



Weather chart for 1200 UTC on 23 May 2011

### Daily weather extremes

**Highest Maximum Temperature:**  
21.1 °C at Weybourne (Norfolk)

**Lowest Maximum Temperature:**  
10.8 °C at Tulloch Bridge (Inverness-shire) and  
Lerwick (Shetland)

**Lowest Minimum Temperature:**  
4.6 °C at Lossiemouth (Moray)

**Lowest Grass Minimum Temperature:**  
-0.9 °C at Lossiemouth (Moray)

**Most Rainfall:**  
31.2 mm at Loch Glascarnoch (Ross and Cromarty)

**Most Sunshine:**  
13.2 hours at Manston (Kent)

### General summary

It was an exceptionally windy day, especially across the north of the United Kingdom. During the early hours, a band of heavy rain moved across Northern Ireland and north-west England, extending across Scotland later in the morning. Behind this the wind increased, bringing severe gales to Northern Ireland during the morning. These unseasonably strong winds then moved eastwards to affect much of Scotland and northern England during the afternoon and evening. The strongest gusts were around exposed hills and coasts, and through the Central Lowlands, including a gust of 73 knots in Edinburgh during the late afternoon. These winds caused thousands of homes to lose power across Northern Ireland and Scotland, as well as causing disruption to the transport network. The band of rain moved south-eastwards across England and Wales during the afternoon, with some heavy rain for a time, but fragmented somewhat as it reached south-east England.

It was pleasantly warm across south-east England ahead of the rain, but temperatures were somewhat cooler in the wind and rain further north.

### Significant weather event

An unusually deep area of low pressure, for the time of year, brought strong winds to the northern half of the United Kingdom, particularly Northern Ireland, southern Scotland and northern England. Ferry services on the west coast of Scotland were cancelled and the Forth and Tay Road Bridges closed for a time. There were a number of accidents with overturned lorries. Rail services, including the West Coast Main Line, were also disrupted. More than 20,000 homes across central Scotland were without power due to trees and branches falling on power lines. In Balloch, West Dunbartonshire, a man was killed by a falling tree.

### Highest gust speeds

|  | Gust speed |       |
|--|------------|-------|
|  | (knots)    | (mph) |
| Aonach Mor (Inverness-shire)           | 107        | 123   |
| Cairngorm Summit (Inverness-shire)     | 105        | 121   |
| Cairnwell (Aberdeenshire)              | 99         | 114   |
| Glen Ogle (Perthshire)                 | 91         | 105   |
| Bealach na Ba (Ross and Cromarty)      | 89         | 103   |
| Great Dun Fell (Cumbria)               | 79         | 91    |
| Edinburgh, Blackford Hill (Midlothian) | 73         | 84    |
| Inverbervie (Kincardineshire)          | 71         | 82    |
| Orlock Head (Co. Down)                 | 69         | 80    |

### Daily weather statistics

|                         | London | Edinburgh | Cardiff | Belfast |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Maximum Temperature/°C: | 20.2   | 14.7      | 16.1    | 13.5    |
| Minimum Temperature/°C: | 10.5   | 8.0       | 10.8    | 8.9     |
| Rainfall Amount/mm:     | 0.0    | 2.2       | 3.2     | 0.8     |
| Sunshine Amount/hours:  | 5.0    | 4.8       | 2.7     | 5.5     |