



Weather Front

March 2025

Observers Notes.

Lowdham: Radcliffe-on-Trent recorded 195.9 hours of sunshine, 168% of the 1991-20 average. This is the highest on record for March, with only two sunless days.ⁱ

Coton-in-the-Elms: The mean temperature made this a mild month overall, though it was the coolest for two years. However, daytime temperatures were significantly higher than usual, the daily maximum being the highest for March on the local record. Nevertheless, very cold nights meant that the mean minimum was below the average, and the lowest for March since 2018.

Ely: Frequently warm by day, but cold nights, and many frosts in the first two weeks. The mean maximum temperature was the highest on the station record since 1971. Rainfall was the lowest for the month since 2011, and the 10th driest of any month, again on the station record since 1971. There were a total of 29 rain days in the first 3 months of the year, the lowest since the same number in 1973.

Desford: Very dry and mild without any very of the cold or stormy weather typically seen in March.

Mountsorrel: An exceptionally sunny month being 146% of average, and the sunniest March on the local record in 20 years of sunshine records. There were 10 days with sunshine totals above 9 hours duration for each day. Days were very mild but with long clear nights. It was the driest March since 2011 with just 23.2 mm being recorded and the heaviest shower being 14 mm on the 22nd.

Mickleover: The driest March since 2011, the second driest since 1993, and locally since 1961 (5.6 mm).

Saltfleetby:

| Wind Force | | | | |
|------------|----|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 | 17 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----|
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| 10 Day Mean. | | | |
|--------------|------|-----|------|
| Date | Max | Min | Mean |
| 1-10 | 13.3 | 1.5 | 7.4 |
| 11-20 | 9.8 | 1.9 | 5.8 |
| 1-20 | 11.5 | 1.7 | 6.6 |
| 21-31 | 14.2 | 4.5 | 9.3 |

Bablake: The highest Maximum temperature was the warmest March day since 1948. It was also the sunniest March on record for over 130 years.

Middleton: The second warmest March, equal with 2017, since 1963, and the sunniest March locally since records began in 1886.

Derby: The seventh consecutive March above normal.

UK overviewⁱⁱ

March saw persistent high pressure bring settled conditions for most of the month. The month started with high pressure over southern England, resulting in bright but cooler than average temperatures in the south while the north saw milder temperatures and some showers. The clear conditions in the south also brought widespread fog as well as frost at times. The high pressure slowly shifted eastwards, and the milder temperatures extended further south, reaching 19°C in some areas of Cumbria on the 8th. There were some scattered showers, especially in northern areas, but it was otherwise dry and often sunny. On the 10th a cold front moved into northern Scotland, bringing some snow over high ground. Temperatures across the country then turned colder than average as high pressure near Iceland exerted its influence on the UK. The following brief period of low pressure saw an increase in temperatures, and then high pressure from the southwest moved in, bringing warm and settled conditions. The month closed with high pressure over the UK, with conditions settled, warm and sunny. The mean temperature for the UK for March was 1.3°C above average, although there was some regional variation. Scotland and Northern Ireland were much warmer than average (1.7°C and 1.5°C, respectively), while southern England and Wales were a little less warm (0.9°C and 1.0°C above average, respectively). This was the seventh warmest March on record for Scotland, the eighth warmest March for Northern Ireland and the tenth warmest March for the UK overall. Maximum temperatures were

particularly high, with the UK experiencing its fourth highest mean maximum temperature for March. The cold spell mid-month was balanced by much warmer periods in the beginning and end of the month. March has been dry for most, with only Scotland recording more than half of the average rainfall and only Shetland recording above average rainfall. Wales saw its fourth driest March on record, its driest since 1944. England saw its sixth driest March, while for Northern Ireland it was the ninth driest March. Suffolk and Norfolk experienced their second driest Marches on record, with only March 1929 drier. Sunshine hours, on the other hand, were well above average for the UK overall, which saw 158.1 hours of sunshine, 145% of the long-term average. Most areas saw above average sunshine, particularly in southeastern England. England saw its sunniest March on record, with Wales recording its second sunniest March and the UK overall its third sunniest March. Reference climatology used for calculating anomalies is the period 1991-2020 unless otherwise stated.

Weather impacts

- Fog in some areas of England on the 5th, 9th, 26th and 27th led to warnings, but few impacts
- The dry month may have contributed to wildfires, with significant blazes reported in south Wales, north Wales, and smaller blazes in Northern Ireland and western Scotland

March saw predominantly settled, non-impactful weather. Severe weather warnings were few and far between, and all fell in the low impact column. Most were for fog, both early and again later in the month when high pressure was dominant. The dryness of the month was perhaps emphasised by the relative frequency of wildfires, though in some of these instances ignition was likely to have been the result of human involvement. On the 4th, strong winds and rain affected western Scotland and the Isles, the combination of winds and high astronomical tides resulting in the reported closure of the Braighe causeway on the Isle of Lewis. 24 hours later, south Wales saw its first significant wildfire of the month with a reported 25 acres of grassland ablaze on the Bwlch Mountain near Nant-y Moel, Bridgend. The middle third of the month saw somewhat colder air spread southwards to all parts resulting in some widespread overnight frosts and a little wintriness across northeast England and north/east Scotland around the 13th. A further notable wildfire was reported from the Blaenau Ffestiniog area in North Wales on the night of the 16th/17th, but this was only one of a number of wildfires reported from across Wales in the period between the 16th and 21st. Northern Ireland and western Scotland also reported outbreaks though on a much smaller scale. By the 18th the main centre of high pressure had slipped away into continental Europe, with winds turning southerly and warmer air returning northwards. A brief unsettled interlude on the weekend of the 22nd/23rd saw the first convective outbreak of the spring with some heavy and thundery downpours breaking out across parts of the UK. No warnings ensued but a few low impacts did result, mainly on the evening of the 22nd when the M1 northbound was reported closed between junctions 15 and 18 due to surface water flooding, which also accounted for a section of the A46 near Stratford. On the M40, Warwick Services was reportedly closed due to surface water ingress and resulting damage. Further north, the

M18 in South Yorkshire was reported closed between junctions 1 and 2 for the same reason. From the 24th onwards, rainfall was confined to western Scotland, Northern Ireland and northwest England but even here the amounts were unexceptional. The month ended with high pressure again re-establishing itself amidst reports of renewed wildfire activity in Wales.

March 1925

Observers Notes.ⁱⁱⁱ

Berwick-on-Tweed: A fairly average March, rather wet, mild, and free from gales.

Cheltenham: A dry, cold month. The second driest March recorded.

Copdock (Suffolk): The month was deficient in rain and sun; with northerly winds. The lowest maximum temperature for this month (53 F [12 C]) in 24 years' observations; in 1919 the same temperature was recorded.

Giggleswick (Yorkshire): An exceptionally bright and clear month.

Newport (IOW): A welcome change to dry conditions after an exceptionally wet winter.

Newquay: Rather sunny and dry but temperatures rather low. Relative humidity lowest for March for 32 years, and pressure the highest for the month in 21 years. Remarkable excess of northerly winds

Sidmouth: Cold drying winds and long bright intervals.

Skegness: An average March with a high air pressure.

Southport: The most northerly March since that of 1900; more than twice the normal number of hours of NW and N winds and a substantial excess of NE winds. Not a single hour of SE winds. Rainfall less than half the normal. Daily range of temperature very small.

Teignmouth: Dry and cold. The second driest March recorded at this station. Sunshine slightly above, and temperature slightly below the average.

Torquay: An exceptionally dry month with a good sunshine record, normal temperature and absence of strong winds.

Totland Bay (IOW): The driest March for 38 years with total rainfall of 6.6 mm.

Branxholme (Roxburgh): A good open month with some fine days.

Ullaport (Ross): A cold, miserable, sunless month with strong winds.

Cork: The driest March in the past 42 Years.

Dublin: A cold but dry month closely resembling March 1924. The outstanding feature was the remarkably high mean pressure.

Derby/Burton-on-Trent^{iv}: A rather dry month, with about half the normal rainfall. Totals in the Derby area were between 20 and 25 mm, while in Burton some sites were in the 30-35 mm range. It was quite a cold month with a mean temperature of 4.9 C, similar to February, the CET was also 4.9 C. Daily temperature extremes were 13 C or so on the 16th as the maximum, and -6 C on the 13th as a minimum. There were eleven air frosts in Burton.

Skegness: Total Rainfall 1.77 in, 50 mm, 106%.

Buxton: Total Rainfall 2.28 in, 57.9 mm, 55%.

Louth, Westgate: Total Rainfall 1.98 in, 50.3 mm, 93%.

Workshop: Total Rainfall 0.78 in, 19.8 mm, 46%.

Belvoir Castle: Total Rainfall 1.07 in, 27.2 mm, 59%.

Overview, March 1925

On the 1st, an anticyclone moved south from Iceland in the rear of a depression which had produced local thunderstorms in the south-east of England. Generally fair weather was noted in the west, but in the east the weather was cloudy with strong north-easterly winds, and gales in the English Channel on the 3rd and 4th, due to the influence of a depression centred over the south of France. During the following days the wind backed westerly giving mild weather; 56 F [13 C] was the maximum at Kilkenny on the 6th. Pressure rose rapidly near Iceland on the 7th renewing the northerly winds, which reached gale force in some places on the 8th. Snow was noted in northern Scotland on the 7th, spreading south over the greater part of Scotland on the 8th and 9th. Wintry showers were reported generally, with temperature maxima below 35 F [2 C] on one or two days; at Inverness, on the 8th, the temperature did not rise above freezing, and at Andover the grass minimum overnight 12th/13th was 9 F [-13 C]. Between the 13th and 19th, the air mass was mainly westerly, and the weather was fair, with temperature maxima above 55 F [13 C] on several occasions, and reaching 60 F [16 C] at Kilkenny, Killarney, and Cork on the 15th. Local early morning mist or fog was reported on most of these days. On the 19th the northerly air flow returned with cold, and generally cloudy, weather which dominated until the 30th. Showers of snow, hail, and rain were reported generally, and "snow lying" was again reported from several stations; on the 22nd depths of 2 and 3 inches [5 and 8 cm] were reported from Balmoral, and at Skegness and Folkstone. Temperatures from thermometers exposed over the snow were below 20 F [-7 C] in some places, and at Balmoral on the night of 22nd/23rd the minimum was 6 F [-14 C]. By the 30th, the centre of the anticyclone had moved south producing a warm south-westerly flow from the Azores to Scandinavia. Heavy rain or snow fell over parts of Scotland and the north of Ireland on the 31st, in Forfar, Fife, and the Lothians, more than half of the month's

total rainfall was reported on that day; 37 mm at Dunfanaghy (Donegal), and 34 mm at Renfrew. At Bangour (Linlithgow) a snow depth of 1 foot [30.5 cm] was reported, and at Glasgow traffic was disorganised.

The mean temperature for the country was 41 F [5 C], which was almost normal for that date. The largest departure was +0.7 F [+0.3 C] in Northern Ireland, while the largest deficiency was -1.1 F [-0.5 C] in the Channel Isles and the Isles of Scilly. During the first and third weeks the temperature throughout the country was above average, but during the second and fourth weeks it was below the average for that date. Ground frosts were reported generally but, at several stations, as many as 20 or more days of ground frost were recorded.

Precipitation was generally below the average throughout the country. However, there were areas at, or above, average. These were, a large area of northern Scotland, two small areas of the eastern English and Scottish coasts, and a small part of the extreme north of Ireland. The areas reporting less than 50% of average included southern and western England and Wales, a small part of south-west Scotland, and a major part of Ireland, with the south of Ireland recording less than 25% of the monthly average; at Purton, in Wiltshire, there was no measurable rain throughout the month.

The first week of the month was generally the driest and, with a few exceptions, each week was below average. Snow was reported throughout the country, but mainly in the north, Deerness recording 22 days and Braemar 12 Days. Hail was also recorded generally with Baltasound noting 12 days. Thunder was heard sporadically throughout the country.

The number of days of fog varied, Kensington noting 12 and Greenwich 11, but many stations remained fog free.

Sunshine was above average in eastern and western Scotland, in southern Ireland, the Channel Isles, and the Isles of Scilly. The mean daily excess was +0.44 hours in northern Scotland and the largest deficiency was -0.88 hours in eastern England. The Channel Isles and the Isles of Scilly had 42% of possible duration, but northern Scotland and the Midlands had only 22%. The second and fourth weeks were the brightest and, during the final week, several daily records noting more than 10 hours.

The World^v

Pressure was above average over much of the North Atlantic, western and Northern Europe, and at Spitzbergen, while over the Mediterranean pressure was slightly below normal. Temperatures were also slightly below average over most of Western Europe, but at Spitzbergen the abnormally high temperatures noted from November to February continued, the March mean being 14.5 F [7.3 C] above normal. On the 10th, and towards the end of the month, cold weather dominated over Spain, a temperature of 12 F [-11 C] was recorded at Estangento and Pvisgerda on the 10th, and at Estangento on the 22nd and 23rd. In Italy and Bulgaria, the weather was mild during the first week, but later heavy snow fell in Bulgaria, a

depth of 18 inches [46 cm] was reported from Sofia. A heavy snowstorm, accompanied by high, north-west, winds occurred in Holland on the 8th. Around the middle of the month strong northeasterlies, accompanied by heavy seas, were noted off the Balearic Isles. Rainfall was slightly below average in Western Europe. In Sweden a cold spell was reported between the 7th and 16th, the temperature being about 14 F [-7 C] below normal on most of these days, and rainfall was irregular.

A severe storm occurred over the island of Kyushu, Japan, on the 12th, during which a passenger steamer sank near Nagasaki; it was also suspected that many vessels of the fishing fleet were lost.

In Rhodesia [Zimbabwe] and South Africa heavy rain fell throughout the month. The Orange River rose by 37 feet [11 meters]^{vi} cutting railway links with the south-west. An accident occurred, on the 21st, on the Cape-Natal railway near Hartshill^{vii}, due to the collapse of the bridge over the Tugela River after heavy rains; several people were killed.

On the 18th, a tornado swept across five of the Mid-west states of the USA, causing widespread damage. It hit Annapolis (Missouri) about 1300 local time, then passed over southern Illinois, Indiana, central Kentucky, and Tennessee. Many towns and villages were reportedly destroyed.

The rainfall in Australia and Tasmania was generally below average, apart from North Kimberley, northern Queensland, and along the north-eastern coast of New South Wales.

In Brazil rainfall in the north was 34 mm below average, but in the central and southern districts rainfall was plentiful, being 41 mm and 25 mm respectively above average. It was noted that there was a general improvement in the crops due to the breakdown in the dry spell.

Central England Data.^{viii} March 1925 (Averaging period is 1891 to 1920.)

Mean Maximum Temperature: 7.9 C. Average: 8.8 C.

Mean Minimum Temperature: 1.9 C. Average: 1.8 C.

Mean Temperature: 4.9 C. Average: 5.3 C.

England and Wales Rainfall: 32.8 mm. Average: 70.5 mm.

Midlands Data. (Averaging period is 1911 to 1920).

Midlands Mean Maximum Temperature: 7.8 C. Average: 8.3 C.

Midlands Mean Minimum Temperature: 1.1 C. Average: 1.1 C.

Midlands Mean Temperature: 4.4 C. Average: 4.7 C.

Midlands Rainfall: 23.7 mm. Average: 75.7 mm.

Central England Data March 2025 (Provisional) (Averaging period is 1991-2020).

Mean Maximum Temperature: 12.8 C. Average: 10.4 C.

Mean Minimum Temperature: 3.1 C. Average: 3.1 C.

Mean Temperature: 7.9 C. Average: 6.7 C.

England and Wales Rainfall: 17.0 mm. Average: 65.4 mm.

Midlands Data.

Mean Maximum Temperature: 12.6 C. Average: 10.1 C.

Mean Minimum Temperature: 2.4 C. Average: 2.5 C.

Mean Temperature: 7.5 C. Average: 6.3 C.

Midlands Rainfall: 15.0 mm. Average: 53.6 mm.

Sunshine: 185.5 hours. Average: 114.5 hours.

ⁱ Courtesy of T Scholey.

ⁱⁱ Monthly Weather Summary, March 2025, Meteorological Office, HMSO, April 2025.

ⁱⁱⁱ Monthly Weather Report, March 1925, Meteorological Office, HMSO, 1925, p. 29. Averaging quoted period is 1881-1915.

^{iv} D J Stanier, by email, 2 April 2025.

^v Meteorological Magazine, March 1925, Meteorological Office, HMSO, April 1925, p. 76 and 77.

^{vi} The Times, March 24, 1925.

^{vii} About 50 miles NNE of Durban, in Kwazulu-Natal.

^{viii} Hadley Centre, Central England and Midlands, Meteorological Office.