

## January 2019

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1981-2010.

January started off dry and settled with high pressure dominant, but it was a mainly cloudy high. The high moved further away into the second week giving generally mild and less settled weather, with plenty of cloud in western areas but some sunshine especially to the east of high ground. It was often colder in the second half of the month with frequent north-westerly winds, though with occasional milder interludes, notably on the 24th to 26th, and although the weather was more unsettled, rainfall amounts were often small. Frost and snow were quite widespread between the 17th and 23rd and more especially during the last few days of the month. It continued mostly cloudy in many western parts but with plentiful sunshine at times in the east and north of Britain.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 3.7 °C, which is equal to the 1981-2010 long-term average. Both mean maximum and minimum temperatures were close to the normal over much of the country, but they were 0.5 °C or more below normal over much of south-east and central southern England, while the mean minimum temperature was over 1.0 °C above normal in Northern Ireland. It was a dry month except in parts of northern Scotland, particularly dry in south-east Scotland and north-east England, with 52% of average rainfall overall, making it the 9th driest January in a series from 1910, and the driest since 2006. Sunshine was 101% of average overall but varied widely, with well above average sunshine in central and southern Scotland and north-east England, but well below average in Cornwall and in west Wales.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 14.2 °C was recorded at Slapton (Devon) on the 25th. A minimum temperature of -14.3 °C was recorded at Braemar (Aberdeenshire) on the 31st. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 GMT on the 13th, 73.2 mm of rain fell at Achnagart (Ross & Cromarty). A wind gust of 71 knots (82 mph) was recorded at Berry Head (Devon) on the 27th. A snow depth of 16 cm was measured at Malham Tarn (North Yorkshire) on the 23rd.

### Weather impacts

The first half of January was generally quiet, but on the 7th and 8th, strong winds caused some disruption in the north of Scotland, including school closures, a 40 mph speed restriction on Inverness rail services, and suspended bus services in Kirkwall. Over 10,000 customers had their electricity supply interrupted, and a number of trees fell and blocked roads. Strong onshore winds and spring tides caused some coastal flooding in East Anglia.

The third week was also mostly quiet but a cold snap on the 16th-18th caused some disruption. Snow fell on the 16th in the Isle of Lewis and the main road from Stornoway to Tarbert was blocked during the morning rush hour. Snow contributed to road closures in Scotland on the 17th including the A920, A952 and A939. There was also some disruption due to snow in Northern Ireland.

Snow fell more widely on the 22nd/23rd. There were numerous road accidents and airport delays in Scotland on the 22nd, and public transport was also affected. Rain, hail, sleet and snow resulted in accidents and school closures in Wales, and in north-west England there was disruption to Merseyrail services and some road closures. In south-east England, there were

accidents and disruption around High Wycombe, the A4010 was closed due to an accident, and the M40 was affected. There were 18 closed schools in Amersham and High Wycombe. On 23rd, there were long delays on Channel Tunnel trains.

Strong winds overnight 26th/27th resulted in power cuts in Northern Ireland and fallen trees in Aberdeenshire. Widespread snow was again an issue during the last few days of January, particularly the 30th and 31st. In Cornwall, over 100 people were stuck on the A30 overnight. Numerous schools were closed in Wales, Cornwall and Hampshire. Southeastern and South Western Railways suffered some cancellations and delays to travel. There were a large number of road accidents, road closures and treacherous driving conditions, especially on minor roads, while major roads affected by snow included the M8 in Scotland, the A1(M) in County Durham, and the A30 in Cornwall. Liverpool and Manchester airport runways were closed for several hours due to snow on the morning of the 30th. Freezing fog also caused delays at Stansted and Norwich airports on the 31st.

## **England diary of highlights**

**January started dry and settled but mostly cloudy, and it remained generally dry and often mild during the first half of the month but progressively less settled as the high pressure moved further away to the south-west. The second half was mostly cold and changeable with frequent north-westerly winds and some sleet and snow at times, but rainfall amounts in many areas were small.**

The mean temperature for January was provisionally 0.1 °C below the 1981-2010 long-term average, with temperatures below normal in the south-east and near or slightly above in most other regions. It was a generally dry January with only 45% of average rainfall, and England E & NE had its second driest January in a series from 1910. Sunshine was 100% of average but varied widely, generally above normal in the north-east but below normal in the south-west.

### **1st to 6th**

High pressure was dominant throughout this week. A frontal system brought a band of cloud southwards through central and southern parts on the 1st, with sunshine further north. Eastern coastal areas turned cloudier with light showers late on the 1st, and it turned colder on the 2nd and 3rd, and cloudy for most with some light showers near the east coast especially on the 2nd, but some western parts were brighter with overnight frost. Dry cloudy weather continued between the 4th and 6th, but some clear spells in the west Midlands and south on the 4th and 5th led to overnight frost. By the 6th it was generally mild, and light rain and drizzle spread into the north late in the day.

### **7th to 16th**

High pressure stayed close to the south-west of Britain but allowed a more changeable north-westerly type to develop. Cloud and outbreaks of rain spread south-eastwards on the 7th followed by sunshine and showers. The 8th and 9th were mostly sunny with near-average temperatures despite northerly winds, but the 8th was cloudier in the south-west; showers affected eastern coastal areas on the 8th and these spread inland for a time on the 9th. The 10th was mostly bright in the south but a weak front brought cloud and a little rain south-eastwards across the country, with some fog in central and northern parts, and this slowly cleared southern areas on the 11th. Dry and mostly cloudy weather followed but some sunshine broke through in the south late on the 11th. Mild cloudy weather with outbreaks of rain affected all areas on the 12th, clearing south-eastwards on the 13th followed by sunshine and showers. Mild cloudy weather returned on the 14th and 15th, with some scattered showers in the west and near the east coast on the 14th,

and drizzle in the west on the 15th, but the 15th had some sunshine to the east of high ground. Bands of rain moved south-eastwards on the 16th followed by colder weather with sunshine and showers.

### **17th to 23rd**

The weather turned quite cold with snow at times. Rain cleared the south early on the 17th, which was otherwise a sunny day but with rain showers around the Irish Sea and sleet and snow showers near the east coast. The 18th started cold and bright in most places but rain spread from the west, turning to sleet and snow in parts of northern England and the Midlands. Rain continued to spread south-east on the 19th, becoming light and patchy, with some sleet and snow mainly over high ground, and it was generally cloudy, but the north-east stayed dry. The 20th was cold and bright in the north and south-east, cloudier elsewhere, with some showers in Cornwall. There was a sharp frost in the south-east on the 21st, followed by a sunny day, but cloudier milder weather spread from the north-west. Rain and hill snow spread south-eastwards overnight 21st/22nd, clearing south-eastern areas on the 22nd, followed by sunshine and wintry showers, and snow accumulated on low ground in parts of the north-west and later the south-east. Northern areas had a sharp frost early on the 23rd, and the day was mostly sunny after early freezing fog patches cleared, but sleet and snow showers affected some eastern coasts and it was milder and cloudier for the south-west. Malham Tarn (North Yorkshire) reported 16 cm of lying snow on the 23rd.

### **24th to 31st**

The 24th was cloudy for most, though with some brighter spells in the north-east, and some patchy light rain, sleet and snow spread south-east. It turned very mild overnight 24th/25th in the south-west with a minimum of 10.1 °C at St Marys (Scilly), and this milder air spread to all other parts on the 25th, with a little light rain and drizzle, and the temperature reached 14.2 °C at Slapton (Devon). Rain spread from the north-west on the 26th with 27.8 mm at Keswick (Cumbria), followed by sunshine and blustery showers. It was very windy on the 27th with gusts to 81 mph at Berry Head (Devon), and scattered blustery showers affected many areas with some more persistent rain and sleet in some eastern counties. The 28th was mainly sunny and cold with 8.1 hours of bright sunshine at Wellesbourne (Warwickshire) and East Malling (Kent), but wintry showers affected some west and east coasts. The 29th started frosty for many and an area of rain, sleet and hill snow spread south-eastwards. The 30th was bright and cold with sleet and snow showers in the west, which produced lying snow to low levels in many areas, especially around Manchester. The 31st was a very cold and mostly bright day for northern areas but with persistent freezing fog in places, and there was a minimum of -10.7 °C at Topcliffe (North Yorkshire) and a maximum of -2.8 °C at Linton-on-Ouse (also North Yorkshire). A band of heavy rain turned to snow as it spread slowly north-eastwards through south-western and central southern parts of England.

## **Wales diary of highlights**

**This was a generally cloudy month; after a settled first week, a more unsettled north-westerly type took hold with frequent light rain. The first half was mostly mild but it was mostly cold in the second half, with widespread snow at the end of the month.**

The mean temperature for January was provisionally 0.2 °C above the long-term average. It was a dull dry month overall, particularly dull in the west, with 56% of average rainfall and 74% of average sunshine for Wales as a whole.

### **1st to 9th**

It was generally settled during this period, cold at first but then turning milder as the dominant anticyclone moved further away to the south-west. The 1st was generally cloudy with a few spots of rain in the north, then the 2nd was sunnier with a frosty start, but clouded over from the east during the afternoon. The 3rd and 4th were mainly cloudy but some clear breaks overnight led to widespread frosts on the nights of the 2nd/3rd and 3rd/4th, and there were some sunny intervals in places during the day on the 4th. Cloud was more extensive on the 5th and 6th, and overnight 6th/7th the temperature fell no lower than 9.8 °C at Dale Fort (Dyfed). Cloud and patchy light rain spread southwards across the country on the 7th, which was a rather breezier day. A northerly incursion brought near-average temperatures and a dry but mainly cloudy day on the 8th, then the 9th was mainly sunny.

### **10th to 15th**

It was generally mild and cloudy during this period with occasional rain and mainly north-westerly winds. Some light rain spread from the north-west on the 10th, and cleared away during the morning of the 11th, leaving a dry cloudy afternoon. A stronger westerly flow brought cloudy weather and occasional rain or drizzle on the 12th. The grey drizzly weather generally persisted from the 13th to 15th, but some showery weather with occasional sunshine spread south-eastwards late on the 13th. It was windy on the 13th and early on the 14th with a gust to 71 mph at Capel Curig (Gwynedd) early on the 14th.

### **16th to 23rd**

This period was often colder with some snow, mainly over higher ground. A belt of rain spread south-eastwards across the country on the 16th, followed by sunshine and showers, and there were scattered coastal showers on the 17th which fell as snow over higher ground. Rain and hill snow spread eastwards across the country on the 18th with 41.6 mm at Mumbles (West Glamorgan). It was cloudy, mild and wet on the 19th but with the rain becoming lighter and more isolated. The 20th continued cloudy with a little light rain. Some clear intervals overnight 20th/21st resulted in frost in northern parts, but another front moved in from the north-west and brought extensive cloud with sporadic outbreaks of rain, with sleet and snow on higher ground. Following a dry cloudy start in many places, the 22nd brought sunshine and wintry showers. The 23rd was a mainly cloudy day, but brighter in the south-east, with isolated wintry showers.

### **24th to 31st**

This period started mild, but ended with the coldest spell of the month. The 24th and 25th were generally mild and cloudy, with a little rain and drizzle especially further west. The temperature reached 13.9 °C at Cardiff Bute Park on the 25th. Rain spread from the west on the 26th, followed by showers. It was windy on the 27th with scattered showers, wintry over high ground, and sunny intervals. The 28th had lighter winds and fewer showers. Rain, sleet and snow spread south-east on the 29th followed by sunshine and wintry showers, and snow accumulated to low ground in some places on the 30th with showers mainly over the north, while Dale Fort (Dyfed) had 7.5 hours of sunshine. The temperature fell to -9.8 °C early on the 31st at St Harmon (Powys), then a band of rain turned generally to snow as it spread from the south-west, giving 5 cm at Sennybridge (Powys). At Lake Vyrnwy (Powys) the temperature only reached -1.8 °C.

## **Scotland diary of highlights**

**January began settled and quite cold with high pressure dominant, but the rest of the first half was milder and quite changeable, though with generally small rainfall amounts. The**

**second half was mostly colder than average but with occasional mild interludes, and it turned very cold at the end of the month.**

The mean temperature for January was provisionally 0.1 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. Scotland as a whole had 58% of average rainfall and 120% of average sunshine, and it was a very dry month in Fife and the south-east, the 4th driest January in a series from 1910 in Scotland E, but parts of the north were duller than average with near-average rainfall.

### **1st to 5th**

This was a settled period with high pressure dominant. The 1st was sunny in the south, cloudier with showers in the north and east, and the 2nd was colder but generally sunny away from coasts. There was a widespread frost early on the 3rd which was a cloudier day with some light rain in the Outer Hebrides. It turned progressively milder on the 4th and 5th, with some bright intervals developing across the north-east on both days, but it was generally cloudy elsewhere and a little rain spread into the north-west on the 5th.

### **6th to 15th**

The weather turned generally mild and changeable with north-westerly winds, but rainfall amounts continued to be modest in most areas. The 6th was generally cloudy with a little rain, and the temperature reached 13.0 °C at Achnagart (Ross & Cromarty). Rain over the west and south cleared southwards on the 7th followed by sunshine and showers and very strong winds, with gusts of 76 mph at Kirkwall (Orkney), but the north-east remained fine and sunny. The 8th was bright but with showers in the north and east, and showers also affected north-eastern coastal areas on the 9th, while it turned cloudier with some light rain and drizzle for the north and west. The 10th and 11th were both cloudy with outbreaks of mainly light rain. Persistent rain affected central and western parts on the 12th, heaviest in the west, with 73.2 mm at Achnagart (Ross & Cromarty). The rain cleared by the 13th leaving sunshine and showers, but the south-east stayed mainly dry and sunny. Some northern counties started frosty on the 14th, and the east and north-east had a bright start, but showers affected western areas, these wintry in the far north. The 15th was a dull wet day from the Central Lowlands northwards, particularly for the far north and in the west, but drier further south.

### **16th to 24th**

It was often colder during this period, with sleet and snow at times. Rain cleared the south-east on the 16th, otherwise there was a mix of sunshine and showers and longer spells of rain, turning to sleet and snow even at low levels, particularly in the far north. The 17th had 11 cm of lying snow at Tomnavoulin (Morayshire) and Tulloch Bridge (Inverness-shire), and it was a sunny day but with wintry showers for the north and east, these becoming lighter and more scattered into the afternoon. There was a severe frost in places early on the 18th, then a belt of rain, sleet and snow made slow and erratic progress eastwards but it stayed bright in the east. The 19th was a mostly cloudy cold dry day following a moderate to severe frost in central and northern parts. Rain spread eastwards on the 20th, with snow on high ground, followed by wintry showers, heaviest and most frequent in the far north. After a widespread frost early on the 21st, rain spread from the north-west into western parts, preceded by snow in places. This cleared eastern areas on the 22nd followed by sunshine and wintry showers with accumulations of snow on low ground in some places. Wintry showers became more confined to the north-west by the 23rd, and the 24th was mostly dry, milder and cloudy with some light rain and drizzle over western areas, with sleet/snow on high ground.

### **25th to 31st**

It was mild on the 25th, mostly cloudy with a little rain in places but brighter in the north-east, with

heavy rain moving into the north and north-west from mid-afternoon. The night of the 25th/26th was cloudy and mild with a minimum temperature of 9.1 °C at Machrihanish (Argyll), and heavy rain in the north and west spread south-east, followed by colder weather in the north with precipitation turning to sleet and snow. The 27th was cloudy and windy in the north and east with wintry showers and longer spells of precipitation and gales on exposed coasts, but mainly dry with some sunshine in the south-west. The next few days saw the coldest spell of the month. The 28th was sunny in central and southern parts but cloudier with well-scattered wintry showers in the north. Wintry showers and longer spells of rain, sleet and snow affected most areas on the 29th but it stayed dry and bright in the north-east. The 30th was mostly cold, cloudy and misty with freezing fog in places and wintry showers in the north and west. Again the snow depth at Tulloch Bridge (Inverness-shire) and Tomnavoulin (Morayshire) reached 11 cm. The 31st started with a widespread severe frost, temperatures falling to -14.3 °C at Braemar (Aberdeenshire), and there was a maximum of only -5.1 °C at Balmoral (Aberdeenshire). Many places had a sunny day with 7.6 hours of sunshine at Kinloss (Morayshire), but wintry showers affected the far north and there were some freezing fog patches particularly in the Central Lowlands.

## **Northern Ireland diary of highlights**

**January was mostly mild and cloudy with light rain and drizzle at times but few heavy falls of rain, and the first nine days were generally settled with high pressure dominant. It was mostly mild in the first half but there were some cold snaps in the second half with snow in places.**

The month's mean temperature was provisionally 0.9 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average, mainly due to high night-time minima. It was a dull and dry month overall with 45% of average rainfall and 76% of average sunshine, although sunshine was closer to normal in the south-east.

### **1st to 9th**

This period was generally settled and cloudy, cold at first but then becoming mild. The first five days were mostly cloudy and dry, but there were a few sunny intervals on the 2nd and some isolated pockets of light rain on the 3rd. Temperatures were mostly below normal between the 2nd and 4th, but it was milder by the 5th. The 6th was milder again with some light rain and drizzle and a high of 12.6 °C at Murlough (County Down) and some mist and fog in places. The night of the 6th/7th was also very mild with Armagh and Magilligan (County Londonderry) falling no lower than 8.5 °C, and rain spread south-eastwards on the 7th followed by sunshine and blustery showers. The 8th was a brighter day, but on the 9th after a bright start in the south-east it was cloudier with isolated patches of rain or drizzle from midday onwards.

### **10th to 15th**

It remained generally mild while turning more changeable. The 10th and 11th were cloudy with isolated outbreaks of rain, and the 12th was windier with more widespread outbreaks of light rain. Magilligan (County Londonderry) fell no lower than 8.6 °C overnight 12th/13th, and the 13th remained mainly cloudy and mild with some intermittent rain, but it became showery and a little brighter in the afternoon. The 14th stayed mainly cloudy with some light rain and drizzle, but there were some brighter intervals early on the 15th, before cloud thickened up in the afternoon to give light rain in places.

### **16th to 23rd**

This period was often colder with some sleet and snow at times. Rain cleared away south-eastwards on the 16th followed by sunshine and showers, and the showers turned wintry at times. There was sunshine and a few showers in the morning of the 17th, but it clouded over from

the west in the afternoon and rain spread from the west overnight giving 28.0 mm of rainfall at Trassey Slievenaman (County Down). The rain and hill snow cleared away by noon on the 18th leaving a dry bright afternoon. Cloudy weather returned for the 19th and 20th, with a little light rain, and a heavier band of rain early on the 20th. Rain spread from the north-west on the 21st following a cold dry start, with some sleet and snow on high ground, becoming widespread and locally heavy by mid-afternoon. The 22nd had wintry showers particularly in the north and west and lying snow to low levels in places, followed by a widespread overnight frost and then a mainly cloudy dry day on the 23rd with just isolated wintry showers.

### **24th to 31st**

A temporary mild interlude was followed by the coldest spell of the month. It was mild and cloudy on the 24th and 25th, with some patchy rain and drizzle and also some isolated pockets of fog on the 24th. Rain spread from the west on the 26th, followed by brighter weather with scattered showers, and the showers turned wintry on the 27th. It also turned very windy for a time, with gusts to 71 mph reported from Orlock Head (County Down) on both the 26th and 27th. A band of wintry showers moved eastwards on the 28th, and there was a mix of rain, sleet and snow early on the 29th, which cleared to leave sunshine and wintry showers with lying snow to low levels in some places. There was a widespread frost on the 29th/30th, with Thomastown (County Fermanagh) reporting 9 cm of lying snow on the 30th and 6.5 hours of bright sunshine. There were still some coastal wintry showers and Lough Fea (County Londonderry) only reached -0.2 °C. The morning of the 31st was again very cold with a minimum of -8.5 °C at Magilligan (County Londonderry) and the day was mostly cloudy with rain, sleet and snow spreading from the south-west, most persistent in far south-western areas.