# Unseasonal weather brings thunderstorms and flooding across the UK



Unseasonal weather patterns have recently upended normal conditions across the United Kingdom, as forecasters reported approximately 400 lightning strikes and substantial rainfall wreaking havoc over the weekend. The chaotic weather system primarily affected southern England and the East Midlands, resulting in significant flooding and hazardous driving situations.

On Saturday, severe conditions prompted National Highways to close sections of the M18 in Yorkshire due to the relentless downpour. This disruption continued into Sunday as parts of the M40 near Warwick remained closed as authorities assessed unsafe conditions for motorists. The adverse weather has led the Environment Agency to issue flood alerts for 22 regions, which include areas such as north Hampshire, Salisbury, and Hertfordshire.

Meteorological data indicated thunderstorms in London and Buckinghamshire, extending into southern Lincolnshire and the eastern Midlands. “There were thunderstorms across the London and Buckinghamshire area, and then a few more across the eastern Midlands into southern parts of Lincolnshire. Rainfall totals mostly reached 10 to 15 millimetres, falling over periods of 20 minutes to an hour,” said Ellie Glaisyer.

This type of inclement weather is somewhat atypical for this time of year, as noted by Jonathan Vautrey, a meteorologist with the Met Office. He highlighted that the recent warmer temperatures—reportedly peaking at over 20 degrees Celsius—played a considerable role in fostering the thunderstorms. “For this time in the year, it is rarer to have such intense storms. This is happening because we have had a lot of warm weather of late and temperatures are notably above average for the time of year,” Vautrey observed.

He elaborated on the mechanics behind the storms, stating, “That sort of heat that we’ve got around at the moment has really helped to spark off some of these thunderstorms, and a lot of moisture being drawn in with this sort of low-pressure system that’s been arriving across the UK.” Acknowledging broader climatic trends, he noted, “We know that climate change is pushing our temperature extremes to new levels. We’re constantly seeing warmer temperatures at earlier points of the year compared to where they normally are. These sorts of intense summer storms are then increasingly going to happen at more points in the year because we’re getting those temperatures in there to really allow them to start developing.”

As for the immediate weather outlook, conditions are expected to gradually settle. The Met Office has indicated that low cloud and hill fog will be prevalent in much of England and Wales before lifting to reveal warmer, sunny spells. While southern England and Wales may enjoy a relatively dry night, rain will persist elsewhere, particularly in the north.

The forecast for the upcoming week suggests a largely dry and warm Wednesday, with precipitation and cooler temperatures returning by Thursday and Friday, creating a dynamic and fluctuating weather pattern that continues to capture attention across the country.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.gbnews.com/weather/uk-weather-hail-thunder-flooding-spring-equinox-march-2025> - This URL corroborates the article's claims about severe weather conditions in the UK, including hail, thunder, and flooding. It mentions the Met Office's observations on unusual storms during this time of year.
* <https://www.the-independent.com/weather/polar-vortex-collapse-uk-weather-snow-forecast-met-office-b2711983.html> - This URL supports the background of weather extremes and potential polar vortex collapse, which could bring severe cold weather to the UK. It discusses the Met Office's forecast and the impact of such events.
* <https://www.the-independent.com/weather/uk-weather-forecast-next-week-cold-b2711820.html> - This URL details the recent warm weather and the expected drop in temperatures across the UK. It also references the possibility of a polar vortex collapse affecting weather conditions.
* <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk-forecast> - While not directly mentioned in the article, this Met Office forecast page provides general information on UK weather conditions, including recent forecasts that could support the article's claims about fluctuating temperatures and weather patterns.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/weather> - Similar to the Met Office, this BBC weather page offers comprehensive weather updates and forecasts for the UK, potentially confirming details about unusual storms and flooding.