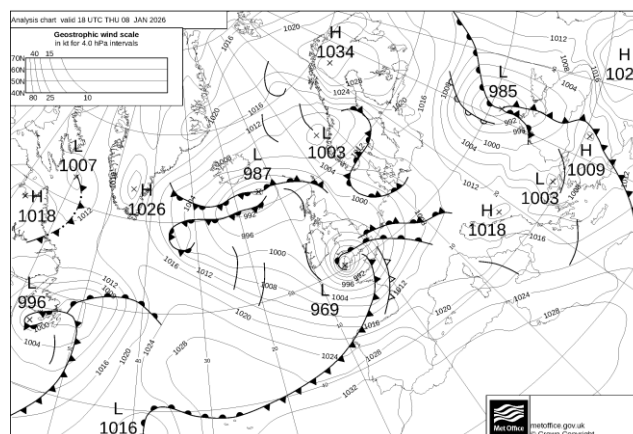


January 2026

Low pressure over Norway and high pressure out in the North Atlantic pulled a cool, showery flow down across the UK for the first day of the New Year, but outside of those rain showers, visibility was excellent although air temperatures struggled to make 8°C by day's end. As that cooler air became more firmly established over the country, so temperatures locally fell slowly away with some of the showers starting to contain hail. Daily rainfall totals were low, however, and we managed to see pretty decent amounts of sunshine. By the 4th our airflow was just starting to come in from the northwest, allowing a rash of more organised showers to drop into the Channel, with a mix of rain, snow, sleet and snow pellets falling across the islands.

A minor low developed within the general circulation through the early hours of the 5th, bringing a period of more persistent rain overnight before clearing shortly after the morning commute. It remained cold though with just 4.1°C reached during daylight hours. A subtle shift in that Atlantic high for the 6th saw a ridge extending up from the southwest, effectively shutting off the cold plunge from the north to allow slightly milder air to encroach over the Bailiwick. That ridge fell away for the 7th as low pressure swept in from the west bringing stronger winds and more cloud to our shores. Temperatures rose steadily through the day to reach double figures for the first time this year around mid evening, but the trade off was cloudier conditions with rain and drizzle from early afternoon which thickened to mist and hill fog through the evening.

With a more traditional westerly flow now well established over the UK, all eyes were on a developing low out in mid Atlantic which was set to undergo rapid cyclogenesis as it deepened and swept in towards southern parts of Britain. Initial fronts from Storm 'Goretti' brought patchy rain overnight into the 8th, which became persistent and at times heavy from mid morning. Winds at first came in from the southwest, freshening to a Force 5 around noon until late afternoon. Mean wind speeds then increased to Gale force 8 around 1700hrs, strengthening to Strong Gale force 9 by 1915hrs and further intensifying to Storm force 10 shortly before 2000hrs, with a peak mean wind speed of 53kts (61mph). Storm force conditions persisted for approximately two hours before dropping back to Strong Gale force 9 shortly before 2200hrs. A continued decrease followed and the wind veered W then NW Gale force 8 by 0100hrs on the 9th, further decreasing to Near Gale force 7 by around 0230hrs. The highest gust recorded at Guernsey Airport was 72.7kt (84.6mph) at 2024hrs on the 8th. Extensive damage from these very strong winds was experienced across the islands with many roads blocked due to hundreds of trees being brought down.



Storm 'Goretti' which brought very strong winds and nearly an inch of rain to the island from late on the 8th overnight into the 9th. Credit: UK Met Office

The storm tracked swiftly eastward just north of the islands overnight into the 9th to be centred over Belgium by dawn where it slowed its progress and started to fill. We were left with strong northwest winds with a scattering of mostly light showers through the day, occasionally with hail. A transient ridge built in for the 10th with light winds and clear skies after a few pre-dawn showers but temperatures were pegged back to just 8.1°C despite 6.5 hours of sunshine. That ridge cleared to the east overnight into the 11th allowing further fronts to roll in from the

west. Rain and drizzle arrived just after dawn, patchy at first before becoming persistent through the afternoon with mist across higher ground.

Low pressure was very much the dominant player affecting the UK weather, slow moving off the southwest coast of Ireland, with a series of fronts crossing the country together with fresh to strong southwesterly winds. The next few days saw mostly cloudy conditions with periods of rain and drizzle, along with mist or fog patches over higher ground. Temperatures were above average however, helping to offset the earlier cold start to the month. The 15th saw a waving front reluctant to clear from our area, leading to yet more persistent rain through the day and helping nudge our monthly rainfall total to just over 3 inches for the first 2 weeks of January. That front did finally clear overnight with the 16th dawning unusually dry and bright though we did see some showers by late afternoon as a weak occlusion passed up the Channel. That low was now starting to fill and lose its identity with a slack gradient lending quieter conditions locally, although that rather damp airflow led to a cap of low cloud over the higher parishes which limited our sunshine for the 17th.

Weak fronts pushing up over Central Europe by dawn on the 18th brought yet more rain, drizzle and mist across the islands with that cloud thickening and lowering overnight into the 19th leading to hill fog at times during the morning. The afternoon fared better though, with even a few glimpses of sunshine to remind us of better times. Approaching fronts from the Atlantic were starting to queue up out to the west by now as blocking high pressure over Russia stalled their eastward progress. Rain at times over the next few days pushed our rainfall total to over 4 inches for the month, but temperatures stayed on the mild side of average although sunshine continued to fare rather poorly.

A further deepening low in the Central Atlantic was starting to develop and sweep into the Southwest Approaches by late on the 22nd. Storm '*Ingrid*', as named by the Portuguese Met Office, was set to bring wind and rain into southwest parts of the UK and northwest France by the 23rd. Initially light winds backed into the southeast late on the 22nd but freshened overnight with a few hours of rain which cleared to showers by dawn the next morning. Locally the winds continued to increase through the day however, to reach their peak around supertime with a maximum gust recorded up at the airport of 44.7kts (51.4mph) at 1803hrs on the 23rd, although we didn't quite make a full gale, falling just short at 33kts mean speed. '*Ingrid*' then slowed to a near halt out to the west with strong south to southeast winds battering the islands together with bands of blustery showers continuing to drive over the Bailiwick for the 24th. As this feature slowly filled and drifted north into the Irish Sea, further fronts rolled in behind with a rash of showers for the 25th.

A brief ridge built in behind these fronts by the 26th but it was rather short lived, with further fronts pushing in later that afternoon with freshening winds in from the southeast. This latest batch of rain, together with strong to gale force southeasterly winds, arrived just after 1600hrs, becoming persistent and at times heavy through the evening before clearing around 0500hrs on the 27th leaving us with another half inch or so of rain to add to our monthly total. The depression responsible slowed its progress northeast due to blocking high pressure over Scandinavia, moving only slowly north over Ireland. A scattering of blustery rain and occasionally hail showers that evening and overnight rattled across the islands but by dawn on the 28th we started to see the winds easing off and those showers finding better places to be, leaving us with a well deserved brighter and quieter day to enjoy.

The charts still showed an unsettled picture across much of northern Europe, with colder air trying to feed in from Scandinavia but coming up against advancing Atlantic air pushing in from the west. A slow moving occlusion drifted in from the southwest later on the 29th bringing yet more rain, drizzle and mist to our shores with that rain becoming heavy for a time late that evening before clearing to showers overnight. It was a rather brief clearance however, with further fronts drawing in rain by midday on the 30th, again heavy at times, then a rash of showers through the afternoon and evening. The month closed on a familiar theme of mostly cloudy with showers, but air temperatures were back to near average and winds moderate from the southwest.

January was unsettled throughout with no days without rainfall being noted and whilst we saw some 170% of the average rainfall total, it was still marginally less than last January's figure. Despite all the rain we managed to reach 99% of the expected sunshine figure for the month and we also ended up just above the long-term

average temperature. Storm '*Goretti*' produced just under an inch of rain and also the highest gust (73kts) at the airport for 4 years. Although this was the windiest January since 2018 at 13.1kts, it still came in below the average of 13.4kts. Low pressure was the driver for the bulk of our weather for the month resulting in the lowest mean monthly air pressure (1003.3hPa) recorded at the airport since 1948. Interestingly, the 4 groundfosts noted this month equalled the total amount recorded for 2025, and the 2 days of gales doubled the total of last year.

DAY	DATE	TEMPERATURE deg C							WIND				RAIN mm	SUN hrs	WEATHER				
		BAROMETER	AIR				GRASS	SOIL		DIR'N	SPEED(knots)								
		hPa at 9a.m.	MAX	MIN	MEAN	MIN	30cm	100cm	9a.m.	9a.m.	MEAN	MAX							
Thu	1	1016.6	8.0	3.6	5.8	-0.2	7.0	10.0	290	09	9.1	22	1.2	2.6	Mainly cldy, briefly fair mid pm with light shw rs throughout				
Fri	2	1009.7	8.0	4.0	6.0	2.5	7.0	9.9	310	13	10.7	28	0.7	3.0	Fine, bec cldy wth rain/hail shw rs am. Fine eve. Dry air & xlnt viz				
Sat	3	1013.3	5.7	3.1	4.4	0.8	6.6	9.8	310	14	9.9	22	0.5	5.3	Cldy. Isol rain/hail shw rs am. Fair fine pm & eve. Dry air & xlnt viz				
Sun	4	1016.8	6.3	2.2	4.3	-0.8	6.0	9.7	350	05	6.3	17	9.2	2.8	Fine bec cldy. Sct sleet & snow pellets am. Fair pm, isol rain shw rs eve				
Mon	5	1013.2	4.8	1.8	3.3	-0.1	5.9	9.5	020	08	7.2	19	1.5	1.4	Cldy. Wntry shw rs bec rain, clrng late am. Fair bec fine pm & eve. Xlnt viz & dry air pm				
Tue	6	1021.1	7.2	1.3	4.3	-1.8	5.2	9.3	310	06	9.4	31	3.7	5.0	Fair/fine bec cldy eve. Rain late eve. Xlnt viz & dry air				
Wed	7	1011.2	10.4	6.1	8.3	2.7	6.0	9.1	320	13	13.8	37	2.1	0.2	Cldy wth rain clrng by daw n. Rain, drz, mist & hill fog from mid pm				
Thu	8	1006.6	11.5	5.9	8.7	6.0	6.6	9.4	230	08	23.1	73	22.4	NIL	Cldy. Prstnt rain, mist & fog & drz pm. Gales from 1713z				
Fri	9	999.8	8.2	5.1	6.7	4.8	7.2	8.9	310	21	21.0	61	0.3	2.9	Cldy. Frqnt shw rs oc hail bec isol late am, fair pm, fine eve. Gale am				
Sat	10	1017.0	8.1	3.9	6.0	2.9	6.8	8.9	340	07	7.9	23	TR	6.5	Cldy wth early shw rs bec fair by daw n. Cldy eve. Xlnt viz				
Sun	11	1015.7	11.0	3.7	7.4	0.8	6.7	8.9	170	21	18.4	37	6.4	NIL	Cldy wth rain & drz by mid am, briefly clrng @ noon. Fog eve				
Mon	12	1004.6	11.6	9.8	10.7	7.9	7.7	8.9	190	12	12.7	25	5.1	1.3	Cldy wth rain clrng late am. Occn fair pm				
Tue	13	1005.3	10.7	9.6	10.2	7.3	8.0	8.9	190	11	9.0	23	7.8	NIL	Cldy wth rain & drz. Mist & fog pm & eve				
Wed	14	1013.0	10.7	8.2	9.5	8.2	8.5	9.0	110	07	9.1	26	7.2	0.3	Cldy wth rain, drz, mist & fog clrng for a time pm				
Thu	15	1002.0	9.8	7.9	8.9	7.3	8.7	9.1	160	19	14.9	33	18.4	NIL	Cloudy wth rain & drz, occn hvy. Clrng mid eve to shw rs				
Fri	16	1006.7	10.3	7.5	8.9	5.5	8.5	9.2	200	13	13.0	23	TR	5.2	Bec fine by daw n. Fair then cldy pm with light shw rs early eve				
Sat	17	1012.3	9.0	4.4	6.7	5.7	8.3	9.3	170	09	8.1	17	0.3	1.8	Cldy bec fair late pm & eve				
Sun	18	1016.5	9.8	6.0	7.9	3.8	8.2	9.3	110	06	6.4	13	1.0	NIL	Cloudy wth patchy rain, drizzle and mist				
Mon	19	1013.4	10.0	8.3	9.2	8.1	8.7	9.4	190	07	7.7	20	0.2	0.4	Cldy wth rain, drz, mist & hill fog am, briefly clrng pm. Rain eve				
Tue	20	1006.8	9.8	6.7	8.3	6.2	8.6	9.4	160	24	19.1	40	15.4	1.1	Fair, soon bec cldy wth rain from mid pm occn hvy, clrng by eve				
Wed	21	986.9	10.3	7.0	8.7	5.2	8.4	9.4	170	28	19.7	41	5.2	NIL	Cldy wth rain occn hvy, drz & mist am. Shw rs & occn drz pm				
Thu	22	985.6	10.2	7.2	8.7	7.7	8.7	9.4	230	08	13.1	32	4.7	2.0	Cldy wth rain & drz am clrng to occn fair wth shw rs from noon				
Fri	23	978.6	8.5	6.9	7.7	5.6	8.7	9.4	150	19	24.0	45	TR	1.8	Cldy wth early rain clrng to fair wth shw rs am. Cldy pm & eve				
Sat	24	987.2	8.6	7.0	7.8	5.9	8.1	9.5	170	28	20.7	43	4.2	0.1	Cldy wth sct shw rs				
Sun	25	987.5	9.2	6.2	7.7	4.8	8.1	9.4	230	08	9.8	29	1.5	3.3	Cldy am with rain clrng to shw rs. Occn fair pm				
Mon	26	1000.5	9.2	4.2	6.7	1.9	7.8	9.4	170	06	11.5	40	14.2	NIL	Cldy wth rain from late pm, hvy & prstnt eve				
Tue	27	981.4	10.6	7.2	8.9	7.9	8.4	9.3	190	15	18.8	39	2.4	2.0	Cldy wth early rain. Occn fair pm, isol shw rs bec sct eve wth hail				
Wed	28	992.9	9.6	5.1	7.4	3.7	8.0	9.3	190	11	10.5	21	TR	6.7	Fair occn fine with pre daw n sct shw rs				
Thu	29	994.4	8.0	5.6	6.8	4.6	8.0	9.3	140	13	15.2	30	8.6	NIL	Cldy. Patchy rain & drz am. Prstnt rain & drz from mid pm, occn hvy				
Fri	30	989.8	10.1	6.7	8.4	4.9	8.0	9.3	190	13	15.7	40	7.2	0.5	Cldy wth shw rs or longer periods of rain, occn hvy				
Sat	31	996.8	10.2	7.1	8.7	4.3	7.9	9.2	200	12	10.3	22	5.5	5.9	Cldy bec fair/fine, turning cldy again late pm, wth sct shw rs				
MEAN 30 YEAR AVG 1991-2020	1003.3 1017.6	9.2 9.0	5.8 5.4	7.5 7.2	4.3 3.1	7.6 7.3	9.3 8.6	S SW	12.7 13.2	13.1 13.4	TOTAL /////	156.9 92.0	62.1 62.6	8th/9th - Storm 'Goretti' 23rd-25th - Storm 'Ingrid'					
EXTREMES ARE IN BOLD TYPE	NUMBER OF DAYS WITH	RAIN ≥0.2mm 27	WET ≥1.0mm 22	SNOW/ SLEET 2	HAIL 5	THUNDER 0	LGHTNG 0	AIR FROST 0	GROUND FROST 4	FOG 6	FOG 9a.m. 2	GALE 2	NO SUN 8	TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE					
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947														RAINFALL	156.9	mm	SUNSHINE	62.1	hrs
WETTEST DAY DAY/YEAR	35.8mm 11th/2001	DRIEST MONTH YEAR	15.4mm 1992	LOWEST MIN DAY/YEAR	-7.8°C 20th/1963	WARMEST MNTH YEAR	9.0°C 2007	SUNNIEST MNTH YEAR	112.8hrs 1998	RAIN DAYS	27	SUNLESS	8						
WETTEST MNTH YEAR	210.0mm 2001	HIGHEST MAX DAY/YEAR	13.3°C 4th/48,9th/07,2/24	LOWEST GRASS DAY/YEAR	-10.0°C 29th/1947	COLDEST MONTH YEAR	1.5°C 1963	DULLEST MNTH YEAR	26.0hrs 1966										