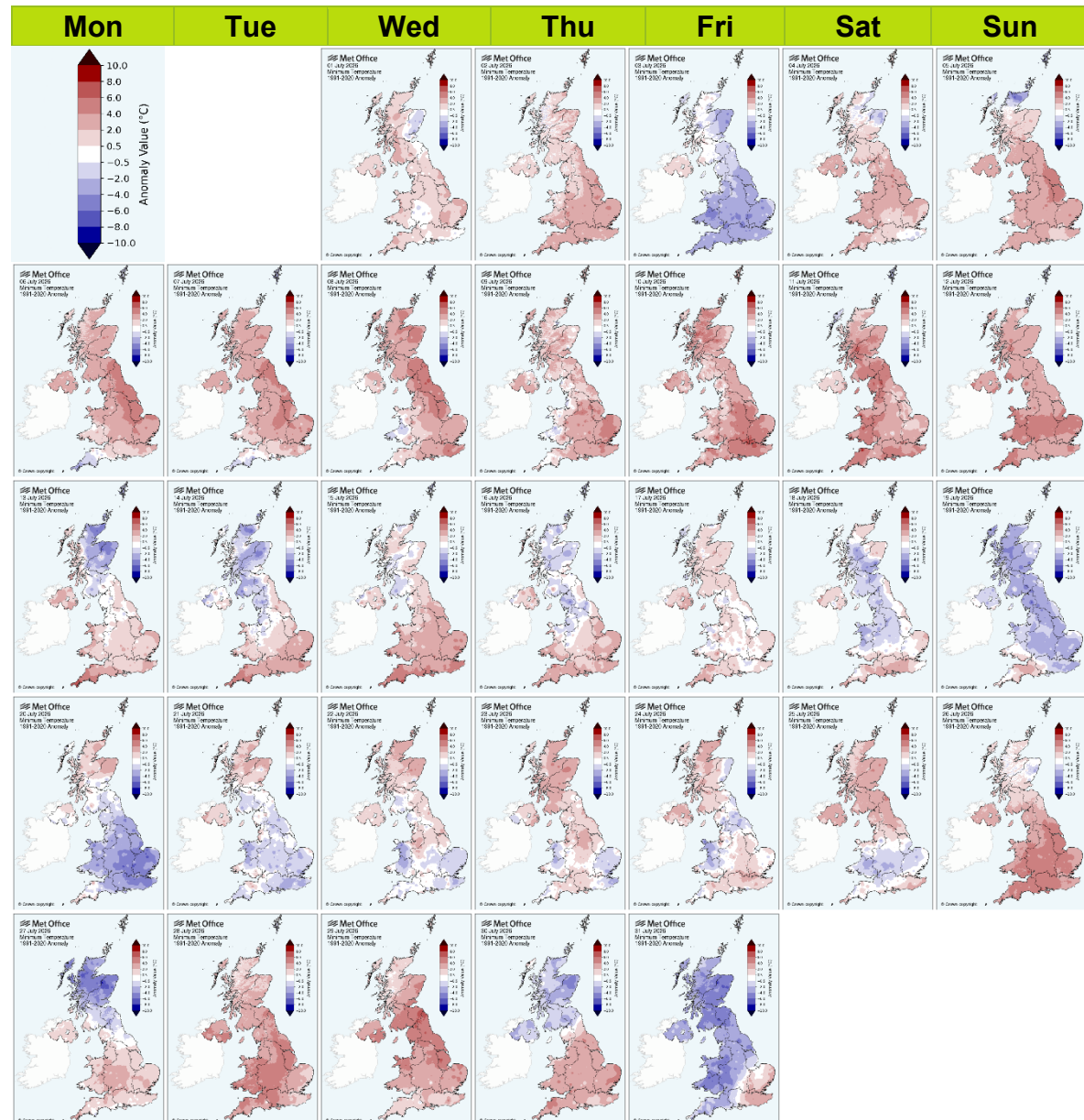
Daily maximum temperature maps - calendar view

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



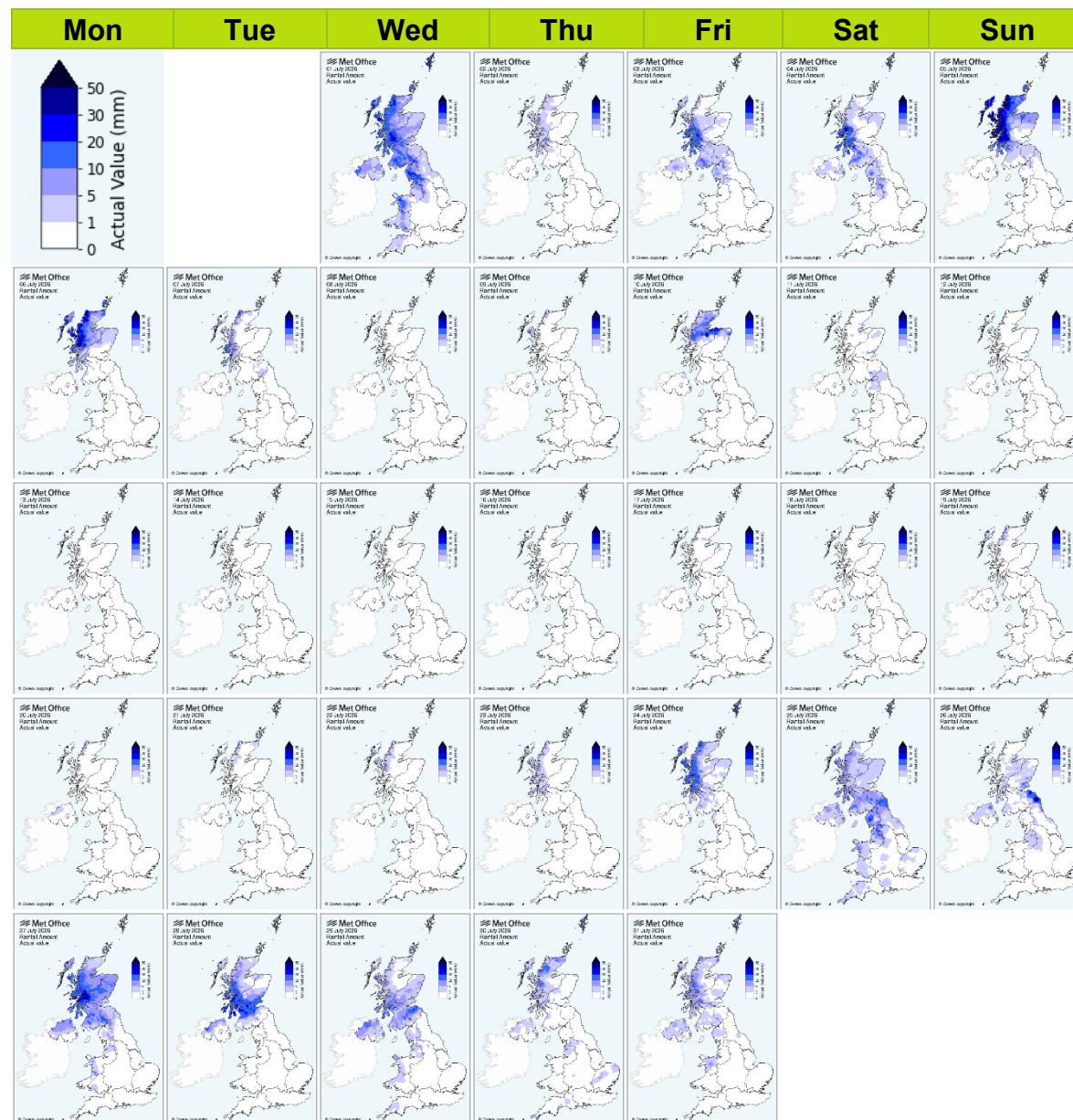
Daily minimum temperature maps - calendar view

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

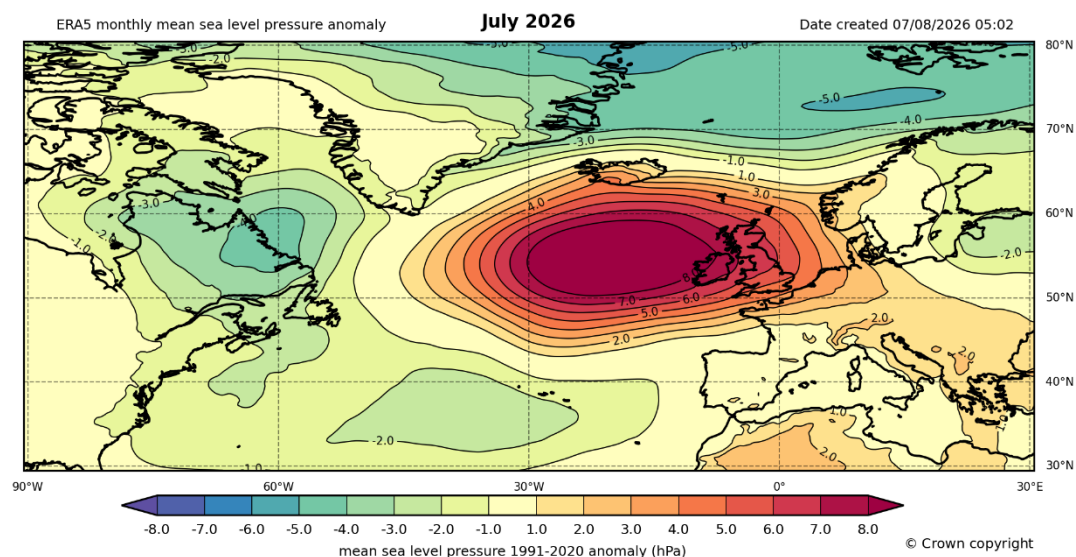
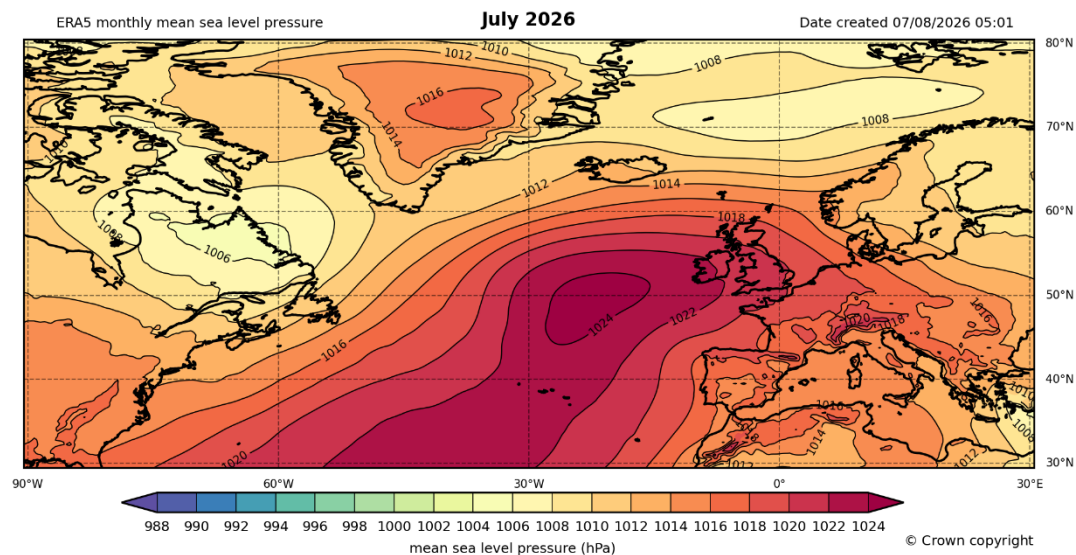


Monthly atmospheric circulation

Mean sea level pressure

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

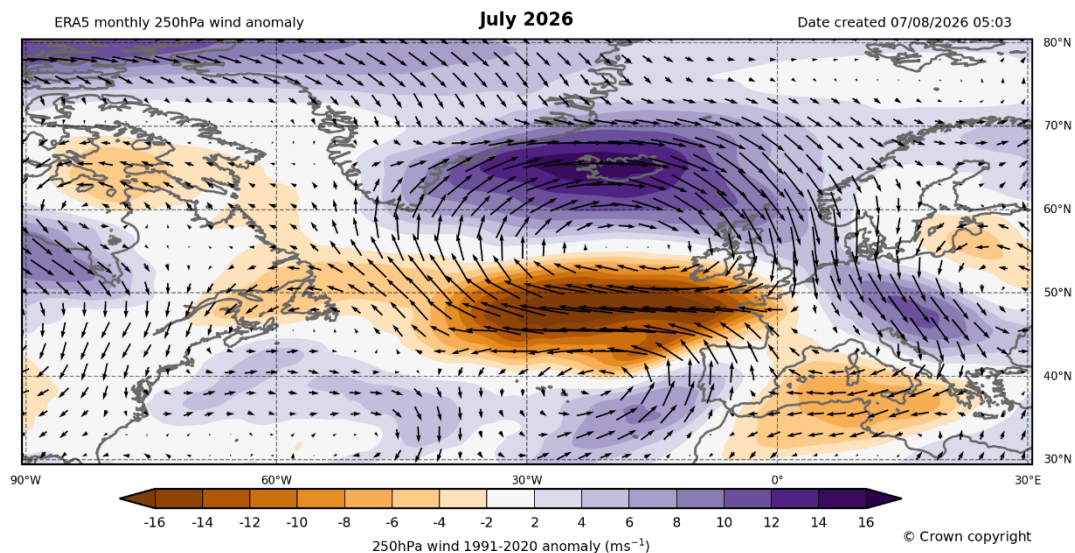
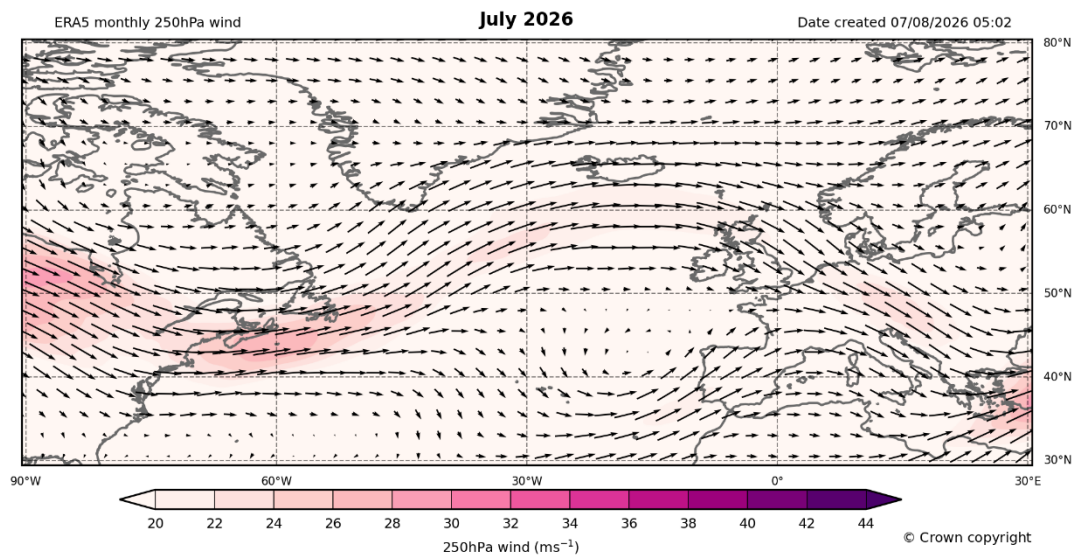
July saw anomalously high pressure centred to the west of Ireland, with the UK experiencing predominantly high pressure throughout the month.



250hPa wind speed and direction

These charts show the monthly 250hPa wind speed and direction for July 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 July 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 displaced north of the UK, with anomalously weak flow especially over the south of the UK.



Weather diary

- **North South split, cooler and damp in the north, warm or hot and sunny in the south**

High pressure was the dominant feature of the weather for the month across the UK. As seems the norm in these situations though, there was a north south split with Northern Ireland and Scotland subject to the more changeable and cooler aspects of the UK weather, while England and Wales basked under clear blue skies and soaring temperatures. Any frontal systems were generally weak in nature and confined almost exclusively to northern counties.

By the 5th, max temps hit 30C in the southeast. On the 6th, the area of 30+ degrees had spread as far north as Lincolnshire, as far west as Devon and virtually all of the southeast, away from the coasts, and by the 10th, 30deg Celsius was being recorded up to the Scottish Borders. This was to be the trend for almost the rest of the month, with the southern UK experiencing very little rainfall, maximum temperatures often into the 30s Celsius, and minima staying above 20deg Celsius. Meanwhile, further north, temperatures were lower, albeit still above average, and rainfall higher but still well below average.

One notable feature of the warm weather were the tropical nights. This is where the temperature doesn't drop below 20deg Celsius overnight. The 10th saw minima not falling below 25deg C in parts of southeast England.

By the 18th, the high had drifted west into the Atlantic, allowing a cooler north or northwesterly airflow to establish over the UK, and several frontal systems to bring cloud and rain principally to Scotland and northern England. This was the first time in the month since the 5th that maxima failed to hit 30 Celsius. There was a gradual warming trend again up to the end of the month with maxima for southern England generally in the high 20s Celsius with some places again exceeding 30deg Celsius.

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 07/08/2026 13:30. 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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