



Monthly Weather Summary May 2025

Very Warm – Very Dry

New record for longest period with no rainfall

General and Barometric Pressure

With high pressure once again the dominant feature of the month, May was another fine month, consistently dry and sunny and quite warm, especially by day.

The weather broke down from the 23rd and remained unsettled through to the end of the month.

Whilst rarely anchored over the UK, high pressure was to the fore during the month, either to the north of the UK or slightly to the east. It remained dominant through to the 22nd with winds light and either from the NW-NE or East.

With the breakdown in the weather from the 23rd when winds reverted to a SSW'ly type, the UK experienced the passage of several low pressure systems that brought spells of rain. However, mean air pressure would finish above average by 2.3MB.

The month opened with a warm and sunny day, attaining a maximum of 22.3°C before a run of cooler days through to the 8th.

The 4th would only manage a maximum of 11.4°C but the cooler nights were more pronounced with ground frosts common, although just the one air frost, -1.0°C (6th).

The days were dry and enjoyed reasonable spells of sunshine, but from the 9th with high pressure nearby in the North Sea, the days would become lovely and sunny and that bit warmer.

All four days of 10-13th attained 20°C, but through to the 21st the maxima was always close and sometimes over that 20°C mark.

Even the 23rd remained sunny through to mid afternoon, this after starting with a relatively late season ground frost.

The month had remained completely dry to this point, a remarkable period that had commenced on the 22nd April, a whole 31 days with no rain.

The rain arrived at 21h on the 23rd and all apart from the 30th every day would now experience some rainfall.

It was never that heavy, usually in the form of showers, but it was also quite breezy at times and the feel of the month had certainly changed. The wettest day was the 28th with 7.7 mm, but this all fell overnight into the 8th. However, it could not be disputed that the rain was much needed, but its timing of coming during the Whitsuntide week was unfortunate.

Apart from the 25-27th, day-time maximum did hold up above average, but overnight minima significantly so; the last three nights of the month remaining in double figures.

But 'the feel' was a cooler and fresher one.

Temperature

Once again, just like the months preceding it, the most notable feature of the month was the consistently high day-time maxima and below average minima.

Just like April, only six days in the month failing to rise above the average maximum of 15.4°C and which saw the mean maximum finish significantly above average by 2.36°C.

As for the mean minimum, this was well below average, by 0.79°C, but certainly did not show the same level of disparity as the maxima.

With a mean minimum of 5.04°C and a mean maximum of 17.75°C, May 2025 saw the temperature finish 0.79°C above the sixteen year average for this site.

This saw it being the coldest May since 2021 and since the record commenced (2009), five have been warmer and eleven have been colder.

The highest maximum during the month was 23.5°C (74.3°F / 12th) and the lowest minimum, -1.0°C (30.2°F / 6th).

Precipitation

Quite remarkably we would go a whole 31 days with no measurable rain; this 'drought' commencing 22nd April and extending through to 22nd May – this being a new record for this site and blitting the old record of 23 days.

At Maulds Meaburn rainfall totalled 33.6 mm (1.32 In), this being 53.2% of the average for 2008-24, making it the driest May since 2023.

Since the record began, six have been drier and eleven have been wetter.

Locally rainfall at Maulds Meaburn North was 34.2 mm and at Castlehowe Scar 47.9 mm (73.5%).

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 37.9 mm (LTA of 56.6 mm) represents 67% of its average (1857-2024) and made it the driest since 2023.

Since the record commenced, fifty have been drier, 117 have been wetter and one was the same.

Kirkby Thore -- 33.8 mm -- (46.1 mm)

Haresceugh Castle (Kirkoswald) -- 59.89 mm -- (61.6 mm)

Brothers Water -- 166.51 mm -- (139.2 mm)

Seathwaite Farm (Borrowdale) -- 272.8 mm -- (173.5 mm [average for 1845-2024]) represents 157.2 of its average, making it the wettest since 2021.

Since the record commenced, 153 have been drier and 27 have been wetter.

Other:-

During the month the following '*days of*' were recorded: thunder on one day (just a single flash of lightning)

The wind speed averaged 6.06 mph, with a maximum gust of 40 Mph (26th).

We had 1 Air Frosts in the month (year 38) -- Grass Frosts totalled 11 (year 81).

One foot soil temp ranged from a low of 11.9°C (6th) to a high of 14.9°C (31st) with a mean of 13.6°C

One metre soil temp ranged from a low of 10.4°C (1st) to a high of 12.4°C (25-27th and 31st) with a mean of 11.6°C

Year to Date:-

For the Jan' to May period the mean temperature is 0.62°C warmer than average and rainfall is just 49.9%.

However, the mean temperatures continue to show a large disparity.

Whilst the mean maximum is currently 1.36°C above average, the mean minimum is still 0.19°C below!

Spring 2025 -- Very warm, dry and sunny

At Maulds Meaburn spring 2025 has been the driest and the second warmest in my records.

Nationally it has also been both the warmest and sunniest spring recorded. Locally (Appleby) it has been the third driest in a record that commenced in 1857.

Quite clearly this has been an exceptional season and many would say a *glorious* one.

The sun shone, we had prolonged dry spells and very warm days.

Whilst the mean maximum temperature would finish 2.50°C above average, those clear nights that follow fine sunny days, allowed for some quite low night-time minima and subsequently the mean minimum temperature would finish 0.06°C below average.

However, whilst the mean minimum in May was well below average, in the other two months of the season it was fractionally above – but the mean maximum was well above in all three months and an astonishing 3.03°C above average in April.

Whilst the number of air frosts (16) was 0.9 below average the number of ground frosts (39) finished 1.4 above average.

During the season rainfall was quite pitiful, each month recording totals significantly below average.

March was very dry up to the 20th, April only had some meaningful rain during the 14-18th and from the 22nd April through to the 22nd May, a 31 day period, there was no rain at all.

That final third of May was the most unsettled period of the season.

Spring 2025 with 81.9 mm (38.6% of average) of rain at Maulds Meaburn (Maulds Meaburn North 81.2 mm) has been the driest yet recorded.

Rainfall at Castle Howe Scar totalled 113.5 mm (40.7%)

As for temperature, the mean minimum was 3.57°C (-0.06°C) and the mean maximum 14.81°C (+2.50°C)

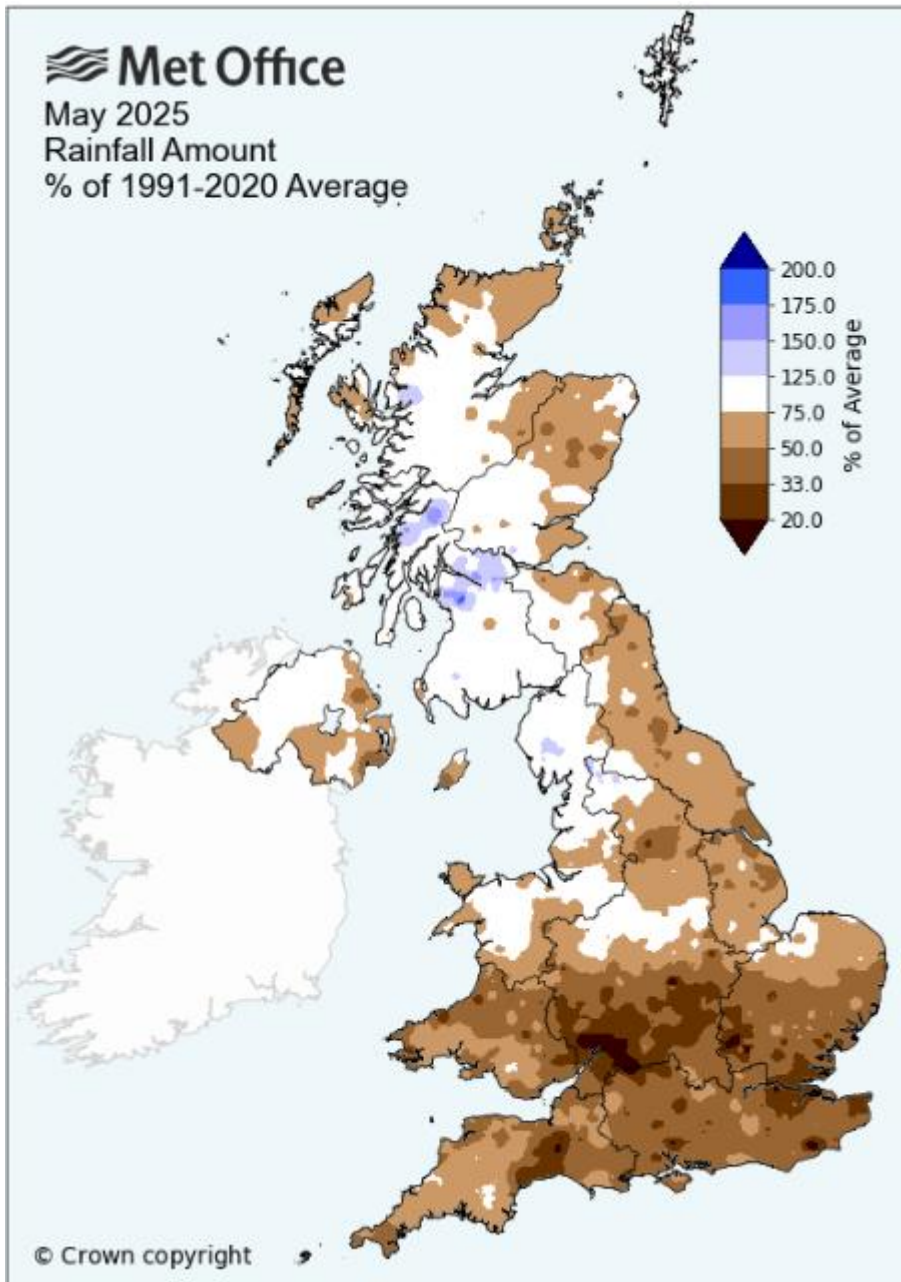
This gave an overall mean of 9.19°C, this being 1.22°C above average and the second warmest to that of 2024, but only by 0.01°C.

At Appleby In Westmorland the season's total was 72.8 mm (44.0% of average) which is the third driest in the entire record.

It has only been drier in 1974 (62.5 mm) and 1956 (63.4 mm).

At Seathwaite Farm rainfall totalled 454.4 mm (73.6% of average) which is the driest since 2020. In its series back to 1845, 35 have been drier and 145 wetter.

May's Rainfall Anomaly



May's Temp' Anomaly

