

August 2026 Monthly Weather Report

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

Table of Contents

1. UK overview
2. Weather impacts
3. Monthly extremes
4. Monthly maps
5. Monthly climate statistics
6. Monthly time-series
7. Daily time-series
8. Daily maximum temperature maps - calendar view
9. Daily minimum temperature maps - calendar view
10. Daily rainfall maps - calendar view
11. Monthly atmospheric circulation
12. Weather diary
13. Notes

UK overview

High pressure continued to be the dominating weather pattern during the first half of August, particularly across southern parts of the UK, leading to high daytime temperatures, very little rainfall and significant amounts of sunshine. The second half of the month saw increasingly unsettled conditions in the south, with occasionally heavy rainfall and thunderstorms across Wales and England. The northern half of the UK saw unsettled conditions for most of the month as low pressure brought weather fronts and occasionally thunderstorms as well as lower temperatures and more cloud than in southern parts. All areas saw increased temperatures from the 10th to the 14th, with parts of England and Wales reaching heatwave conditions. Wales set a new record maximum temperature for August on the 12th (35.3°C recorded at Gogerddan). The 13th also saw temperatures provisionally reach 38.1°C at Kew Gardens in London, making it the 5th hottest day on record for the UK. In the second half of the month, the arrival of rain in parts of the UK that had seen little if any rainfall since June led to reports of floods in some areas as the dry soil was inundated. Although the last week of the month saw rainfall across the UK, including heavy downpours and thunderstorms, much of the country still ended the month with below average rainfall.

Daily maximum temperatures were particularly high in the first half of the month, and although cooler weather in the second half of the month reduced the mean slightly England still closed out the month with the provisional fourth warmest August on record for mean daily maximum temperature and Wales the provisional joint fourth warmest. Mean temperatures were also above average, with the UK +1.4°C above the 1991-2020 average, although Scotland and Northern Ireland were closer to average (anomalies of 0.5°C and 0.7°C respectively). This was the seventh consecutive month where the UK recorded a mean temperature of more than 1°C above the long-term average and provisionally its joint sixth warmest August on record. England experienced its fourth warmest August on record for mean temperatures. Rainfall was below average for the UK, which recorded 81% of the average August rainfall. Although Scotland and Northern Ireland were wetter than England and Wales, neither of them recorded above average rainfall for the month, with only northern Scotland and parts of central England recording above average rainfall. Sunshine was above average for the UK (provisionally 114% of the long-term average), but below average for Scotland (provisionally 81% of average) and Northern Ireland (provisionally 71% of average).

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

Weather impacts

- **Ongoing and new wildfires across the country led to strain on fire services, road closures and destruction of property**
- **Rainfall towards the end of the month led to flooding of properties as well as transport disruption**

August was yet another warmer than average summer month, helping to cement summer 2026 as the warmest on record. Neither the warmth nor the dryness of the month was quite as pronounced as in July, with periods of rain in the second half of the month bringing monthly rainfall totals close to average across some parts of the UK. Heatwave conditions were met across southern and eastern England between the 10th and 14th as temperatures rose well above average, and the month's highest temperature of 38.1C was observed at Kew Gardens in London on the 13th. As was the case throughout much of the summer there was a pronounced north to south gradient in warmth with the north of Scotland recording only near average temperatures whereas across southern England the temperatures were well above average, with a number of stations recording their warmest August on record as well as a new record temperature for Wales where 35.3C was reached on the 12th. For much of Wales and southern England it was another dry month. The warmth and dryness contributed to another very busy wildfire month, especially across Wales, the Midlands and southern England.

The first significant weather of the month occurred between the 3rd and 5th with showers and thunderstorms affecting Northern Ireland and parts of Scotland. Reports of road flooding were received from parts of northeast Scotland on the 5th whilst Northern Ireland Electricity reported some network faults due to lightning strikes on the 4th. In south Wales, however, another major wildfire had erupted on the 1st at Llanwonno in Rhondda Cynon Taf with at least 150 hectares of land reportedly burnt. Further wildfires in south Wales resulted in the Fire and Rescue Service declaring a Major Incident on the 11th due to resource demand across the Valleys area in particular. Mutual aid was provided by the Fire Services of Gloucestershire, Hereford/Worcester and Avon. A second Major Incident was declared by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service on the 10th after multiple wildfire incidents had been reported across the county. In Scotland the longstanding Nethy bridge wildfire in the Cairngorms was still in progress, despite the early month rains. On the 11th, hot spots were still being identified, some 27 days after the fire had started.

By the 11th, the next in the series of summer heatwaves was looming and an amber extreme heat warning was issued for the 13th covering a broad area of central and southern England from south Yorkshire to the Thames Valley, where the highest temperatures were expected. This was updated on the 13th with a slightly expanded warning area as locations

from as far apart as Cheshire and Hampshire saw temperatures surge into the mid to upper 30s that afternoon. The day before, a new wildfire in Newbridge, Caerphilly was reported to have destroyed five homes. Network Rail reportedly put in numerous mitigation measures to guard against impacts from the impending heat. During the 13th, a number of wildfires broke out across England and Wales, the most serious of which occurred in Stourbridge, West Midlands where 19 homes were destroyed, the dryness of the ground/vegetation and intense heat being major contributory factors. Another fire in the West Midlands was reportedly responsible for the closure of a section of the M6 northbound due to smoke across the carriageway. On the trains, services were significantly reduced in Wales and across southern England with widespread speed restrictions operating across the network.

The 14th and 15th saw the heat dispelled away to the continent as cooler Atlantic air re-established supremacy. Despite this, wildfires continued to impact parts of mid and south Wales with serious deteriorations in air quality reported from Newport and Cwmbran on the 14th as fire smoke drifted across. The A470 in Powys was reported closed near Rhayader by another of the fires. Several large wildfires remained in progress by the 17th across mid and south Wales with military assistance now being provided to the resident firefighting teams.

The 17th to the 20th saw more unsettled conditions across much of the UK with welcome rain for many. Across the Lancaster/Morecambe area a series of heavy downpours on the 20th gave rise to several reports of surface water flooding with two Lancaster pubs reportedly damaged by floodwater.

A further spell of unsettled weather with heavy showers and thunderstorms followed between the 26th and the 30th, accompanied by a combination of low and medium impact yellow thunderstorm warnings. The 27th and overnight saw widespread thundery downpours with the Derbyshire village of Hilton reporting road flooding and the local pub suffering some water ingress. The Drayton Manor theme park in Staffordshire was reported closed on the 28th due to flood damage from overnight thunderstorms. The Midlands saw a number of impacts with the ground floor at Hinckley and District General Hospital in Leicester flooded on the 27th whilst some 80 properties were reportedly flooded in the Perry Barr district of Birmingham after torrential downpours. The A38 in Bromsgrove was closed by surface water flooding whilst train services between Rugeley and Hednesford in Staffordshire were suspended due to flooded tracks. Hail some 2-3cm in diameter reportedly caused significant vehicle damage in the High Wycombe area. A house in Cleethorpes was struck by lightning in the early hours of the 28th leaving some structural damage. On the 29th, heavy rain in Bridgend, south Wales reportedly flooded a MacDonalds restaurant after a ceiling leak. Heavy showers and thunderstorms developed widely later on the 30th with the Tyne and Wear Metro service reportedly suspended between Bede and South Shields due to

extensive flooding. A further house was struck by lightning, this time in Easingwold, North Yorkshire. The final day of summer saw quieter, non-impactful conditions prevail as the warmest summer on record finally drew to a close.

Monthly extremes

The table below lists UK monthly weather extremes recorded at individual weather stations during August 2026 from data available on 07/09/2026. The map shows the location of these stations.

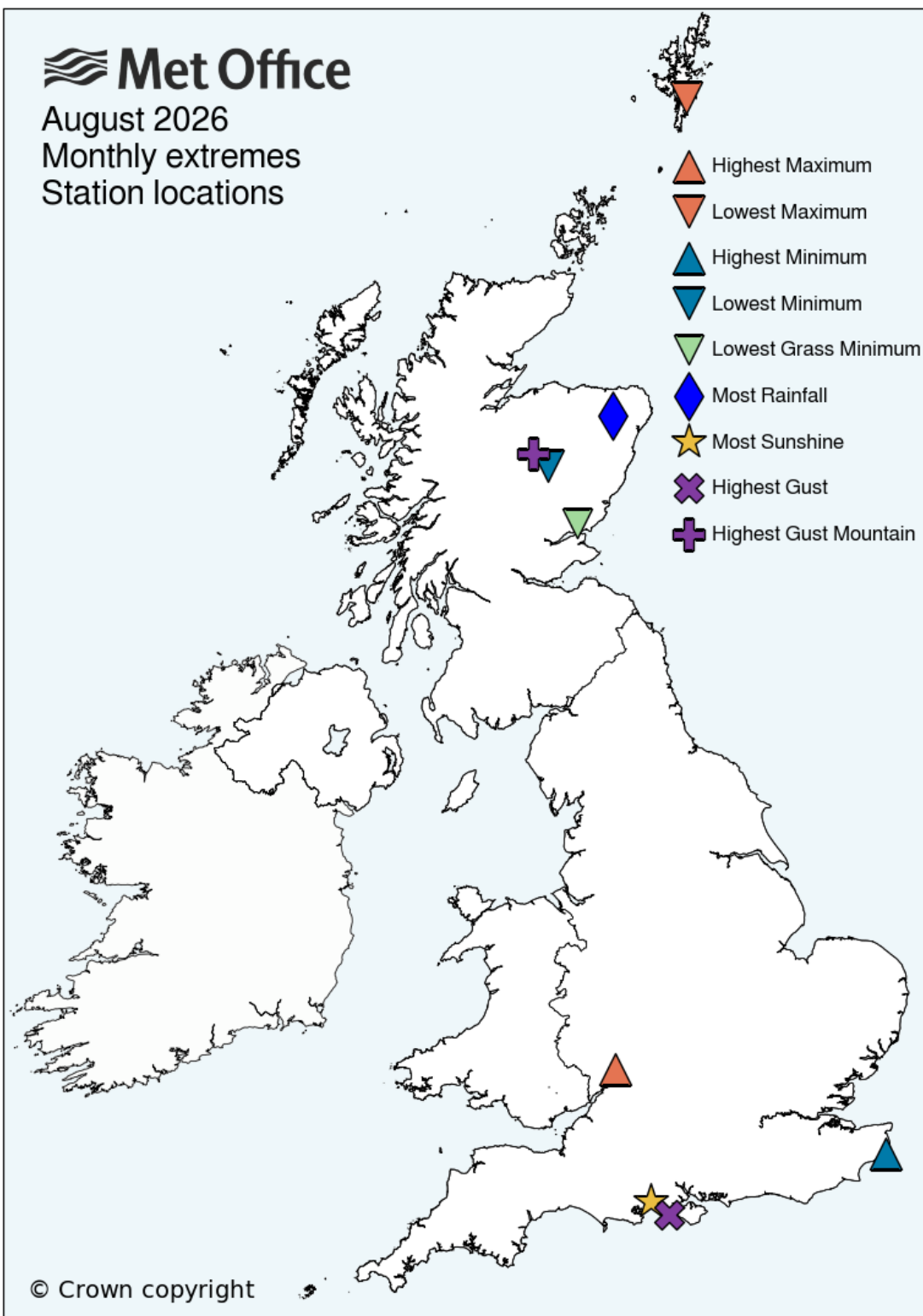
Highest Maximum	38.2°C on 13th at Hartpury College (Gloucestershire, 41mAMSL)
Lowest Maximum	11.1°C on 21st at Lerwick (Shetland, 82mAMSL)
Highest Minimum	22.2°C on 14th at Langdon Bay (Kent, 117mAMSL)
Lowest Minimum	-0.2°C on 22nd at Braemar No 2 (Aberdeenshire, 327mAMSL)
Lowest Grass Minimum	-3.0°C on 22nd at Tealing (Angus, 117mAMSL)
Most Rainfall	74.6mm on 5th at Fyvie Castle (Aberdeenshire, 55mAMSL)
Most Sunshine	14.5hr on 7th at Hurn (Dorset, 10mAMSL)
Highest Gust	61Kt 70mph on 29th at Wight: Needles Old Battery (Isle Of Wight, 80mAMSL)
Highest Gust (mountain*)	77Kt 89mph on 8th 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.

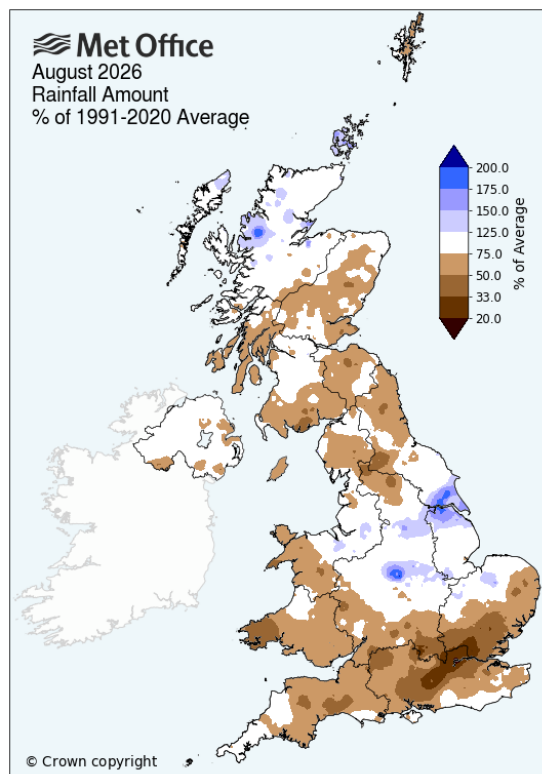
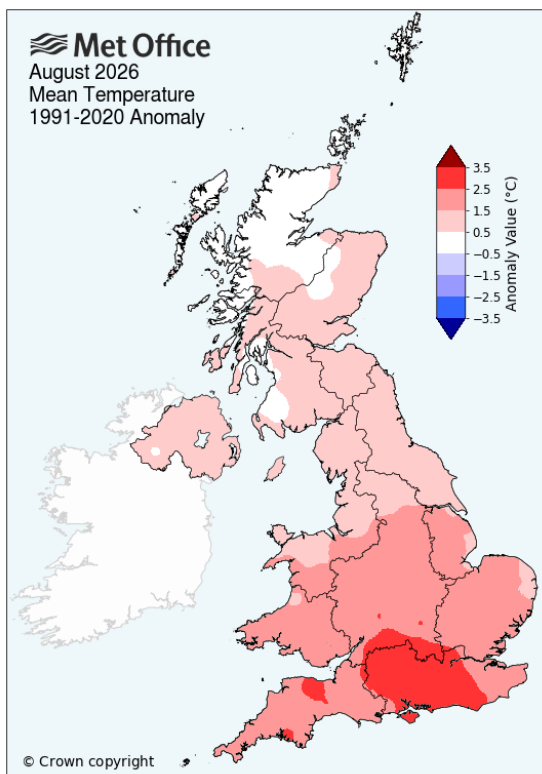
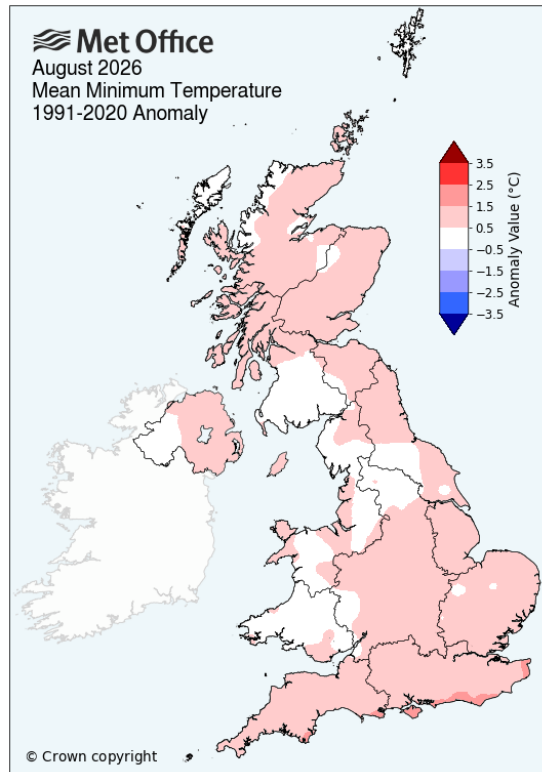
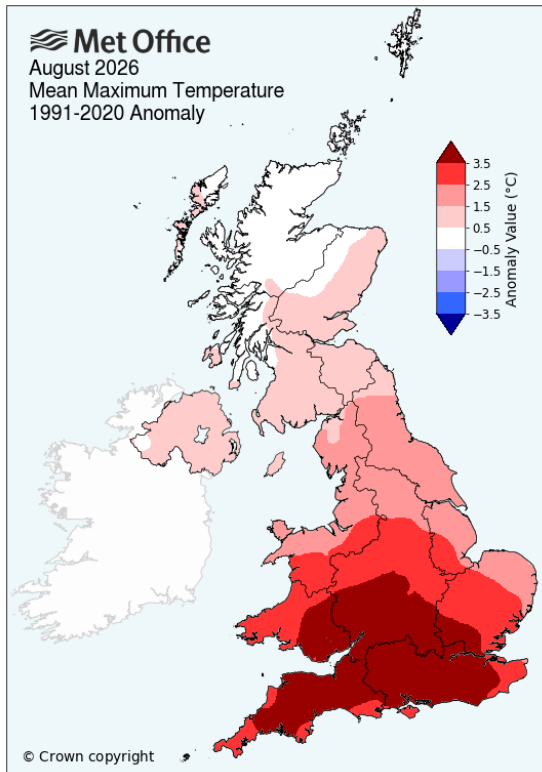


August 2026
Monthly extremes
Station locations

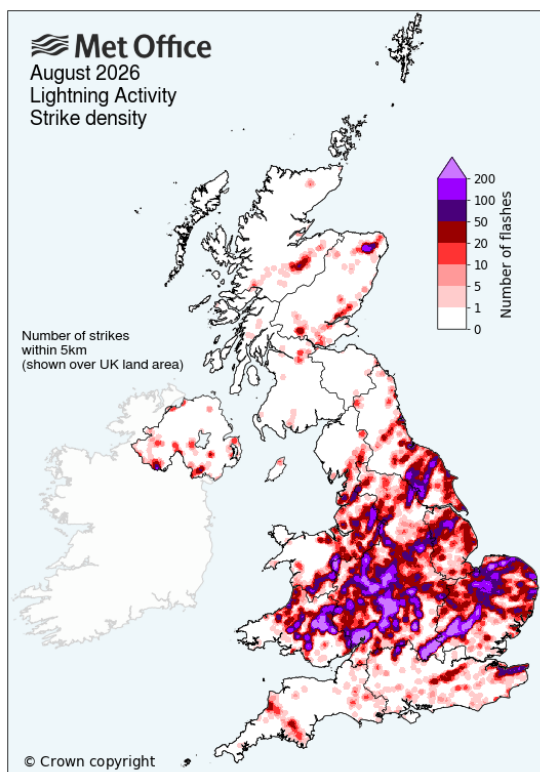
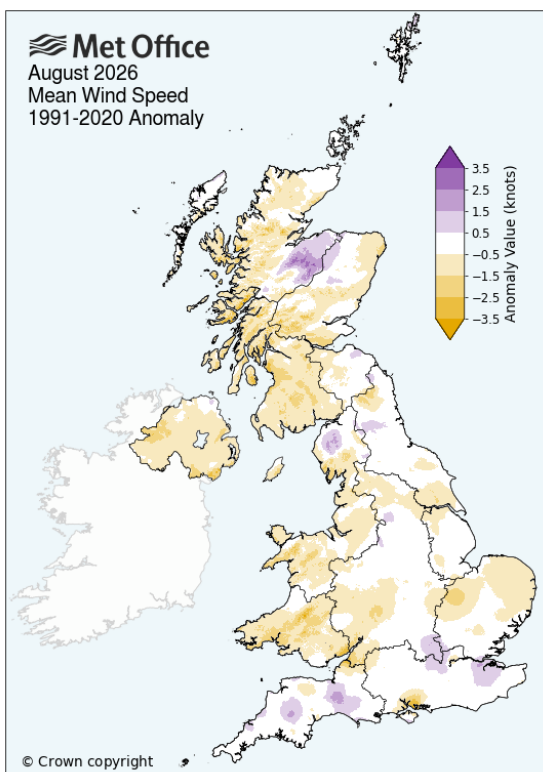
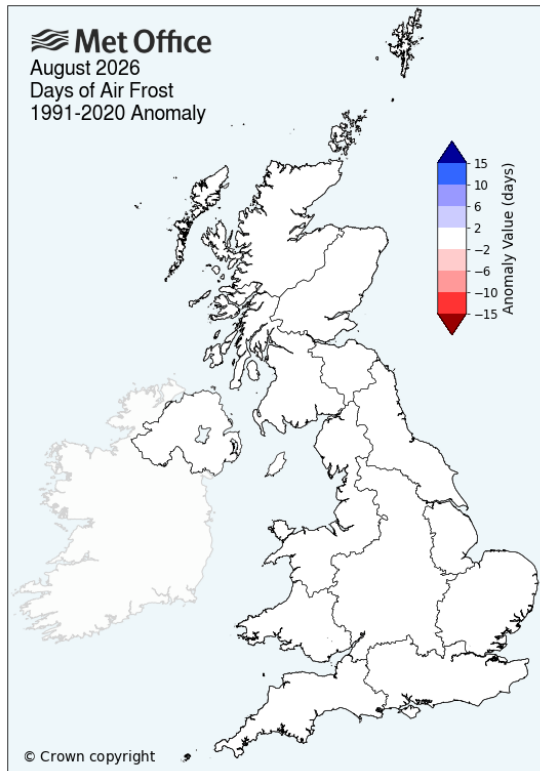
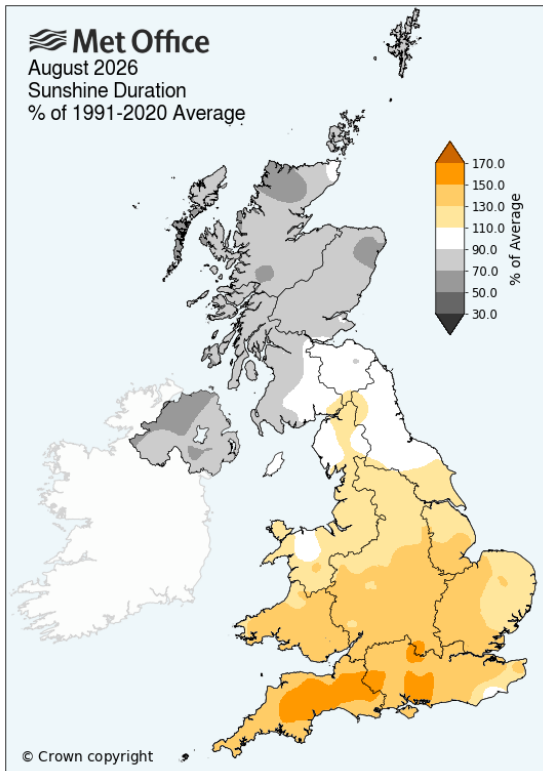


Monthly maps

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



These maps show monthly sunshine, monthly air frost and monthly windspeed for August 2026 as anomalies relative to the August 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 August 2026 for max, min and mean temperature, rainfall, sunshine and windspeed as actual values and anomalies relative to the August 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	21.4	2.1	8	136	143
England	23.9	3.0	4	140	143
Wales	22.1	3.1	5	139	143
Scotland	17.5	0.5	22	122	143
Northern Ireland	19.1	0.8	18	126	143
Central England	24.2	3.2	3	147	149

Mean minimum temperature

Region	Mintemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	11.7	0.7	10	134	143
England	12.6	0.8	7	137	143
Wales	11.5	0.3	25	119	143
Scotland	10.3	0.7	10	134	143
Northern Ireland	11.3	0.6	14	130	143
Central England	13.0	0.7	10	140	149

Mean temperature

Region	Meantemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	16.5	1.4	6	138	143
England	18.2	1.9	4	140	143
Wales	16.8	1.7	8	136	143
Scotland	13.8	0.5	20	124	143
Northern Ireland	15.2	0.7	13	131	143
Central England	18.6	2.0	6	363	368

Rainfall

Region	Rainfall (mm)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - wettest	Rank - driest	Series length (yrs)
UK	75.8	81	143	49	191
England	58.5	78	133	59	191
Wales	72.4	65	159	33	191
Scotland	104.3	87	111	81	191
Northern Ireland	84.3	85	120	72	191
EWP (England and Wales)	62.9	76	187	75	261

Sunshine

Region	Sunshine (hours)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - sunniest	Rank - dullest	Series length (yrs)
UK	184.8	114	11	107	117
England	236.3	131	5	113	117
Wales	205.8	129	9	109	117
Scotland	108.8	81	99	19	117
Northern Ireland	96.8	71	109	9	117

Windspeed

Region	Windspeed (knots)	1991-2020 Anomaly (knots)	Rank - windiest	Rank - calmest	Series length (yrs)
UK	7.4	-0.5	43	16	58
England	7.0	-0.3	39	20	58
Wales	7.3	-1.0	48	11	58
Scotland	8.3	-0.6	43	16	58
Northern Ireland	6.2	-1.0	51	8	58

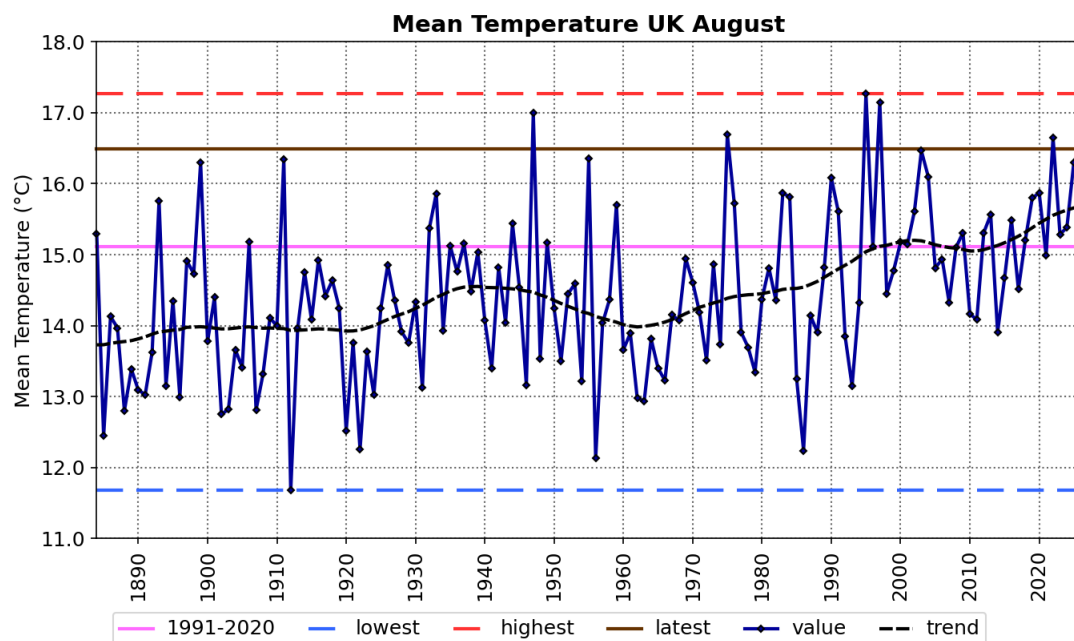
Monthly time-series

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

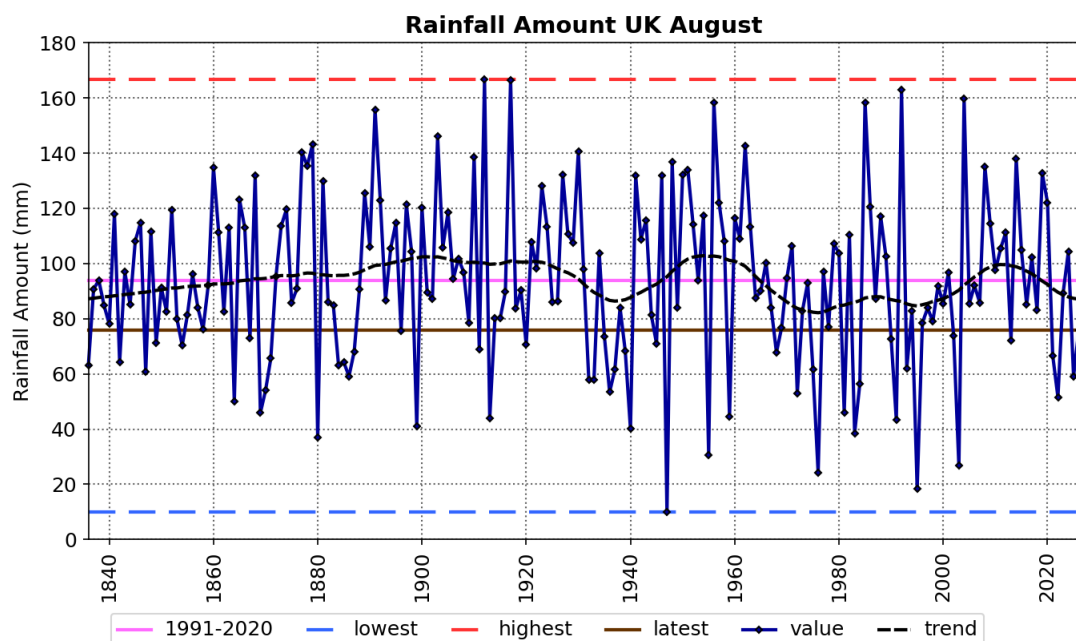


Source: HadUK-Grid 01/09/2026 11:57

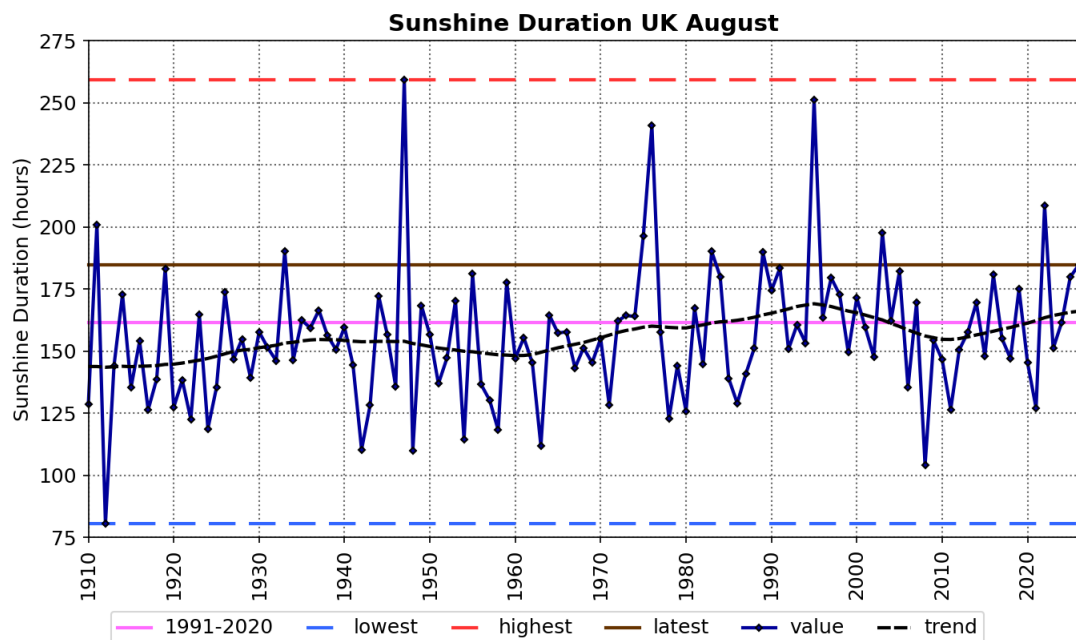
© Crown copyright



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Meantemp (°C)	14.2	15.1	15.6	16.5



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Rainfall (mm)	89.4	93.8	88.7	75.8



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Sunshine (hours)	156.7	161.7	163.6	184.8

Daily time-series

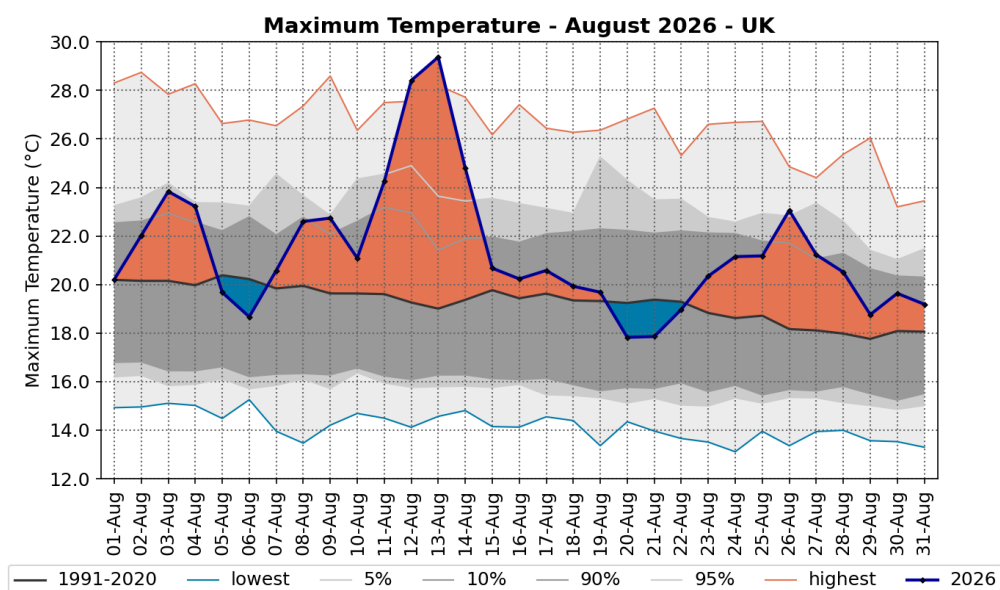
These charts show time-series of UK area-average daily maximum and daily minimum temperature and daily rainfall for each day of August 2026. The areas shaded in grey show the highest and lowest values in the daily temperature series (from 1960) and daily rainfall series (from 1891) together with percentiles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



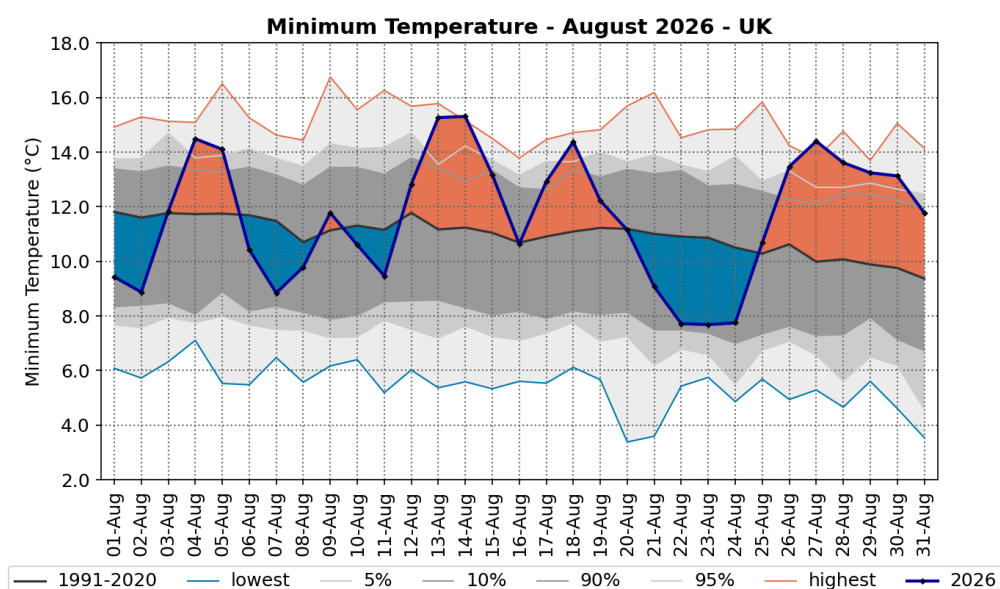
Source: HadUK-Grid 01/09/2026 12:02

© Crown copyright

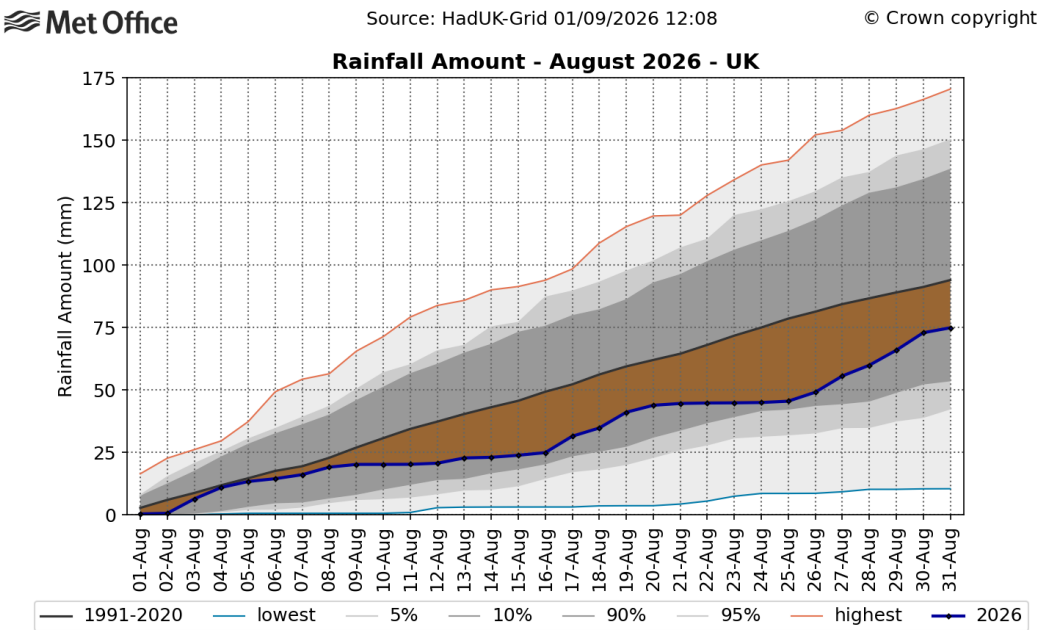
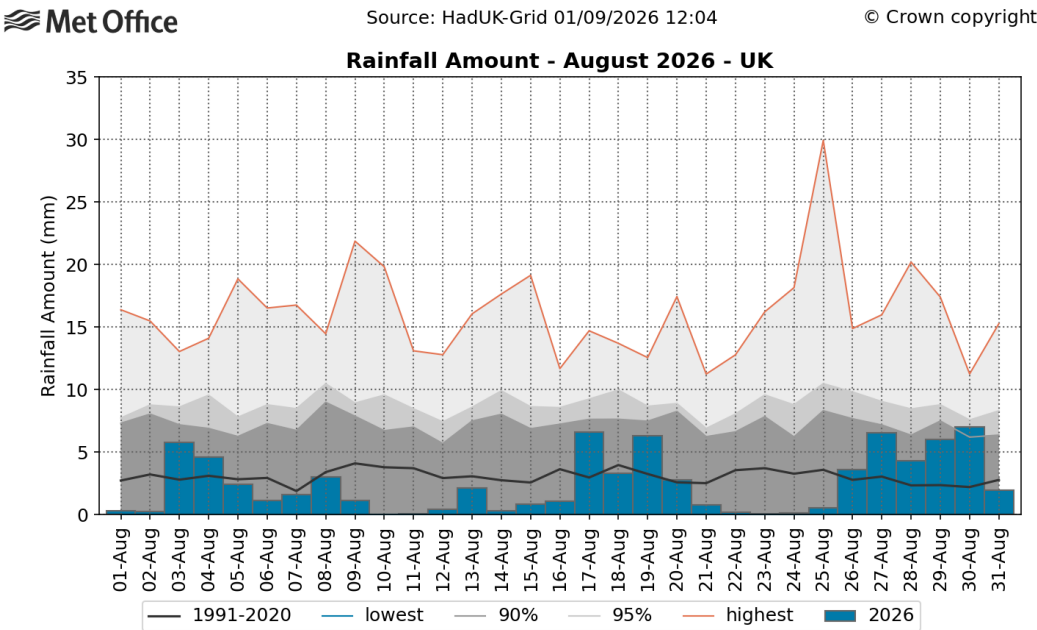


Source: HadUK-Grid 01/09/2026 12:03

© Crown copyright

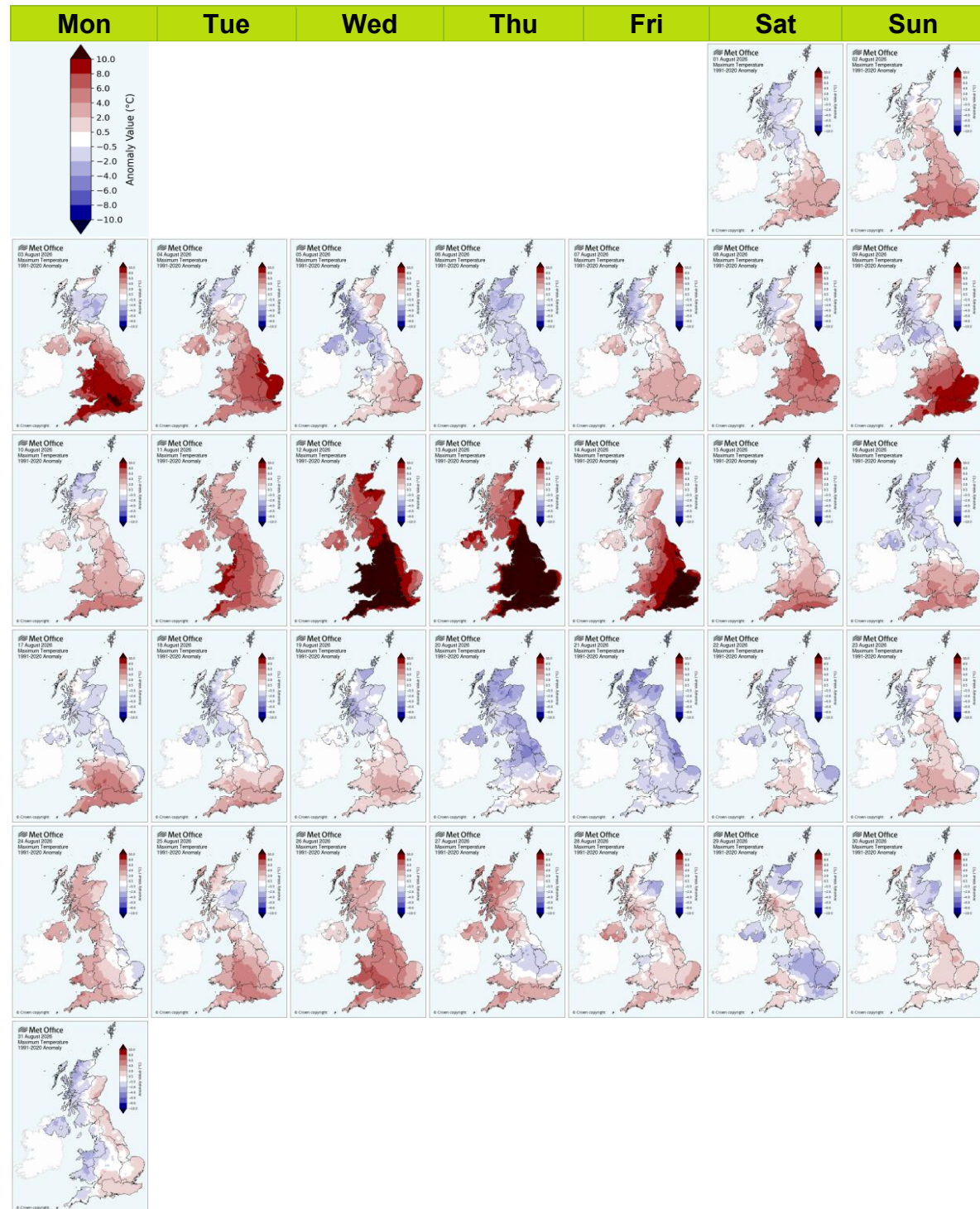


Daily rainfall and rainfall accumulation



Daily maximum temperature maps - calendar view

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



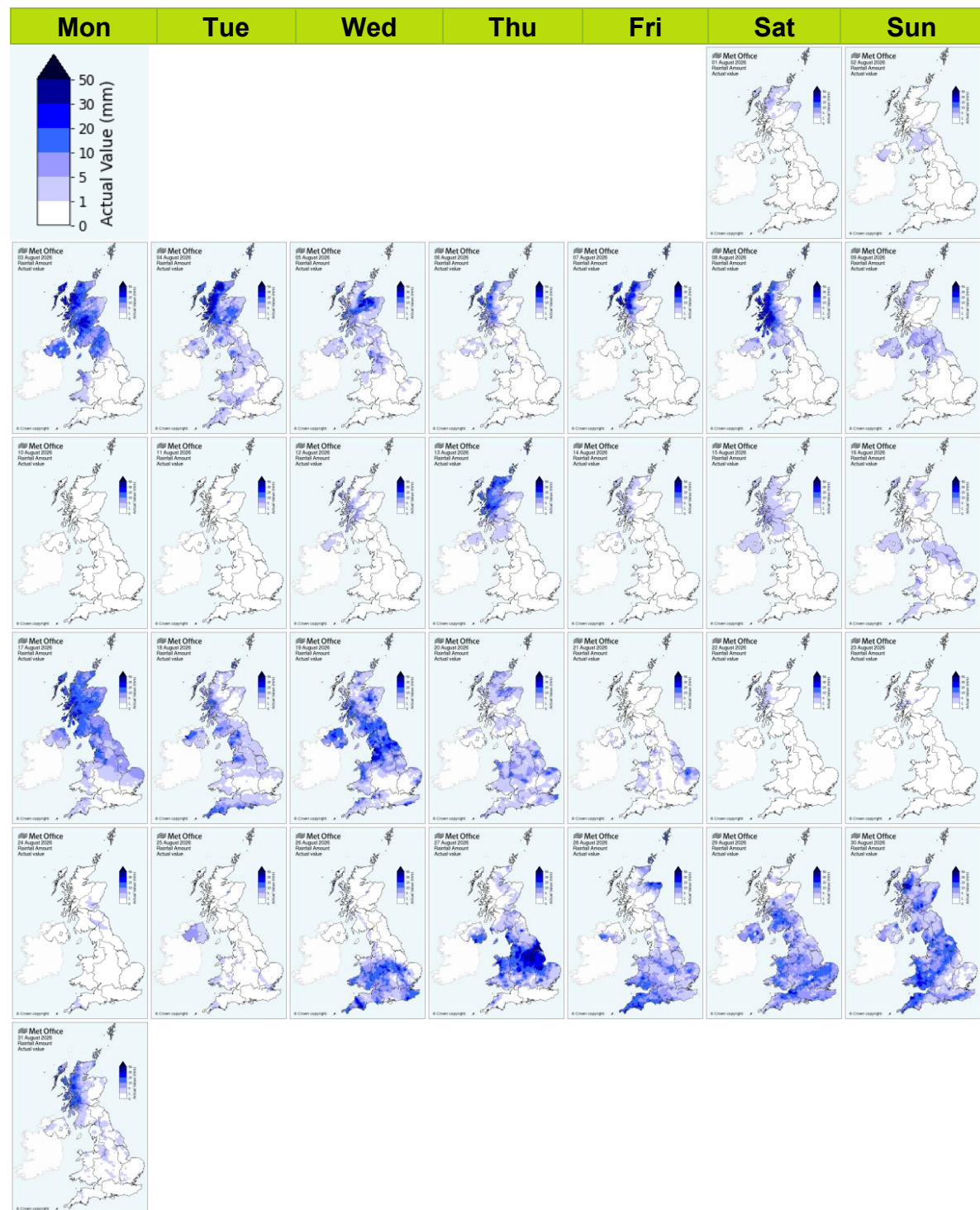
Daily minimum temperature maps - calendar view

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

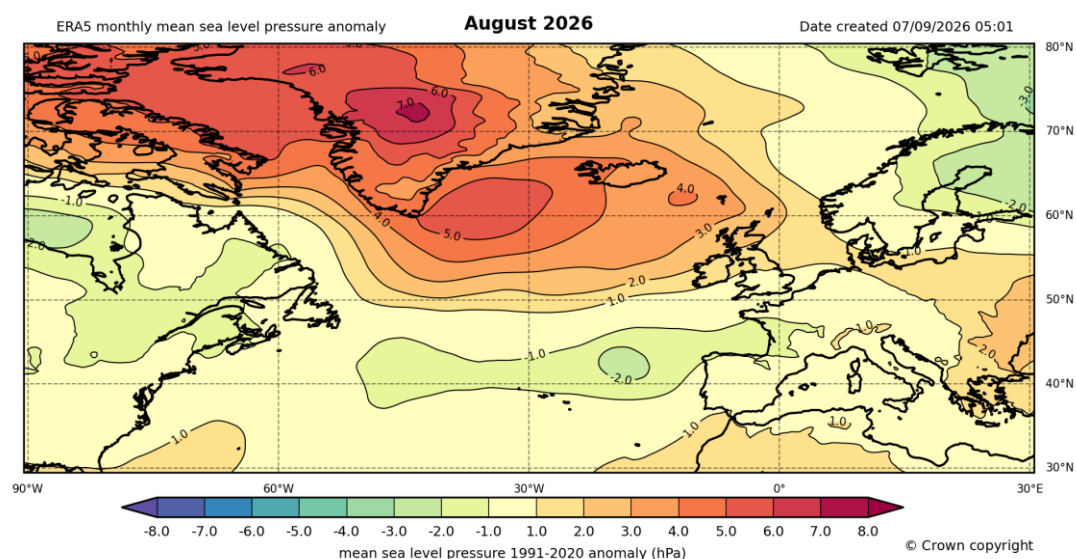
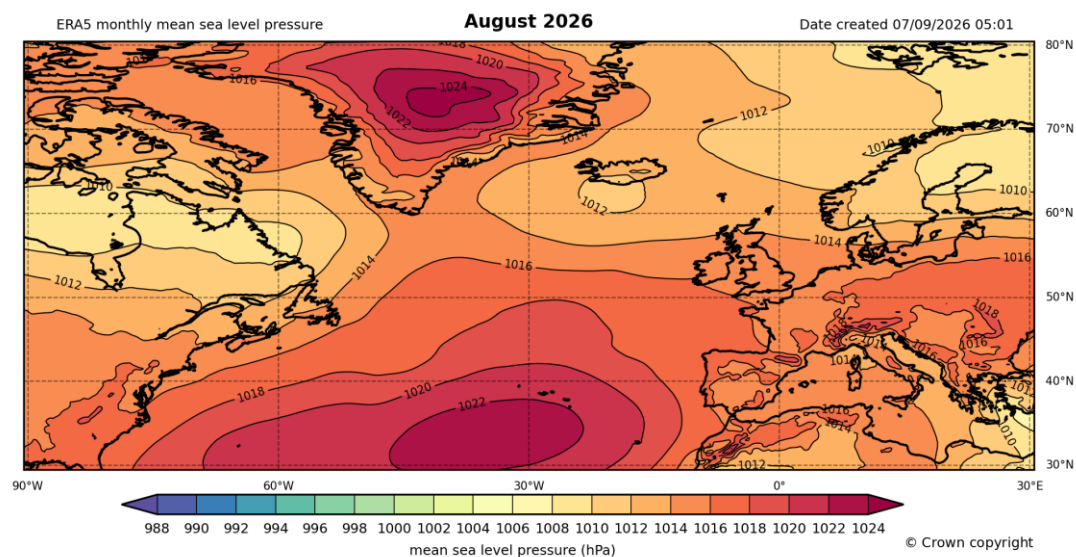


Monthly atmospheric circulation

Mean sea level pressure

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

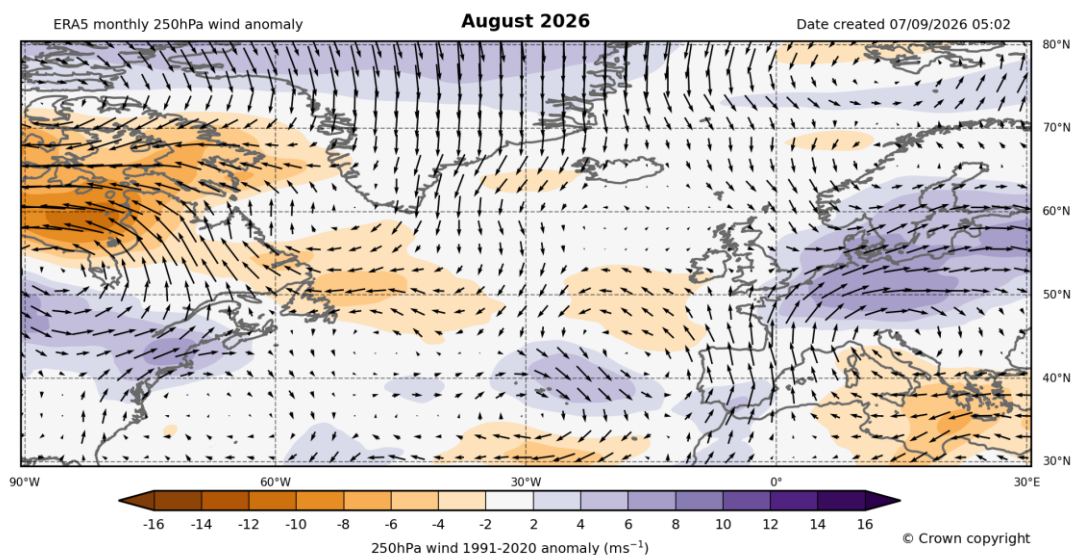
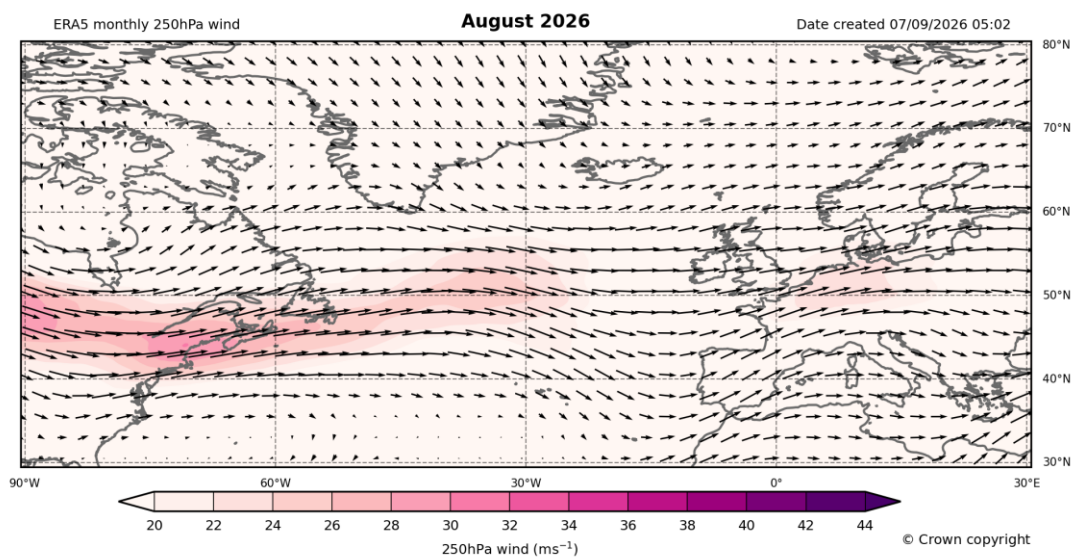
For August overall, mean sea level pressure was slightly higher than normal across the north of the UK and near-normal in the south.



250hPa wind speed and direction

These charts show the monthly 250hPa wind speed and direction for August 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 August 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.

Across the UK overall, the jet stream position and strength was fairly near normal for the time of year.



Weather diary

- **Changeable in the north, hot in the midlands and south.**

August continued where July left off with a north south split in the weather. The 1st to 4th saw rain in the north, and hot and sunny weather continue in the Midlands and south with maxima hitting 33°C, whereas up to 30mm was soaking some western coastal sites. An unseasonably deep low pressure system brought the first meaningful rain to southern counties for several weeks on the 4th. A slightly cooler airmass restricted the highest maxima to the mid to high 20s Celsius from the 5th to the 7th, before the heat started to build again.

So, as high pressure stood its ground over the southern UK, lows with their attendant fronts brought wind and rain to northern England, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Upwards of 60mm was reported in parts of the western highlands on the 7th and 8th. Clear skies in Wales and central and southern counties led to some chilly nights with temperatures falling to between 2 and 3°C in some places. From the 9th, central and southern counties were once again under the influence of hot continental air as maxima hit 33°C in places away from the coasts, although it was generally cooler on the 10th and 11th as temperatures briefly retreated into the mid to high 20s.

The peak of the heat came on the 13th with sites around the London area topping 38°C. Thereafter, as high pressure declined and low pressure took over, introducing a cooler, cloudier and wetter northwesterly airstream across the UK, maxima slowly declined to the mid to high teens over Scotland and Northern Ireland, and low 20s for England and Wales.

There was a more mobile and cooler feel to the weather from the 14th with low pressure and its attendant fronts affecting all regions, although the south still saw very little in the way of rainfall. By the 20th, a short-lived northerly airstream covered the UK bringing maximum temperatures down a touch. High pressure soon re-established with temperatures climbing across all regions and, although they didn't hit the heights from earlier in the month, southern parts rose to the high 20s Celsius again by the 25th.

As high pressure declined, the remainder of the month saw a series of low pressure affect all regions with showers or longer spells of rain and heavy and thundery showers with flash floods reported in many places. Places in the North Midlands and South Yorkshire saw local totals top 60mm in a very short time on the 27th, and southern coastal counties of England saw rain and strong winds on the 29th.

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 15/09/2026 14:38. 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>

Met Office Crown Copyright.