

January 2022

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1991-2020.

The weather at the beginning of the month was very mild, with a strong south-westerly flow, but from the 4th it was colder with night frosts, especially in England and Wales, before turning milder again around mid-month and in the final few days. The first ten days were rather unsettled, but then there was a long dry spell, with rain towards the end of the month mostly confined to western Scotland.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 4.7 °C, which is 0.8 °C above the 1991-2020 long-term average. Northernmost areas were furthest above average, whereas southern and south-eastern areas were very close to average for the month; frosts were fewer than average in Scotland and Northern Ireland, but more frequent than average over England and Wales. All areas except western Scotland saw less rainfall than average, with less than a third of average in many eastern and south-eastern counties. The UK overall had 50% of average January rainfall. Sunshine was above average for the majority of areas, very much so in eastern coastal counties, but below normal in western fringes, especially north-west Scotland, giving an overall figure of 132% of average, provisionally the third sunniest January for the UK in a series from 1919.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 16.3 °C was recorded at St James's Park (Greater London) on the 1st. A minimum temperature of -8.0 °C was recorded at Topcliffe (North Yorkshire) on the 6th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 UTC on the 8th, 64.8 mm of rain fell at Honister Pass (Cumbria). A wind gust of 81 knots (93 mph) was recorded at Brizlee Wood (Northumberland) on the 29th. Snow-depths of 11 cm were measured at Loch Glascarnoch (Ross & Cromarty) on the 5th, 6th and 8th.

Weather impacts

Parts of Scotland, northern England and Northern Ireland saw snow from the 3rd onwards. Difficult driving conditions were reported around Coniston, and HGVs struggled on the Newby Head Pass in the Yorkshire Dales. In the East Midlands the A53 and A515 had closures, with other passes over the Peaks also closed due to snow and difficult driving conditions reported around Buxton. Snow and ice in parts of Scotland on the 6th and 7th gave difficult driving conditions on the M8, M80, A82, and other main roads. Trains and buses were delayed in Glasgow and eastern Scotland, and some schools in south Lanarkshire were closed. In Yorkshire the A66 and A628 were closed and there were some reports of school closures. Northern Ireland also saw reports of difficult driving conditions.

High pressure dominated the weather for much of the rest of January, bringing settled weather but with some instances of fog.

Numerous wind warnings were issued from the 26th onwards, a very windy period with two named storms impacting the northern half of the UK. The weekend of the 29th and 30th saw widespread damage across these areas, with two amber weather warnings issued for parts of Scotland. A woman died after being hit by a falling tree in Aberdeen on the 29th. There were over 75,000 power outages over the weekend, and over 100 school closures in Aberdeenshire, Angus and Highland. With many fallen trees, both road and rail travel were impacted. Road closures or partial blockages included parts of the M8 and M9. Rail routes disrupted by fallen trees and other obstructions included the West Coast Main Line as well as routes serving Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Inverness. The Tay Road Bridge was closed, and the Queensferry Crossing was closed to high-sided vehicles. There was also structural damage to properties in Glasgow, Paisley and Renfrewshire. Some football games had to be postponed. In Northern Ireland fallen trees blocked

roads, mostly in eastern parts of the Province. In Manchester a woman had to be rescued from a vehicle after a tree had fallen onto a car roof, with some fallen trees also blocking roads. Across the north-east of England 60,000 people were affected by power outages across Northumbria and Durham, with damage to buildings, and a roof was blown off a house in Gateshead. Fallen trees affected road travel, with two reports of rolled-over trucks on the A1 and A19. Damage to the network caused disruption on the Tyne and Wear Metro. Across the Yorkshire and Humber region there were power outages to hundreds of homes and disruption on the Humber Bridge. Yorkshire Ambulance rescued a walker who had become trapped by a fallen tree in the Calder Valley. Further south, Greater Anglia Rail reported disruption between Reedham and Haddiscoe in Norfolk due to flood water making the railway unsafe, and also there were some fallen trees partially blocking roads.

England diary of highlights

The first ten days of the month were unsettled, and after a very mild start it became rather cold with some hard night frosts. High pressure developed towards mid-month, so the remainder of the month was mostly dry, with variable temperatures, though the last few days of the month were rather mild. It was a notably sunny month in eastern areas, with rainfall totals well below average.

The mean temperature was provisionally 0.2 °C above the 1991-2020 long-term average, with northern areas warmest relative to average. Night-time temperatures were below normal in central and southern areas, with numerous frosts. Rainfall was well below average, with less than a quarter of average in parts of the east, south-east and Midlands; the overall figure for England was 38% of average, making it provisionally the 9th driest January in a series from 1862. Sunshine was well above average in eastern areas, but just below normal in the far south-west, with 146% of average overall making it provisionally the sunniest January in a series from 1919.

1st to 10th

On the 1st a narrow band of rain moved eastwards, clearing the east coast during the afternoon, then it turned brighter but with a few scattered showers, and generally very mild with Chivenor (Devon) reporting an overnight minimum of 13.2 °C and St James's Park in London a daytime maximum of 16.3 °C. Many areas started sunny on the 2nd, but a band of showers and longer spells of rain, heavy and thundery in places, moved eastwards during the day, reaching the east coast around dusk. The south was cloudy on the 3rd, while the north was brighter but showery, with more general rain reaching the far north by dusk. This rain spread southwards during the 4th, clearing all parts by dusk as much colder air arrived, giving sunshine for most places but a maximum at Spadeadam (Cumbria) of only -0.1 °C and Copley (Durham) reporting 9 cm of lying snow. The 5th started cold, with frost for many inland locations, then it was sunny for many, with just the odd isolated shower in the Midlands and the south-west. The 6th began with widespread frost, severe away from western areas, with Topcliffe (North Yorkshire) falling to -8.0 °C; south-eastern areas started sunny, but rain, sleet and snow spread from the west to all parts by mid-afternoon, followed by brighter conditions but also showers or further spells of rain. The 7th saw some brightness, but showers, wintry at times, persisted over northern and central counties, and an area of rain with a few embedded thunderstorms over the south-west spread eastwards through the day, reaching the south-east by dusk, Honister Pass (Cumbria) wettest with 64.8 mm. The next few days became gradually milder but remained unsettled, with bands of rain crossing the country during the 8th, eventually clearing northern and central counties, replaced with scattered showers, but the south continued with showers or longer spells of rain and occasional thunderstorms. Central and eastern parts were fine on the 9th, the north cloudier with showers, while more general rain spread into the south-west during the afternoon. Parts of East Anglia and the south-east started frosty on the 10th, otherwise it was generally dull and overcast with outbreaks of rain and drizzle in many places, and mist and fog affecting western coasts and hills.

11th to 25th

High pressure brought a settled spell for this period. The 11th was cloudy, with some rain and drizzle, and fog in parts of the south, this not clearing in some places until afternoon, but brighter in the north later. Many central and southern parts began frosty, misty or foggy on the 12th, a day with some sunshine, but the north was cloudier with patchy light rain in places. The 13th saw early mist, fog and frost for central and southern counties, the fog reluctant to clear in some spots, otherwise a fine day but cloudier further north. The 14th again saw widespread frost, mist and fog for central and southern areas, staying foggy all day in parts of the Midlands, with some sunshine elsewhere except for the north-west. After a widespread frost on the 15th, areas of fog affected most of the country, clearing only in the afternoon in some places, and not at all in others; showers developed over the south-west around dusk. The 16th was similar, if less cold and rather brighter in places, any patchy rain and drizzle in the south clearing late morning allowing some sunny spells, but followed by another band of mainly light and patchy rain moving down from the north. The south began frosty on the 17th, with fog in places, and some sunshine followed for all but the north-west. The 18th was broadly frosty to begin, with mist and fog covering the bulk of the country, clearing only slowly if at all in some spots; otherwise cloud amounts were variable with long sunny periods in places. Mainly light rain across central and southern parts on the 19th cleared away south by mid-afternoon, with some sunshine to follow. The spine of the country started frosty on the 20th, with coastal showers in the east, and sunshine elsewhere. A hard frost for central and southern areas on the 21st gave way to sunshine for most parts, but cloud over the Midlands spread east and south through the day. The east Midlands and East Anglia began frosty on the 22nd and continued sunny, but other areas were more cloudy. The 23rd was cloudy, albeit with brighter spells in the south-west at times. Generally cloudy on the 24th too, the best of any sunny periods over the north-east. The 25th saw early fog and frost in sheltered spots in the north, otherwise remaining just cloudy or overcast.

26th to 31st

A few sheltered inland spots were frosty early on the 26th, which was a milder day with a few cloud breaks developing for central, southern, and eastern counties through the day, allowing some sunny spells. The 27th was cloudy with some patchy light rain and drizzle in the south, and patchy mist and fog in the south-west, all clearing southwards, with a brighter afternoon to follow, and just the odd isolated shower. Fog and frost for some sheltered northern parts, and East Anglia and southern counties, gave way to cloud on the 28th with patchy light rain and drizzle for the north, but brighter conditions for central and southern districts. Storm Malik gave a very windy day in the north on the 29th, Brizlee Wood (Northumbria) reporting gusts to 93 mph, with patchy light rain across the Midlands moving quickly south, followed by brighter weather from the north through the afternoon. Many areas started frosty on the 30th, with fog on the south coast clearing late morning, then generally sunny before cloud increased from the west with strengthening winds from Storm Corrie, and a band of rain, heavy in places, reaching northern counties around dusk. The eastern half of the country was sunny on the 31st, with more cloud further west bringing showers or light rain; cloud increased generally through the afternoon, with patchy light rain reaching the north-west by evening.

Wales diary of highlights

The month began exceptionally mild, but temperatures soon dropped and unsettled conditions held sway until near mid-month. It became more settled for a time, but the latter days of the month were rather damper and milder.

Mean temperatures for the month were provisionally 0.5 °C above average. Most places had a particularly dry month, with 44% of average rainfall overall. Sunshine was 117% of average, with only the far south-west not exceeding the long-term average sunshine.

1st to 7th

The 1st was very mild, with a band of rain soon clearing eastwards, turning brighter in the afternoon with showers, Trawsgoed (Dyfed) not falling below 12.8 °C overnight and Hawarden (Clwyd) recording a maximum of 15.6 °C. Sunshine and scattered showers on the morning of the 2nd gave way to widespread and locally heavy showers or longer spells of rain, with isolated thunderstorms, crossing west to east from midday and duly clearing away in the afternoon. The 3rd brought sunshine and a few showers, with the odd isolated thunderstorm. Rain in the south-east cleared away by lunchtime on the 4th, leaving sunshine and showers along the west coast, a colder day with the showers wintry at times. The 5th saw frost for one or two sheltered spots, then sunshine and scattered showers, wintry at times. The 6th began dry and cold, with a broad area of rain, sleet and snow quickly spreading eastwards, this clearing away into the afternoon followed by brighter and milder conditions but also further rain or showers. Sunshine and showers prevailed during the morning of the 7th, the showers dying out ahead of a band of rain spreading east and south across the country by late morning, widespread for a time before clearing all parts by late afternoon, Pen-y-Coed (Powys) recording 38.0 mm.

8th to 17th

The 8th brought widespread rain, this eventually clearing east in the afternoon but followed by frequent showers. On the 9th, sunshine and showers gave way to increasing cloud with rain reaching the south-west around dusk. The 10th was overcast, with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle, and some mist and fog particularly along coasts. It remained cloudy again on the 11th with patchy light rain and drizzle, misty and foggy again in places particularly along the west coast, but turning brighter from the north during the afternoon. The 12th saw a frost away from coasts, leading to a largely sunny day. The 13th was sunny too, after a widespread frost and the clearance of any mist and fog, the fog slow to clear in some southern spots. After another frost, with patchy fog in the north, the 14th continued fine and dry. Many places began frosty again on the 15th, which was a cloudier day. The 16th was rather cloudy, with some fog in the south slow to clear; a band of mainly light rain moved south through the day, clearing away by dusk. Most areas were sunny on the 17th after a frost.

18th to 25th

After a cold start, cloud amounts on the 18th were variable, with sunny spells mainly in the morning. A band of light rain moved south on the 19th, clearing by lunchtime, then the afternoon was brighter, with isolated showers in the north. The 20th and 21st were fine, with some sunshine on the 20th, and a sharp frost in the south on the 21st, St Harmon (Powys) recording an overnight minimum of -6.9 °C. Early frost in the south on the 22nd led into another dry day, with a few cloud breaks in the east and south at times. The 23rd was cloudy. The 24th was cloudy and cold with some mist and fog, except for some bright spells early on in the north, Lake Vyrnwy (Powys) struggling to a maximum of only -0.1 °C. The 25th was dull and overcast, after fog and frost in a few places.

26th to 31st

Some sheltered inland spots had frost on the 26th, then it was generally cloudy but with an occasional bright or sunny spell. The morning of the 27th saw some patchy light rain, but the afternoon was brighter. The south began frosty with patchy fog on the 28th, which became generally cloudy, with patchy rain or drizzle for western areas. An area of light rain moved swiftly south on the 29th, then it turned bright and breezy in the afternoon. After a frost for many, the 30th was sunny for a time before cloud increased, with patchy light rain in the south, and some locally heavy rain for the north around dusk. The 31st started windy with sunshine and scattered blustery showers, with cloud and more general rain spreading south in the afternoon, affecting mainly western counties into the evening, Capel Curig (Gwynedd) reporting gusts to 69 mph.

Scotland diary of highlights

The start of the month was unusually mild, but it became colder from the 3rd onwards while remaining unsettled. From the 10th onwards it was generally mild once more, with frosts fewer than average, and it became drier for a while, with further rainfall on the 18th and during the final week.

The provisional mean temperature for the month was 1.8 °C above the long-term average, making it Scotland's 6th warmest January in a series from 1884, and it was especially mild relative to average in the north-west. Rainfall was below average in most areas, with only a third of average in parts of the east, though closer to average in parts of the far north-west, and Scotland overall had 62% of average rainfall. Sunshine was well above average in the south-east but well below average in the north-west, with an overall figure of 108% of average.

1st to 8th

Most places had showers or longer spells of rain during the morning of the 1st before turning generally drier and brighter, especially over the east and south, but the north and west saw frequent blustery showers; it was generally very mild with an overnight minimum at Logan Botanical Gardens (Wigtownshire) of 10.9 °C and a daytime maximum at Achnagart (Ross & Cromarty) of 15.9 °C. Showers were heaviest and most frequent over the west on the 2nd, with isolated thunderstorms, but with sunshine in between. A band of rain on the 3rd moved steadily southwards, reaching the Borders before dusk; it turned brighter but colder from the north with wintry showers. After a frost over many parts on the 4th, it was dry and sunny in the south, but frequent, locally heavy, and prolonged showers, wintry at times, or longer spells of precipitation affected central and northern counties; it was cold with temperatures at Drumalbin (Lanarkshire) reaching only 0.9 °C. After a cold start, frosty for some, the 5th was dry and fine in the south, cloudy in the north with showers, wintry at times, and 11 cm of lying snow reported at Loch Glascarnoch (Ross & Cromarty). A very cold night followed in the south, Eskdalemuir (Dumfries & Galloway) falling to -7.2 °C, then rain, sleet and snow covered the western half of the country on the 6th, reaching all parts by late morning but clearing during the afternoon, followed from the west by brighter conditions but also widespread showers or longer spells of rain, Loch Glascarnoch reporting 11 cm of lying snow. On the 7th, showers fell as snow even to low levels over western and southern counties, but the north and east was drier and brighter. Widespread rain early on the 8th cleared all parts before midday, then it became showery, the showers heaviest and most frequent in the west and north, Loch Glascarnoch once again reporting 11 cm of lying snow.

9th to 17th

The north and east were frosty then fine on the 9th, with showers or longer spells of rain for the south and west. The 10th was generally dull, with outbreaks of rain and drizzle, heaviest and most persistent across western parts. The 11th started with fog patches, mainly in the south, slow to clear for some, and showers for central and northern areas, brighter elsewhere. The 12th was rather mild but cloudy, with patchy light rain over western and northern districts. There was sunshine in parts of the north-east on the 13th, and patchy rain or drizzle for the north-west. It remained cloudy and mild on the 14th, with some patchy mist and fog in the south, and light rain and drizzle in the north. The 15th was cloudy, after a frost for the Borders, with patchy rain and drizzle over the north-west and also developing in the south later. The 16th was showery in the north-west but mostly dry and bright elsewhere. The 17th was dry, with sunshine for some areas.

18th to 25th

It was cloudy on the 18th, with rain reaching western counties around lunchtime then spreading slowly east and south, with only the north-east still dry by dusk. The 19th brought sunshine and showers, the latter heaviest and most frequent in northern parts. Southern areas began frosty on

the 20th and had some sunshine, with showers for the north and east. Most areas saw the sun on the 21st, but the west side was cloudier, with patchy light rain for the Western Isles. The 22nd was cloudier generally, with light rain and drizzle in some western parts. The 23rd was cloudy, with patchy light rain or drizzle over the Western Isles, any brightness restricted to the north-east. On the 24th showers or longer spells of rain spread across the west and north, with sunshine only on eastern coasts. The 25th saw a similar picture, and it continued mild.

26th to 31st

After a bright start for eastern counties on the 26th, with patchy light rain through the Central Belt, a band of locally heavy rain moved into the north-west and then across the northern half of the country during the afternoon, with winds increasing. There was some brightness on the 27th, but also showers, heaviest and most frequent over the north and west. The 28th was overcast, with rain initially over the Western Isles spreading quickly across all parts, heavy at times in central and northern districts, but lighter and drizzly over the south, Cassley (Sutherland) reporting 58.0 mm. Storm Malik brought strong winds and frequent, locally heavy and blustery showers on the 29th, though showers were fewer in the south and east. On the 30th, rain, heavy at times, and strong winds initially over the west spread steadily east and south to all parts by teatime, Stornoway (Western Isles) windiest with gusts up to 92 mph as Storm Corrie took hold. The 31st was breezy with sunshine and showers, the showers heaviest and most frequent in the north and east; the afternoon became generally cloudier, with rain spreading east to all but the north-east by evening.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

After a very mild start, the first part of the month was rather unsettled, but the middle part became drier and more settled. It was rather more unsettled and turned milder again towards the end.

The mean temperature was 1.0 °C above the 1981-2010 average. Rainfall was well below average, especially further south, with 47% of average overall. Sunshine was below average towards the west and above average in the south-east, with an overall figure of 102%.

1st to 8th

The 1st was quite sunny and mild, Magilligan (Londonderry) reporting an overnight minimum of 11.9 °C and Killowen (Down) a daytime maximum of 14.0 °C, but with scattered showers and strong winds, Thomastown (Fermanagh) recording gusts to 75 mph. The sun shone again on the 2nd, but with blustery and locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. The 3rd began fine, but rain spread from the north during the morning, becoming widespread and persistent for the rest of the day. The 4th was much colder, with sunshine and showers, temperatures at Trassey (Down) getting no higher than 1.6 °C. The 5th was rather cold and cloudy, with a few showers mainly in the east. All areas began wet on the 6th, with widespread rain, sleet and snow moving eastwards during the morning, then brighter and milder with blustery showers or longer spells of rain. On the 7th there were frequent showers, locally heavy and wintry at times, dying away towards dusk, and Lough Navar (Fermanagh) reported 8cm of lying snow.

8th to 17th

The 8th and 9th were cloudy and showery, the showers frequent and locally heavy on the 8th but more scattered on the 9th. The 10th was overcast and murky, with some outbreaks of light rain and drizzle. After a frost in sheltered spots, the 11th was fine with some sunshine, and the 12th was dry and bright after any early fog cleared. The 13th was cloudier but dry, as was the 14th which also saw patchy mist and fog in some central spots. The 15th was overcast, with outbreaks of patchy light rain and drizzle mainly over the east. Cloud broke during the 16th allowing sunny spells to develop in places. After a clear frosty start, Katesbridge (Down) falling to -4.9 °C overnight, the 17th was largely sunny.

18th to 25th

Isolated pockets of mist and fog soon cleared on the 18th, before an area of rain spread east, reaching all parts by mid-afternoon but turning more showery late in the day. The 19th was a day of sunshine and showers. The next few days were mostly dry and settled, and reasonably mild, but with a few isolated showers on the morning of the 20th. The 21st to 23rd were cloudy, with occasional light rain or drizzle on the 22nd. The 24th was brighter, with isolated showers in the north, but with cloud increasing towards evening, followed by a generally cloudy day on the 25th.

26th to 31st

The 26th brought occasional light rain or drizzle to some places, with more significant rain reaching the far north around dusk. The 27th had a few showers and some sunshine. The north saw most of the showery rain on the 28th, which was cloudy and breezy. There was sunshine with scattered blustery showers on the 29th. The 30th started showery, ahead of wind and rain spreading in from the west from lunchtime onwards, the rain heavy at times but clearing away quickly and followed by widespread showers. It remained breezy on the 31st with sunshine and scattered showers at first, becoming more overcast by lunchtime with more general rain spreading south, becoming widespread and locally heavy by mid-afternoon.