# UK hit by over 30,000 lightning strikes as storms cause widespread flooding and travel chaos



Powerful thunderstorms unleashed a dramatic display of nature across the UK, with over 30,000 lightning strikes recorded overnight as torrential rain led to widespread flooding and significant disruption. The Met Office noted that while most strikes occurred over the sea, landfall saw particularly severe effects, especially in Kent, where heavy rains prompted an amber weather warning. This winter-like deluge struck the region shortly after 10pm on Friday, inundating homes and leaving many residents of Dover grappling with flooded streets.

Social media platforms lit up with reports of devastation, depicting scenes where affected residents described the storm as the most ferocious they had ever experienced. One local recounted, “This area really got a direct hit. So much flooding across the Dover/Deal area and so many homes without power.” Others shared distressing accounts of water seeping into homes, accompanied by fears of sewage spills into local waters due to storm overflows.

The severity of the situation prompted Kent Police to close the A256 in Tilmanstone, where at least one driver was seen stranded on their vehicle's roof amid rising waters. Transport services were similarly impacted, with Stagecoach suspending operations between Dover and Canterbury due to the "severe flooding."

As the storms continued into Saturday morning, warnings persisted for heavy and thundery rain pushing northwards across the nation. Regions from Cornwall all the way to the East Midlands experienced this severe weather. While Kent grappled with flooding and blackouts, parts of the Midlands and North West England faced their own challenges. Notably, the M60 motorway in Greater Manchester was closed due to collisions linked to the hazardous conditions, with reports of vehicles trapped in floodwaters, and delays on the railways compounded the travel chaos.

In the midst of these developments, the annual Trooping the Colour ceremony loomed, where the King and the Princess of Wales were set to make public appearances. However, the threatening weather remains a potential disruptor for this royal event, particularly if conditions do not improve.

As the remnants of the storm persisted, the Met Office forecast indicated that while sunnier spells may develop in southern areas, the threat of scattered heavy downpours and thunderstorms continues. This volatile weather pattern not only reflects seasonal extremes but is part of a troubling trend, as increased rainfall events have been linked to broader climate shifts.

The weather’s ferocity in recent days serves as a reminder of the escalating challenges posed by such extreme conditions. With parts of the UK already vulnerable to flooding—previously seen during severe weather events this year—the need for robust infrastructure and immediate response measures is underscored. The nation's ability to recover from these meteorological onslaughts will be tested thoroughly in the coming days.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/uk-hit-by-30000-lightning-strikes-as-storms-cause-flooding-and-disruption-UM66ZKJZLRPV7NV52BN6Q6FCN4/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/uk-hit-by-30000-lightning-strikes-as-storms-cause-flooding-and-disruption-UM66ZKJZLRPV7NV52BN6Q6FCN4/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/uk-hit-by-30000-lightning-strikes-as-storms-cause-flooding-and-disruption-UM66ZKJZLRPV7NV52BN6Q6FCN4/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/uk-hit-by-30000-lightning-strikes-as-storms-cause-flooding-and-disruption-UM66ZKJZLRPV7NV52BN6Q6FCN4/), [[5]](https://www.yourweather.co.uk/news/trending/uk-weather-strikes-again-with-thunderstorms-and-floods.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/england-thunder-birmingham-peterborough-stokeontrent-b2616965.html), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/environment/england-thunder-birmingham-peterborough-stokeontrent-b1183404.html), [[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_United_Kingdom_floods)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.yourweather.co.uk/news/trending/uk-weather-strikes-again-with-thunderstorms-and-floods.html), [[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_United_Kingdom_floods)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/uk-hit-by-30000-lightning-strikes-as-storms-cause-flooding-and-disruption-UM66ZKJZLRPV7NV52BN6Q6FCN4/), [[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_in_the_United_Kingdom)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/uk-hit-by-30000-lightning-strikes-as-storms-cause-flooding-and-disruption-UM66ZKJZLRPV7NV52BN6Q6FCN4/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/uk-hit-by-30000-lightning-strikes-as-storms-cause-flooding-and-disruption-UM66ZKJZLRPV7NV52BN6Q6FCN4/> - The UK experienced over 30,000 lightning strikes overnight as powerful thunderstorms swept across the country. The Met Office reported that most lightning occurred over the sea, but torrential downpours led to significant flooding and disruption in Kent. A major storm reached Kent around 10pm on Friday, prompting an amber weather warning and causing homes in Dover to flood. Social media users reported widespread blackouts due to the flooding. The Met Office issued yellow warnings for heavy and thundery rain continuing to move northwards across the country. The storms coincided with preparations for the royal family's Trooping the Colour event in London, which could be affected if weather conditions did not improve.
3. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/england-thunder-birmingham-peterborough-stokeontrent-b2616965.html> - The UK experienced widespread thunderstorms, starting in Cornwall and moving through central regions towards the north-east of London, then up through Birmingham and the East Midlands. Around midnight, a 'plume' of activity was observed near Northampton, Peterborough, and Leicester. Local residents captured lightning strikes in areas like Great Oakley, Corby, Northamptonshire. The storms led to road closures in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire due to flooding, and travel disruptions on railway lines between Penzance and London Paddington, as well as between Penzance and Truro, after flooding affected tracks between Redruth and Camborne. Between 2pm on Saturday and 7am on Sunday, Longcliffe in Derbyshire received 67.6mm of rain, while Creswell in Staffordshire and Evington in Leicestershire received 65mm and 60.4mm respectively.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/environment/england-thunder-birmingham-peterborough-stokeontrent-b1183404.html> - The UK experienced widespread thunderstorms, starting in Cornwall and moving through central regions towards the north-east of London, then up through Birmingham and the East Midlands. Around midnight, a 'plume' of activity was observed near Northampton, Peterborough, and Leicester. Local residents captured lightning strikes in areas like Great Oakley, Corby, Northamptonshire. The storms led to road closures in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire due to flooding, and travel disruptions on railway lines between Penzance and London Paddington, as well as between Penzance and Truro, after flooding affected tracks between Redruth and Camborne. Between 2pm on Saturday and 7am on Sunday, Longcliffe in Derbyshire received 67.6mm of rain, while Creswell in Staffordshire and Evington in Leicestershire received 65mm and 60.4mm respectively.
5. <https://www.yourweather.co.uk/news/trending/uk-weather-strikes-again-with-thunderstorms-and-floods.html> - The UK experienced thunderstorms and heavy rainfall, leading to flooding in parts of North West England, particularly Greater Manchester. The M60 motorway was temporarily closed due to a collision and flooding, with cars stranded in floodwaters. Train services between Manchester Victoria station and Southport were delayed. Flood alerts were also in place for parts of Leicestershire, with heavy rainfall warnings applying to large parts of the country, especially the North West of England and South West of Scotland. The Met Office announced a yellow weather warning for thunderstorms on Tuesday.
6. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_United_Kingdom_floods> - In early January 2025, the United Kingdom experienced severe flooding due to heavy rainfall. On 1 January, around 137 flood warnings were issued across England, Scotland, and Wales, with extensive flooding affecting parts of North West England, especially Greater Manchester. A major incident was declared by Greater Manchester Police in response to flooding across Bolton, Didsbury, Harpurhey, Stalybridge, Stockport, and Wigan, as well as parts of Cheshire and Lancashire. The Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service reported attending over 100 incidents and evacuating almost 1,000 people due to the floods. Flooding also occurred in Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside, and Yorkshire, with significant impacts on transportation and infrastructure.
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_in_the_United_Kingdom> - In 2025, the United Kingdom experienced various significant events, including severe weather incidents. On 6 June, the Met Office issued a yellow weather warning for thunderstorms and torrential rain covering large areas of England and Wales for Saturday 7 June. The storms led to widespread flooding and disruption, particularly in Kent, where a major storm reached the county around 10pm on Friday, prompting an amber weather warning and causing homes in Dover to flood. Social media users reported widespread blackouts due to the flooding. The Met Office issued yellow warnings for heavy and thundery rain continuing to move northwards across the country. The storms coincided with preparations for the royal family's Trooping the Colour event in London, which could be affected if weather conditions did not improve.