

## April 2022

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

The weather during the early part of April was rather unsettled, especially during the 3rd-6th. The first ten days were also rather cold, although it became warmer than average through the middle part of the month. Towards mid-month it became more settled generally, with high pressure in charge for much of the rest of the month, though much of the final week was rather cooler. Clear skies ensured that sunshine totals were above average in many areas, but there were more air frosts than average.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 8.1 °C, which is 0.2 °C above the 1991-2020 long-term average. Maximum temperature anomalies were around +1 °C in parts of England, Wales and western Scotland, while minimum temperatures were slightly below average for some areas. Most areas had less rainfall than average, the exceptions being much of northern Scotland and parts of Northern Ireland, and there was less than half the average rainfall for much of England, indeed less than a quarter of average in some eastern parts. The UK overall had 68% of average rainfall. Sunshine was above average in many areas, most especially parts of eastern England, with an overall figure of 107% of average.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 23.4 °C was recorded at St James's Park (London) on the 15th. A minimum temperature of -8.0 °C was recorded at Tulloch Bridge (Inverness-shire) on the 1st. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 UTC on the 4th, 62.4 mm of rain fell at Achfary (Sutherland). A wind gust of 65 knots (75 mph) was recorded at Needles (Isle of Wight) on the 7th. A snow-depth of 10 cm was measured at Redesdale Camp (Northumberland) on the 1st.

### Weather impacts

Largely settled weather patterns prevailed for much of April, with severe weather warning activity limited to the first week. Arctic air produced a few impacts as the month began, with localised accumulations of snow reported on several roads in Grampian. Further south, strong winds and slight snowfall affected parts of eastern and south-east England, with several road traffic accidents attributed to the weather, and cross-Channel ferries struggling to dock at Calais due to the winds.

Arctic air made a brief return to the northern half of Scotland around the 7th, with reports of several vehicles stuck in snow on the A9. Strong winds were the main hazard further south as a deepening Atlantic low transferred eastwards across Scotland, with fallen trees impacting rail travel on Merseyside and the M48 Severn crossing closed on the morning of the 7th. Thereafter, the weather remained generally settled, with no further impacts noted.

### England diary of highlights

**The first few days of the month were rather cold, and most of the month's rainfall fell within the first week. After that it was settled for most of the time, and rather warmer between the 12th and the 24th, but temperatures fell back during the final few days. The settled weather meant that both sunshine and air frosts were above average.**

Mean temperatures for the month were just 0.2 °C above the 1991-2020 average, helped by daytime temperatures being rather elevated. It was a drier than average month, with less than a third of average rainfall in many places south of a line from Bridlington to Shrewsbury, giving overall just 44% of average April rainfall. It was also sunnier than average, especially in some eastern counties, with 113% of average sunshine.

## 1st to 10th

After a widespread frost away from coasts on the 1st, with an area of rain, sleet and snow in the south-east clearing by the afternoon, wintry showers over eastern coasts spread into central and western parts through the day, with 10 cm of lying snow being recorded at Redesdale Camp (Northumberland). Further frost led into another cold day on the 2nd, Holne Priddon's Farm (Devon) struggling to a maximum of only 4.9 °C, with showers or longer spells of rain for the south-west, and persistent showers along the east coast once again spreading westwards through the day. It was frosty again on the 3rd, Benson (Oxfordshire) falling to -7.4 °C overnight, with patchy rain or drizzle over the Midlands in the morning, and cloud increasing generally, with isolated showers in the north-west, and more general rain spreading into northern parts around evening.

The 4th was generally cloudy but less cold, with rain affecting all parts except the far north, this rain clearing south and becoming lighter and patchier through the day. The 5th was very mild but rather cloudy, with rain over northern and eastern parts in the morning, tending to ease by lunchtime, but more persistent and locally heavy rain spreading into the north-west during the afternoon, Mickleden Middlewell Farm (Cumbria) receiving 52.4 mm of rain. The 6th was wet and windy, with showers affecting most parts during the morning, turning particularly wet for a time across the north and Midlands around lunchtime, then more widespread showers developing through the afternoon, with isolated thunderstorms for East Anglia and the south-east late in the day, and winds gusting to 75 mph at Needles (Isle of Wight).

Southern areas were much brighter on the 7th, while showers or longer spells of rain developed over the Midlands and the north through the day, some showers turning thundery over East Anglia in the afternoon. Central and northern counties began clear and frosty on the 8th, but the south remained cloudier, with rain eventually clearing away southwards by early afternoon; showers developed over all parts through the afternoon, turning heavy, wintry, and thundery in places. The 9th dawned cold and fine, with frost in many places, and showers initially through the Cheshire Gap gradually developing over northern and eastern counties through the day. The 10th again began frosty for most, remaining fine for a time, but cloud increased from the west through the day, with patchy rain or showers developing over parts of the north and in the Midlands during the afternoon.

## 11th to 18th

A rather warmer spell arrived. Central and south-eastern areas started fine on the 11th, while northern parts had patchy rain or showers, and showers and thunderstorms already over the Isles of Scilly spread into the south-west for a time, then another band of showers developed over the north-west and Midlands in the afternoon, moving north and east, with further showers affecting the south-west by evening. The 12th saw rain moving from the Midlands into northern counties through the morning, with another area of rain and showers moving into southern counties during the afternoon. Coasts and hills in the south-west began misty and foggy on the 13th, while central and eastern counties started dry and bright, with showers over the West Midlands spreading to cover much of the south in the afternoon, turning locally heavy and thundery in places. After a mild night, St Mary's (Scilly) recording a minimum of 11.3 °C, with mist and fog across many parts of the Midlands and south, the 14th brought variable amounts of cloud, with patchy rain and drizzle for the far north. Fog in some central and southern areas quickly cleared on the 15th, then it was sunny and warm for the eastern half of the country, London St James's Park reaching a maximum of 23.4 °C, but the west was cloudier. Apart from early fog in some central and south-western parts, the 16th was sunny in many areas, and warm again. The 17th was fine too, and rather warm in places, but turned cloudy in the west, with rain reaching the far south-west by evening. Troughs on the 18th gave thicker cloud over parts of the south-east at times, with some showers over the north-west in the morning and the south-west in the afternoon.

## 19th to 30th

Early mist and fog patches in the south and east soon cleared on the 19th, then it was brighter, with showers developing over central and northern counties in the afternoon. Early showers over the south-west died out on the 20th, patchy fog on the east coast cleared late morning, then many areas had sunshine. The 21st brought sunshine too, but with low cloud and mist plaguing the east coast at times. There was more cloud on the 22nd, with patchy rain or showers moving east to west through the Midlands and south-west during the morning, staying cloudy in the south, but with sunshine further north, and mist and fog affecting parts of the east coast during the afternoon. The 23rd followed a similar pattern to the day before. The 24th was sunny for many, but with showers over the far south-west clearing away late afternoon, and the east coast plagued with low cloud again at times. Cloud was variable across the country on the 25th, with south-western areas brightest, and showers, initially over the north, developing also through central and south-eastern parts in the afternoon. Some central parts saw low cloud or mist early on the 26th, but most places had sunshine for a time before cloud bubbled up generally into the afternoon, with scattered showers developing along the east coast. The 27th was cloudier generally, with some brightness arising through the day, the best of any sunshine being in the west. It was cloudy on the 28th, with isolated light showers developing over central southern counties later. After a frost in northern areas on the 29th, there was some sun, Morecambe (Lancashire) getting 13.7 hours of sunshine, but cloud persisted in some southern counties. Cloud cleared the south-east during the morning of the 30th, then further cloud thickened from the west by the afternoon, with rain spreading into central and northern parts by evening.

## Wales diary of highlights

**After some rather cold and unsettled weather during the early part of the month, it became much drier and more settled, and warm for a time, though it was chilly in the final few days.**

Mean temperatures for the month were provisionally 0.2 °C above average, with maxima up to a degree above average and minima slightly below. It was a drier than average month, with 53% of average rainfall. Sunshine amounts were not far from normal, with an overall figure of 102%.

### 1st to 7th

The 1st was fine, after a frosty start, with just isolated showers, and remained rather cold with temperatures at Lake Vyrnwy (Powys) struggling to 5.4 °C. After another frost for most areas, the 2nd was cloudy, with rain over western parts clearing away south during the morning, then brighter but with frequent showers, wintry over higher ground. Another widespread frost, with St Harmon (Powys) falling to -7.6 °C overnight, gave way to increasing cloud amounts on the 3rd, with isolated showers by the afternoon. The 4th was generally cloudy, with persistent rain along the west coast, and patchy light rain and drizzle further east, Cwmystwyth (Dyfed) recording 31.8 mm of rain. After a much milder night, Usk (Monmouthshire) not falling below 10.8 °C, the 5th was rather cloudy, especially so by the afternoon with patchy rain and drizzle. After a wet and windy morning on the 6th with widespread, occasionally heavy rain clearing away east, the afternoon was much brighter but with scattered showers. It continued windy on the 7th, rather wet for central and northern parts during the morning, then showery for all parts into the afternoon, with isolated thunderstorms, Capel Curig (Gwynedd) reporting gusts to 70 mph.

### 8th to 13th

The 8th began clear and cold, with some sunshine before showers developed from late morning, quickly becoming widespread, heavy and thundery in places, and wintry too. After a clear and frosty start, the 9th was a bright day, with showers mainly over the north. After a widespread frost on the 10th, cloud increased through the day with patchy rain or showers especially further north. Early showers for the far north on the 11th moved away, then it was fine for a time ahead of a

band of occasionally heavy rain or showers spreading from the southwest through the afternoon; these cleared away but more showers moved up from the south in the evening. On the 12th, widespread and occasionally heavy rain cleared away northwards by midday, then it was dry for a time before showers developed over the south, turning locally heavy and thundery. After a mild night, Cardiff Bute Park not falling below 10.8 °C, the morning of the 13th was rather misty and foggy around coasts, then most areas saw some showery rain, but the afternoon became drier and much brighter.

### **14th to 24th**

The 14th was cloudy but dry. The 15th was dry too, and brighter in places. The 16th was similar, with variable amounts of cloud, and continuing to get warmer. After a fine bright start on the 17th, cloud increased through the afternoon with rain skirting the south-west coast by early evening, but it became warm with 21.4 °C recorded at Colwyn Bay (Clwyd). The 18th was bright, if rather cloudy at times, with scattered showers. The 19th was fine, but cloudier by the afternoon with scattered showers. The 20th and 21st were dry with some sunshine. There was more cloud on the 22nd, with patchy rain moving east to west into the afternoon, but brighter in the north later. The 23rd was cloudy, with patchy rain at times. Many areas had some sunshine on the 24th.

### **25th to 30th**

The 25th was less warm, mostly fine but with isolated showers for the south-west during the afternoon. Patchy fog across the north soon cleared on the 26th, and cloud bubbled up over many areas through the afternoon, although Aberdaron (Gwynedd) recorded 13.7 hours of bright sunshine. The 27th was dry with variable amounts of cloud. The 28th brought thicker cloud but stayed dry. After a chilly start, the 29th was fine with broken cloud. After a cold start and some early sunshine, cloud increased by midday, with rain arriving, becoming persistent over the north, but lighter and patchier for central and southern parts.

## **Scotland diary of highlights**

**The first twelve days of the month were unsettled and predominantly rather cold, but after that there was much less rain and it turned milder, with high pressure holding sway for much of the time.**

The provisional monthly mean temperature was 0.2 °C above the long-term average, and it was mildest relative to average in western areas. Rainfall ranged from locally double the average in the far north of the mainland to rather below normal across central and southern areas, with an overall figure of 92% of average. Sunshine was just above normal in the south-west, but rather below in many other areas, with overall 97% of average.

### **1st to 12th**

The 1st began clear and frosty, Tulloch Bridge (Inverness-shire) falling to -8.0 °C overnight, with wintry showers over the east, and rain in the west spreading south and east through the day, reaching all parts by evening but turning more showery. After another frost, the 2nd was mostly fine, with showers limited to the far north-west, the Grampians, and the east coast. Many places began frosty again on the 3rd; after early showers in the south, cloud and rain spread southwards, becoming widespread and locally heavy during the afternoon, Achfary (Sutherland) wettest with 62.4 mm. The 4th was generally dull and wet, with rain in all parts during the day, heavy in the west for a time. The 5th was very wet with widespread, persistent and locally heavy rain, with snow over the far north, a depth of 5 cm accumulating at Oyne (Aberdeenshire). It was windy on the 6th with frequent, occasionally heavy and wintry showers and isolated thunderstorms. The 7th was cold and windy, with an area of rain and sleet over the north-east moving slowly south, reaching the Borders by lunchtime, followed from the north by brighter but very showery conditions, some showers turning wintry, with isolated thunderstorms, the temperature at

Dalwhinnie (Inverness-shire) only reaching 4.0 °C. Central and southern parts began clear and frosty on the 8th, with showers from the outset over the north and east, developing over most other areas by the afternoon, and turning locally heavy, wintry and thundery. The 9th remained cold again, with showers, heaviest and most frequent over the north and east, wintry and thundery at times, but lighter and fewer in the south. After a widespread frost, showers continued over the north, with brighter weather elsewhere but cloud increasing from the west, and rain reaching western and south-western counties during the afternoon. The 11th was rather windy, with bands of showers or longer spells of rain affecting all parts at times during the day. After a fine start for most on the 12th, any showers over the north clearing away during the morning, rain spread from the south and reached central parts by lunchtime, with only the far north staying dry until evening.

### **13th to 18th**

The next few days were milder, but the 13th saw some mist and fog in the south during the morning, remaining cloudy with persistent rain over the north clearing away by around lunchtime, and further patchy rain and drizzle affecting the south through the afternoon. The 14th was dull again, with mist and fog for south-western coasts, and rain spreading steadily east and north through the day, reaching all parts by evening. There was patchy fog along the east coast on the 15th, with rain for the north and east clearing by mid-afternoon and scattered showers developing over central and western parts at the same time. Mist and fog along eastern coasts on the 16th cleared mid-morning, then it was dry, if rather cloudy at times. The 17th was fine and mild, Achnagart (Ross & Cromarty) having not fallen below 10.8 °C overnight, and Livingston Mill (West Lothian) reaching a maximum of 19.7 °C, but cloudier in the west with rain. The 18th saw variable amounts of cloud with scattered showers, and was windy with gusts up to around 60 mph.

### **19th to 30th**

Some mist and fog in the west on the 19th soon gave way to a bright day for most areas, but with showers over the north, also developing over most other parts during the afternoon. The 20th was largely sunny after a cold start for many places, but with low cloud and mist plaguing the east coast, and isolated showers developing in central parts late in the day. Cloud amounts were variable through the 21st, with a few short-lived showers for the north-west, and mist on the east coast at times. The 22nd was breezy but mostly sunny, again with mist affecting the east coast at times. The 23rd was sunny except in the north, with Tiree (Argyll) recording 13.9 hours of bright sunshine. Central and western areas were quite sunny again on the 24th. The 25th was mostly cloudier, with showers mainly across central and southern districts. The west started bright on the 26th, which was otherwise a cloudy day, with light showers in eastern areas. The far north started frosty on the 27th, with some sunshine, while other areas were cloudier, especially during the morning. Many areas were clear and frosty early on the 28th, but cloud increased through the morning, with scattered showers developing over the north during the afternoon. The south was sunny after a frosty start on the 29th, with more cloud and scattered showers further north. Most places were fine early on the 30th, but rain soon began to spread steadily east, becoming widespread and occasionally heavy through the afternoon.

## **Northern Ireland diary of highlights**

**After a cold and unsettled start, much of April was unexceptional, with milder weather between the 13th and 24th, and limited amounts of rainfall for much of the time.**

The mean temperature for the month was 0.1 °C above average. It was a rather dry month in the south-east, but wetter further north and west, with 96% of average rainfall. Sunshine was above average in the east, totalling 106% of average overall.

### **1st to 10th**

The 1st began cold and frosty, Katesbridge (Down) falling to -6.6 °C overnight, but cloud increased through the morning, with rain spreading south and becoming widespread by mid-afternoon,

clearing the east by evening but continuing in the west, and staying generally cool, Altnahinch (Antrim) reaching only 5.4 °C. Most areas started wet on the 2nd, with the rain moving southwards and becoming showery, and it was drier and brighter by mid-afternoon. The 3rd started frosty with patchy mist and fog, becoming mainly sunny, but cloud increased from early afternoon, with rain spreading from the north-west and becoming widespread by evening. The 4th was much less cold, but also cloudy and wet with rain spreading from the north-west from late morning to become widespread by evening. The 5th was cloudy and wet, the rain patchy at first but becoming persistent and widespread during the afternoon. Sunshine and widespread, locally heavy and blustery showers, wintry at times, typified the 6th. It was windy on the 7th with sunshine and blustery showers, the wind gusting to 58 mph at Orlock Head (Down). Showers were more frequent and sometimes wintry on the 8th, again with sunny intervals and strong winds. The 9th was quieter, a bright day with isolated showers. A cold start on the 10th gave way to increasing cloud, with rain or showers developing through the day.

### **11th to 17th**

The morning of the 11th was cloudy and breezy with patchy light rain, but the afternoon turned wetter with bands of rain, heavy in places, crossing the country. The 12th started fine but rain spread from the south from late morning and became widespread and occasionally heavy through the afternoon. There was fog around the coast during the morning of the 13th, then it remained rather cloudy with light showers, but mild with Helens Bay (Down) reaching a maximum of 18.4 °C. Rain affected all parts at times throughout the 14th. A cloudy but mild morning on the 15th, Magilligan (Londonderry) not falling below 10.5 °C, with patchy rain, was followed by a brighter afternoon with scattered showers. Mist and fog early on the 16th gave way to brighter skies, but cloud increased in late afternoon with rain into the far west by dusk. After another mild night, Magilligan again not falling below 10.5 °C, rain in the west spread steadily east during the 17th, becoming widespread and occasionally heavy by late afternoon.

### **18th to 24th**

The 18th was a day of sunshine and scattered showers. The morning of the 19th was fine, with showers in the afternoon. After patchy fog for central and western parts cleared, the 20th was sunny, Aldergrove (Antrim) recording 13.2 hours of bright sunshine. Mostly sunny again on the 21st. There was more cloud at times during the 22nd but it stayed fine. The 23rd and 24th were largely sunny.

### **25th to 30th**

The 25th was cloudier and cooler, with patchy light rain or showers. The 26th was cloudy with a few light showers for a time, becoming sunnier later. There was some sunshine on the 27th. The 28th started cold, with a few isolated showers, but became brighter in the afternoon. The 29th dawned clear and cold, with local mist and fog, then became sunnier. The 30th was wet with widespread and occasionally heavy rain, 23.4 mm falling at Altnahinch.