



Monthly Weather Summary

January 2025

Colder and drier than average – unsettled at times later in the month

General and Barometric Pressure

Ultimately January would see a little bit of most things during the month, but a colder and drier than average month was possibly not a bad thing.

The chill of the month was felt in the first half, but which had just the one wintry day with some snow.

After a mild day on the 1st, frosts became a common feature during the 2nd to the 12th and became very cold during 8-12th when every night saw temperatures drop below -5°C.

And to add to the cold, both of the 8-9th were 'Ice Days' when the temperature remained below freezing for the entire period.

This saw the 8th record a somewhat cold maximum temperature of -1.6°C and each of the 9-11th had night-time minima below -7°C, peaking at a month's low of -8.0°C (17.6°F) on the 10th.

The first four days of the month were very calm with the 2nd and 3rd sunny days, the 2nd being especially lovely with clear skies, but remained chilly with a maximum of just 2.3°C.

After a cloudy day on the 4th a deepening area of low pressure to the SW moved NE overnight into the 5th and as it met the colder air already over the UK, snow was the outcome.

We woke to a cover 6 cms deep with the day seeing further outbreaks of snow or sleet, but with the very wet snow cover quickly melting.

Pressure would then slacken before rising over the next few days, coinciding with colder conditions and the days would see a decent amount of sunshine, but also the occasional mistiness. However, it was dry.

From the 6-19th just 1.7 mm of rain would be recorded.

High pressure had broadly been dominant or at least nearby through to the 19th and whilst the very cold conditions had now abated, the month would now become changeable and unsettled at times.

The 19th would be a foggy day with the temperature struggling to 2.2°C, the next few days being misty and murky with the occasional spell of light rain.

The 24th brought 'Storm Eowyn'. This was a 'wind event' with rainfall confined to the early hours of the 24th, although the 18.7 mm made the 23rd the month's wettest day.

Eowyn brought gales that were keenly felt across the whole of the county, but especially so more west and north. The gale was at its strongest during the morning and early afternoon, but it remained windy all day **.

Another deep area of low pressure 26-27th, with pressure falling lower than Eowyn, to 970.8Mb, brought more rain, but which fell overnight.

A ridge of high pressure returned for the last two days of the month and with it a couple of overnight frosts, but with the days experiencing sunny spells

Even though high pressure was to the fore during the month, this was off-set by the more unsettled final third and which resulted in mean air pressure finishing below average by 2.8MB.

**wind strength during 'Storm Eowyn' – Cumbria quite widely experienced gusts in excess of 80 Mph, but to my great disappointment, the day before my anemometer transmitter unit failed, after 15yrs service!

Terrible timing and it took a few days to sort a replacement – however, I suspect that the gusts experienced here did not exceed 75 Mph (my current record) and were more probably in the 68-72 Mph bracket.

Temperature

Whilst not rare, it is becoming less common, but the month would finish with a negative mean minimum. With a mean minimum of -0.66°C and a mean maximum of 5.12°C January 2025 saw the temperature 1.12°C below the sixteen year average for this site.

This saw it being the coldest January since 2021 and since the record commenced (2009), fourteen have been warmer and two have been colder.

The highest maximum during the month was 12.0°C (53.6°F – 14th) and the lowest minimum, -8.0°C (17.6°F - 10th).

At the Met' Office at Shap, a mean maximum of 4.6°C and a mean minimum of -1.7°C saw the temperature for the month 1.55°C below the average.

It was the coldest January since 2021 and since the record began in 2005 18 have been warmer and two colder.

Precipitation

At Maulds Meaburn rainfall totalled 59.2 mm (2.33 In), this being 41.6% of the average for 2008-23, making it the driest January since 2019.

Since the record began (2008), two have been drier and fifteen wetter.

Locally rainfall at Maulds Meaburn North was 58.1 mm and at Castlehowe Scar 98.2 mm (58.3%).

At the Met' Office at Shap, rainfall 91.0 mm is 39% of the average and made it the driest January since 2019.

Since the record began in 1989, seven have been drier and twenty-nine wetter.

Figures from a selection of Environment Agency's rainfall sites were, (figure in brackets being the monthly average for 1991-2020) *'Data kindly provided by the Hydrometry and Telemetry team of the Environment Agency:*

At **Appleby in Westmorland** rainfall of **37.6 mm** (LTA of 93.5 mm) represents 40.2% of its average (1857-2023) and made it the driest since 2019.

Since the record commenced, 19 have been drier and 149 have been wetter.

Kirkby Thore 34.4 mm -- (77.7 mm)

Haresceugh Castle (Kirkoswald) 50.98 mm -- (91.4 mm)

Brothers Water 189.91 mm -- (333.4 mm)

Seathwaite Farm (Borrowdale) 277.0 mm -- (377.9 mm [average for 1845-2023]) represents 73.3% of its average, making it the driest since 2022.

Since the record commenced, forty-nine have been drier and one hundred and thirty-one have been wetter.

OTHER:-

During the month the following '*days of*' were recorded:

Snow fell on two days and was lying on the ground to a depth of at least 1 cm at 09h on one day.

Fog, hail and a gale were all recorded on one day each.

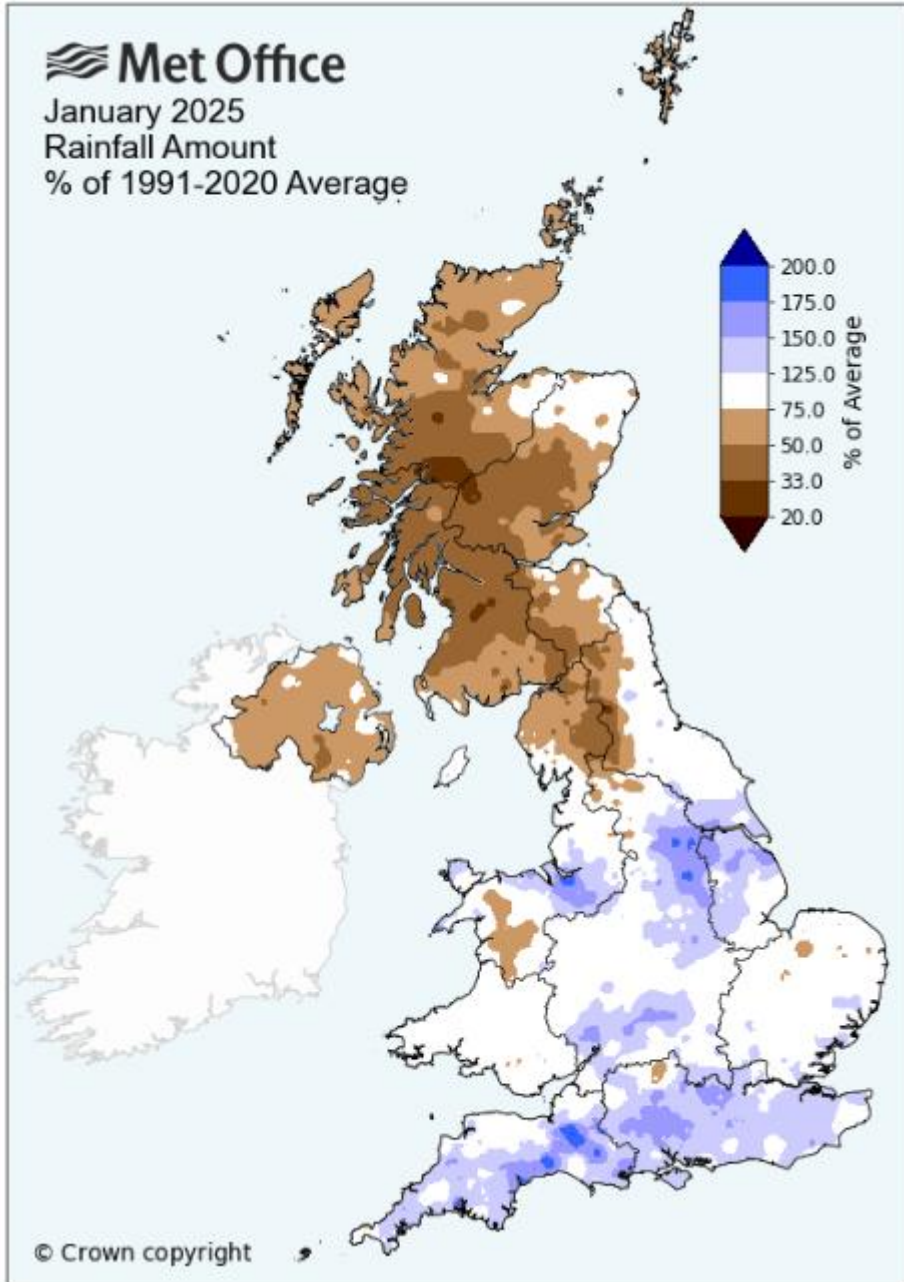
The wind speed averaged 4.55 mph, with a maximum gust of 'unknown' – due to a technical issue the wind speeds were not recorded on the 24th, the day of Storm Eowyn.

We had 14 Air Frosts in the month (year 14) -- Grass Frosts totalled 24 (year 24).

One foot soil temp ranged from a low of 2.0°C on the 12-14th to a high of 7.5°C on the 1st with a mean of 3.8°C

One meter soil temp ranged from a low of 5.8°C on the 16th to a high of 8.3°C on the 2nd with a mean of 6.6°C

January's Rainfall Anomaly



January's Temp' Anomaly

