Thursday 25 July 2019 (v 2)
(Highest recorded temperature in the United Kingdom)
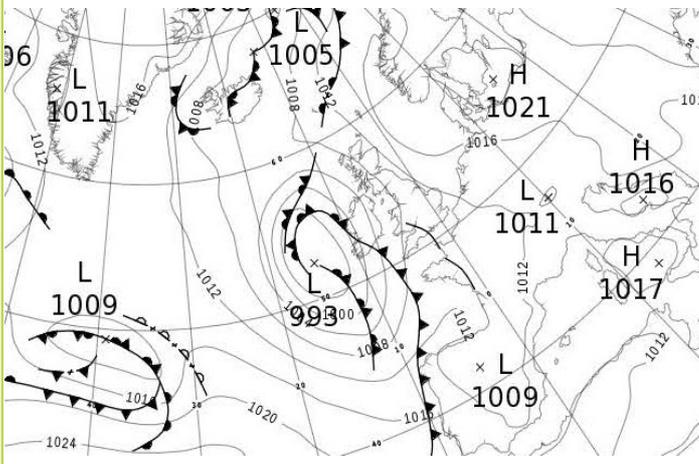
Weather chart for 1200 UTC on 25 July 2019

General summary

A light southerly flow drew exceptionally hot air from the continent across the UK throughout the 23rd to 26th July although by far the hottest day was the 25th.

It was a quiet picture across the UK in the morning with some cloud across western areas and clearer skies in the east. Later in the day an area of cloud pushed into central southern England without which temperatures might have risen even higher. For all areas it was a warm and humid day.
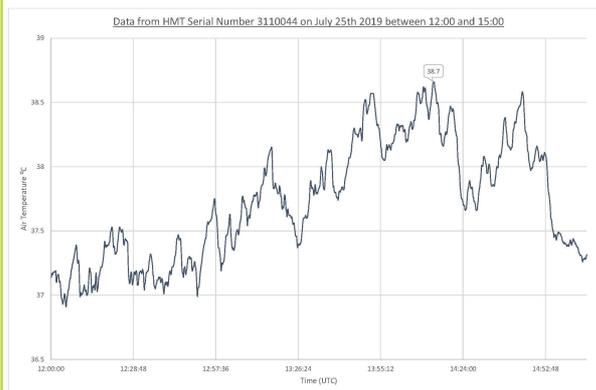
As temperatures climbed rapidly in the sunshine thunderstorms brought torrential downpours across East Anglia and the far south-east before moving north and bringing large hail across Liverpool and northwest England.

Significant weather event

It was an exceptionally hot day with temperatures widely reaching the mid thirties Celsius. A daily maximum temperature of 38.7 °C was recorded at Cambridge Botanic Garden, setting a new all-time UK temperature record and many other stations also set all time site records.

The rail network was severely affected across south-east England with train cancellations and main lines closed out of London due to concerns with rail buckling. Damage also occurred to over head electric wires due to sagging in the heat and there were various lineside fires.

The exceptionally hot weather also made living conditions difficult and this particularly affected the frail and elderly.

Graph of temperature at Cambridge Botanic Garden on the afternoon of 25 July 2019 showing the temperature rising above the previous record of 38.5 °C on three occasions during the early afternoon. Two other stations also exceeded 38 °C including Faversham, the previous record holder.

Daily weather extremes

Highest Maximum Temperature
38.7 °C at Cambridge Botanic Garden (Cambridgeshire)

Lowest Minimum Temperature
10.5 °C at Ravensworth (North Yorkshire)

Most Rainfall
11.6 mm at Charsfield (Suffolk)

Most Sunshine
14.1 hours at St. Harmon No 2 (Powys)