



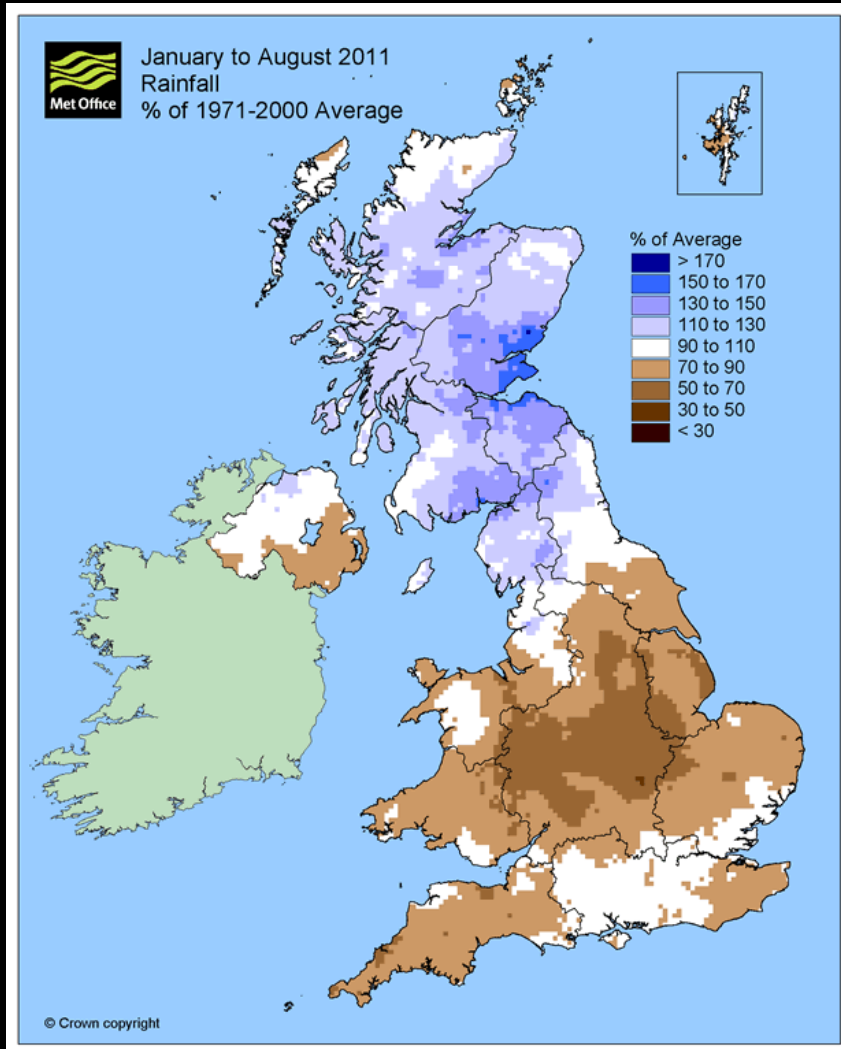
# Spring Weather 2011

A review

Karl Kitchen, Wildfire 2011, Buxton, September, 2011



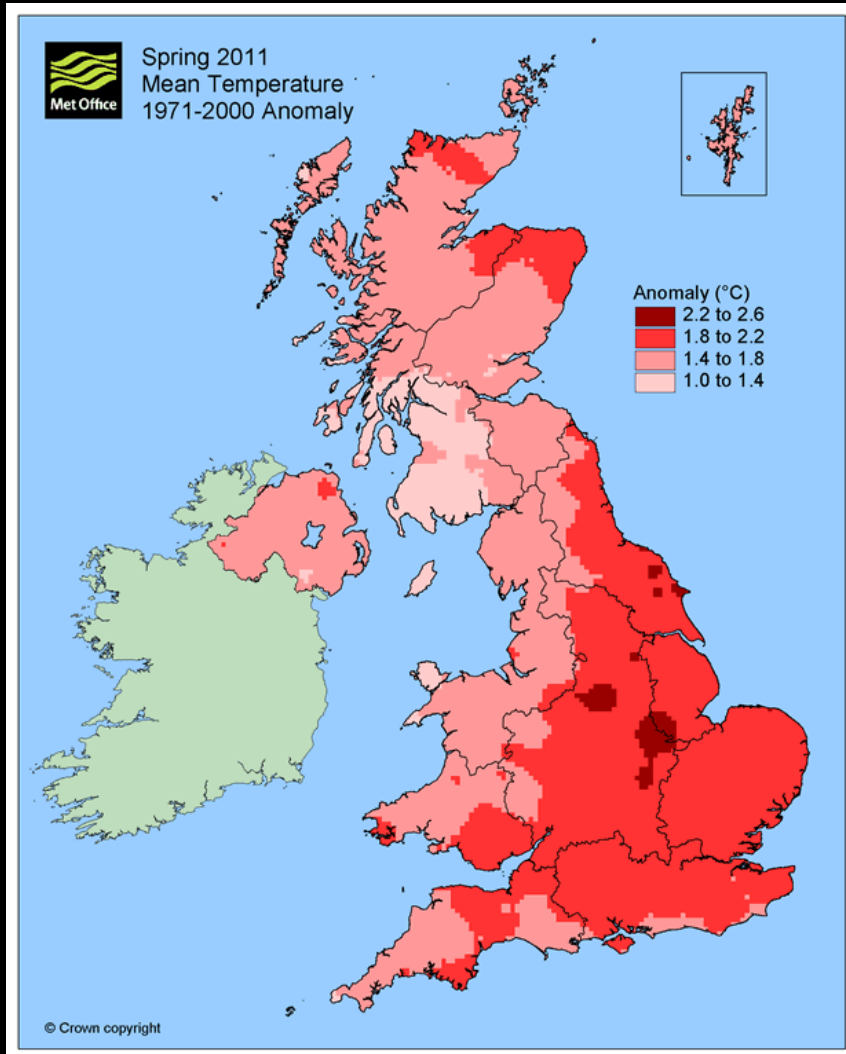
# A Dry Year in The South



- UK sees average rainfall overall.
- Pronounced North-South divide.
- Midlands is the driest since 1976.
- Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Shropshire all < 65% LTA.
- 5<sup>th</sup> wettest period for Scotland since 1910.



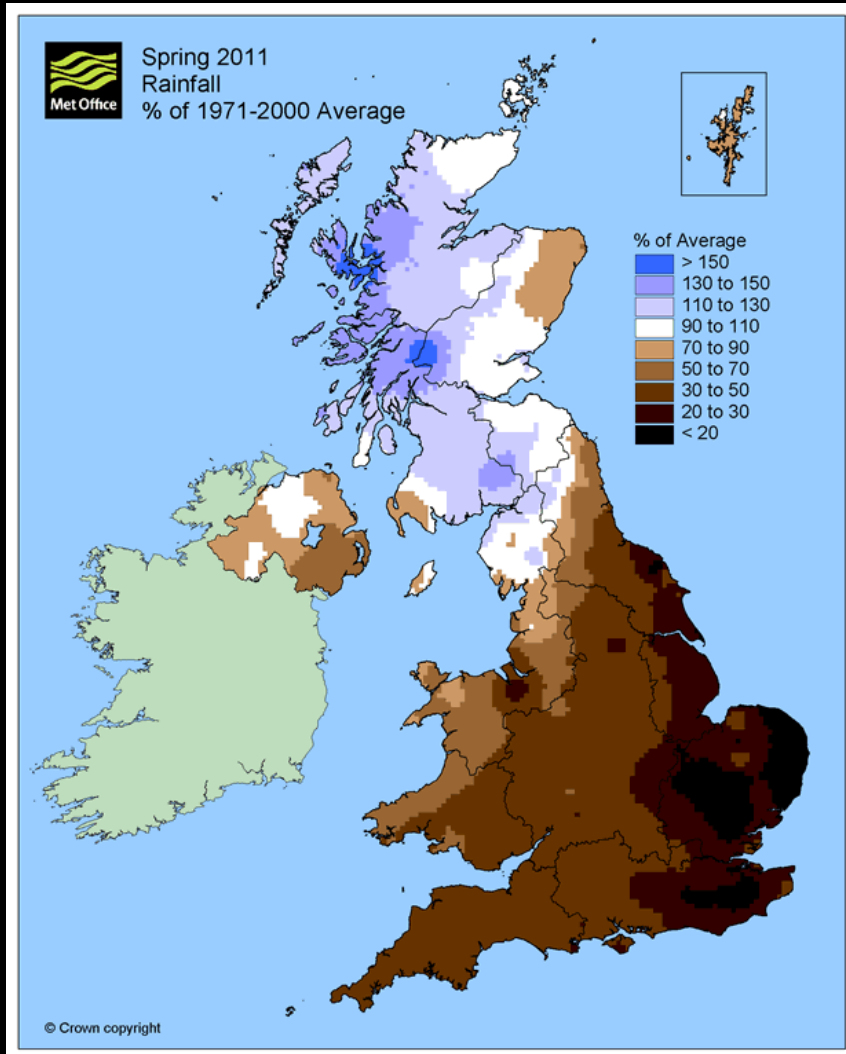
# Spring 2011 - Temperature



- March 1 – May 31.
- Equal warmest Spring for one hundred years for UK.
- Equal warmest Central England Temperature for three hundred and fifty years (matching 1893).



# Spring 2011 - Rainfall

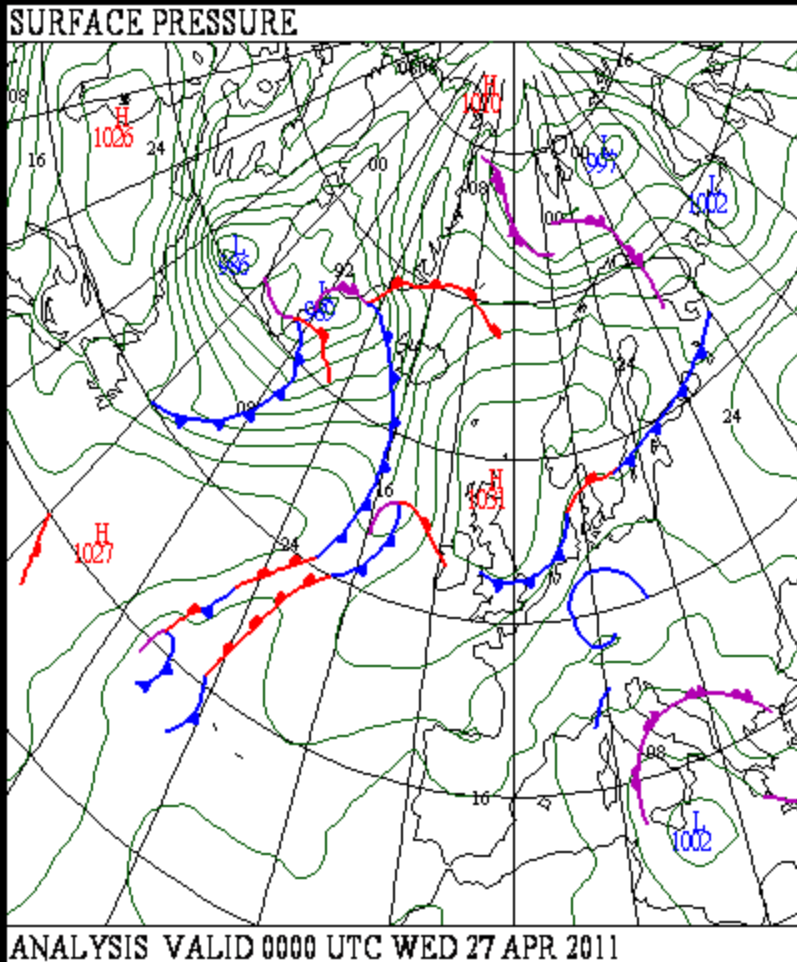


- Western Scotland wetter than average due to May rainfall.
- Eastern England < 30% rainfall.
- Parts of East Anglia < 20% rainfall.
- Equal-driest England and Wales Spring for one hundred years (matching 1990)



Met Office

# A Superlative April

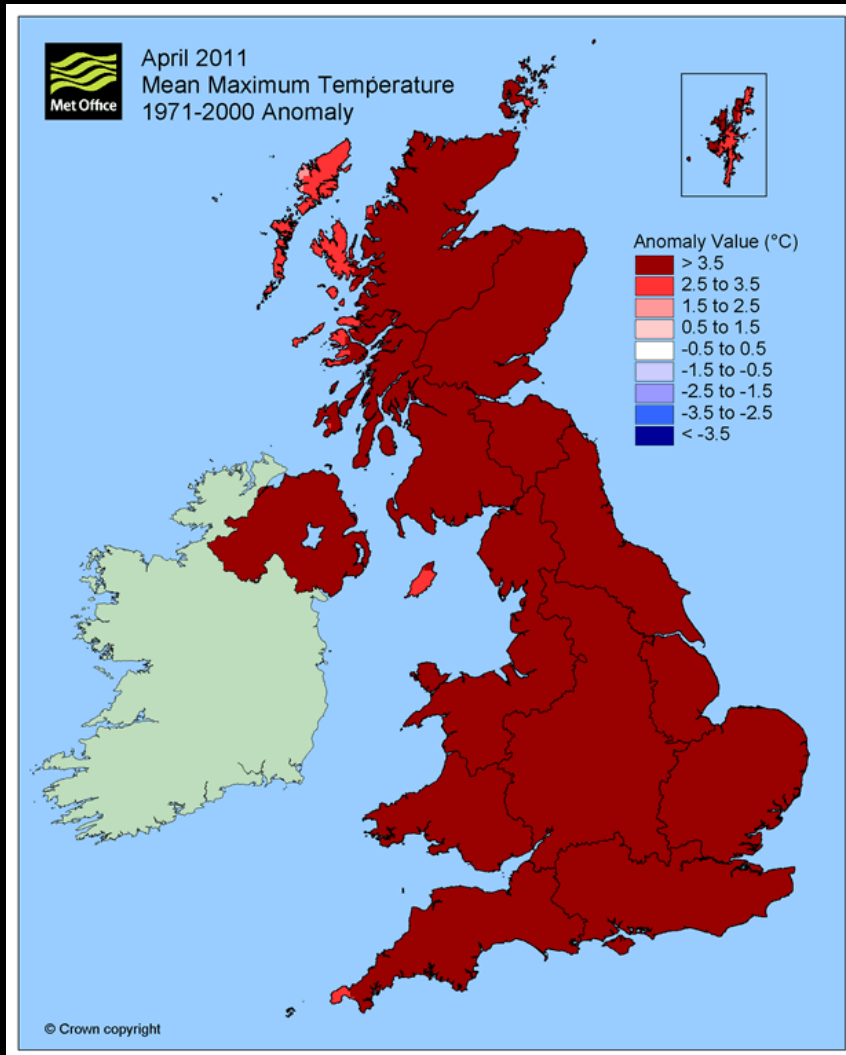


- Area of high pressure over or near the UK for much of April.
- Very warm.
- Very dry.
- Very Sunny.
- Accompanied by spells of high winds.



Met Office

# April 2011 - Temperature



- Warmest April across UK for one hundred years.
- Average temperature 3.7°C higher than LTA.
- 27.8°C recorded at Wisely, Surrey.
- Central England Temperature warmest for three hundred and fifty years.
- Max temperature > 6°C higher than average in South East.

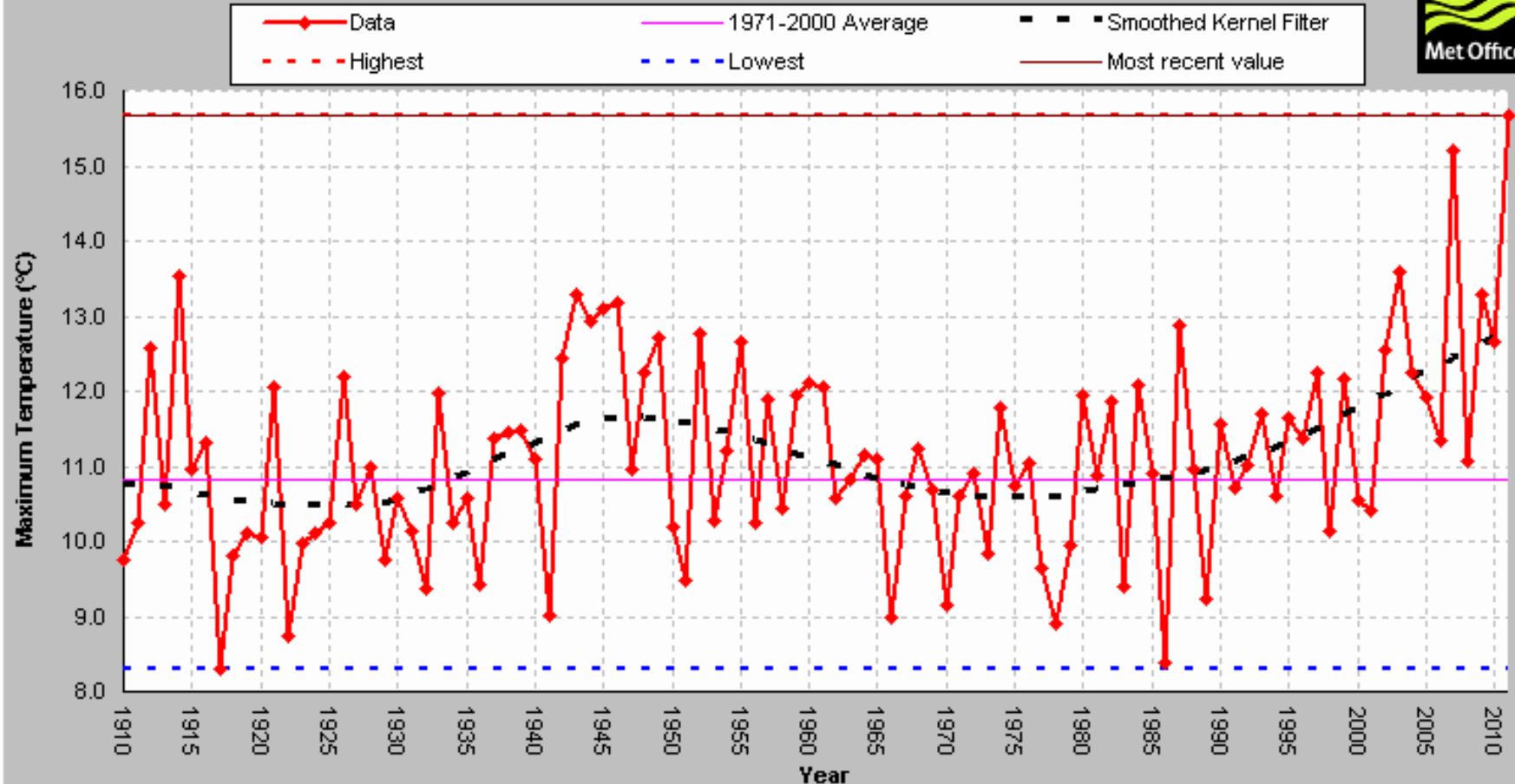


Met Office

# April 2011 - Temperature

All values are final

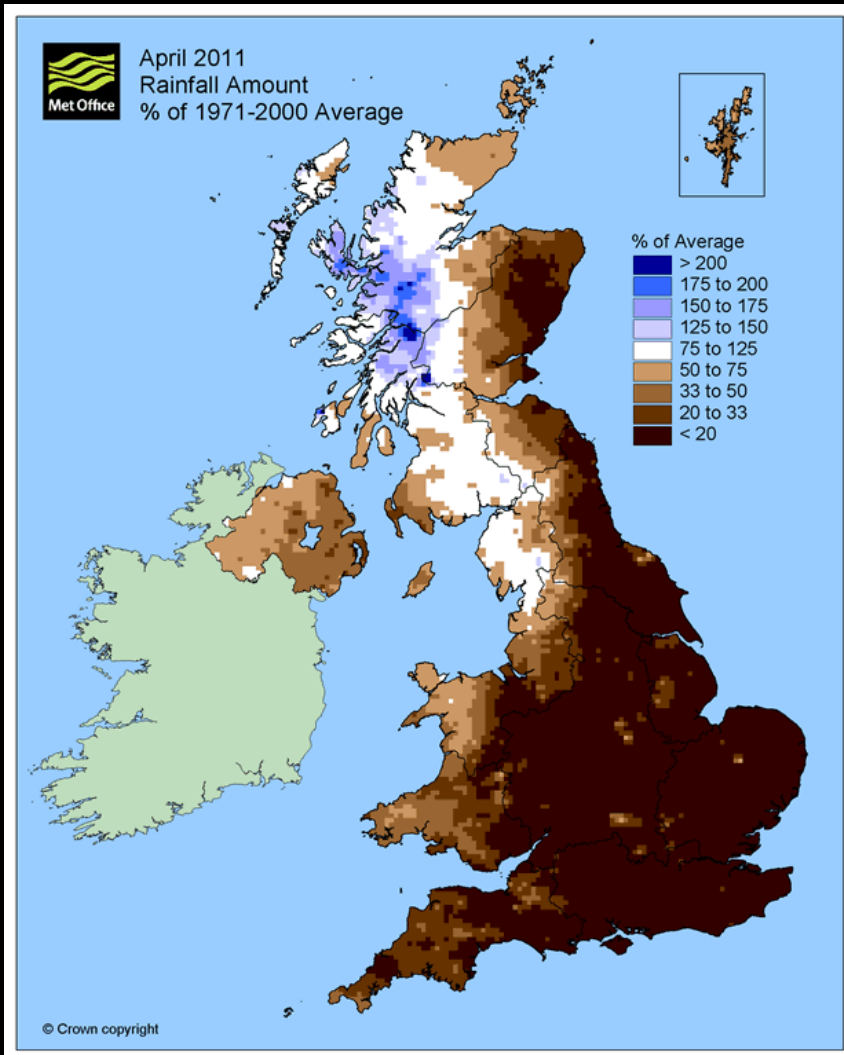
Maximum Temperature - April - UK





Met Office

# April 2011 - Rainfall

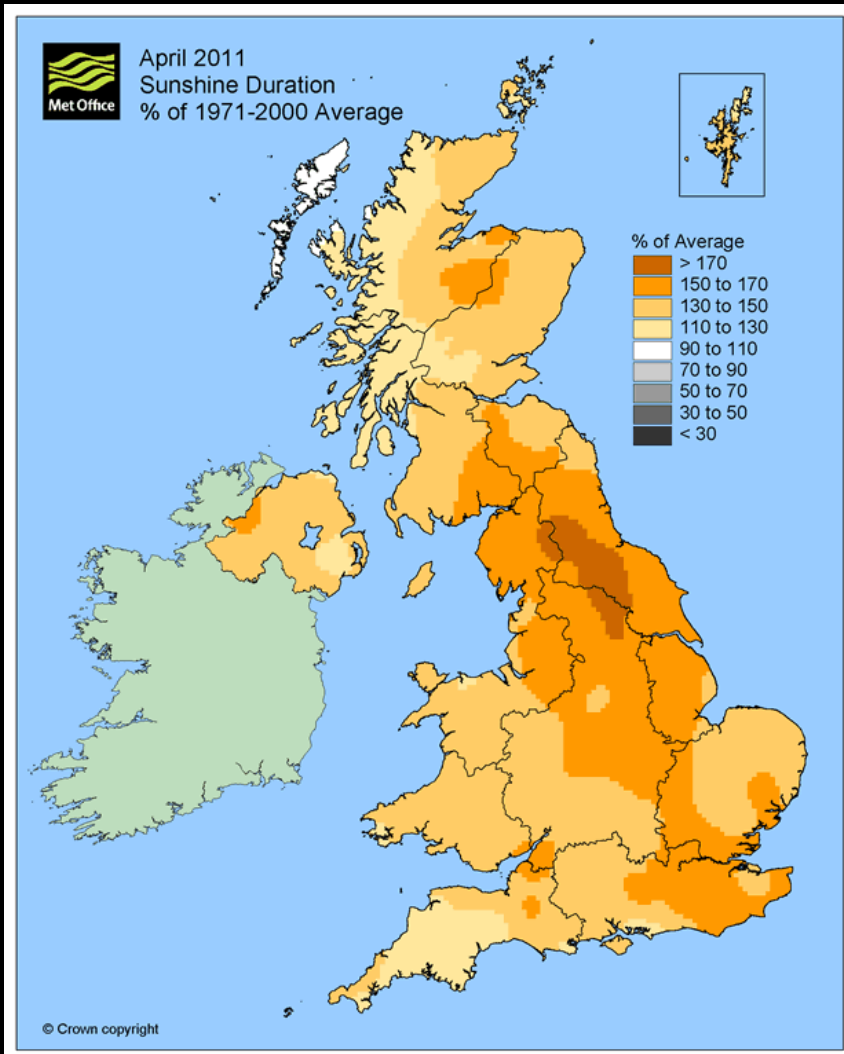


- Western Scotland near or above LTA rainfall.
- Central and Eastern England saw <10% of LTA average.
- 6<sup>th</sup> driest April in England for one hundred years.
- Many parts of eastern England saw <1mm rainfall.



Met Office

# April 2011 - Sunshine

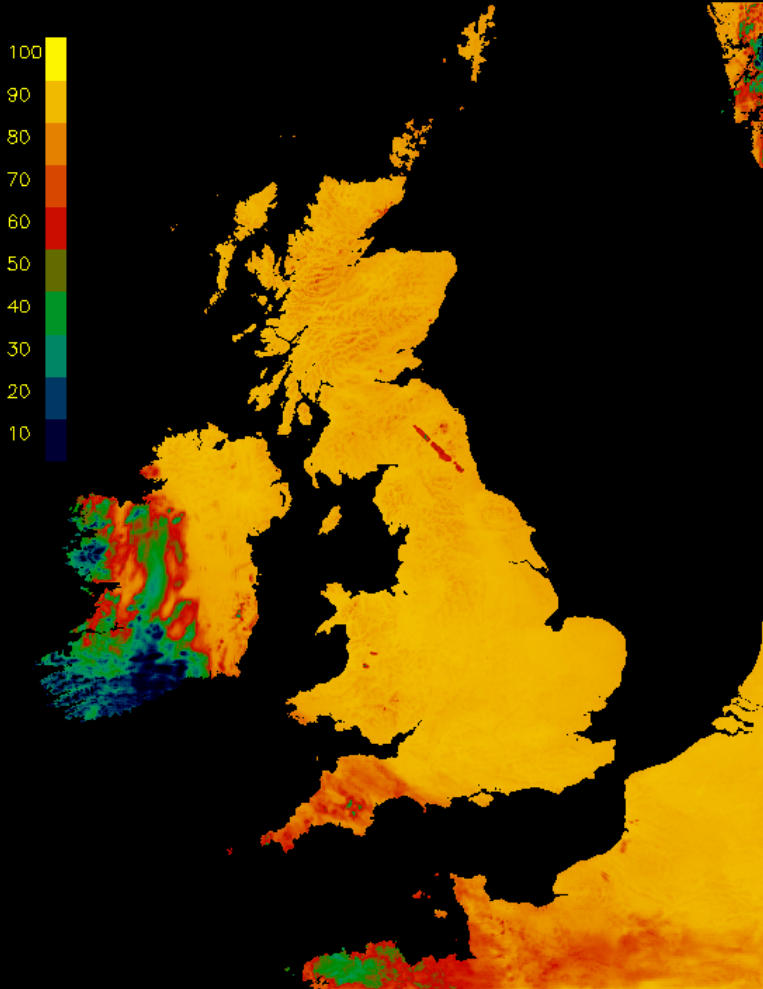


- High pressure ensured clear skies.
- Generally more than 150% sunshine hours across the UK.
- Sunniest April in England & Scotland and Northern Ireland since 1929.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> sunniest April for Wales.
- Solar heating encourages drying of fine fuels.



# Early May – Ignition Potential

FFMC (ukpp) Produced:04/05/2011 Valid:04/05/2011



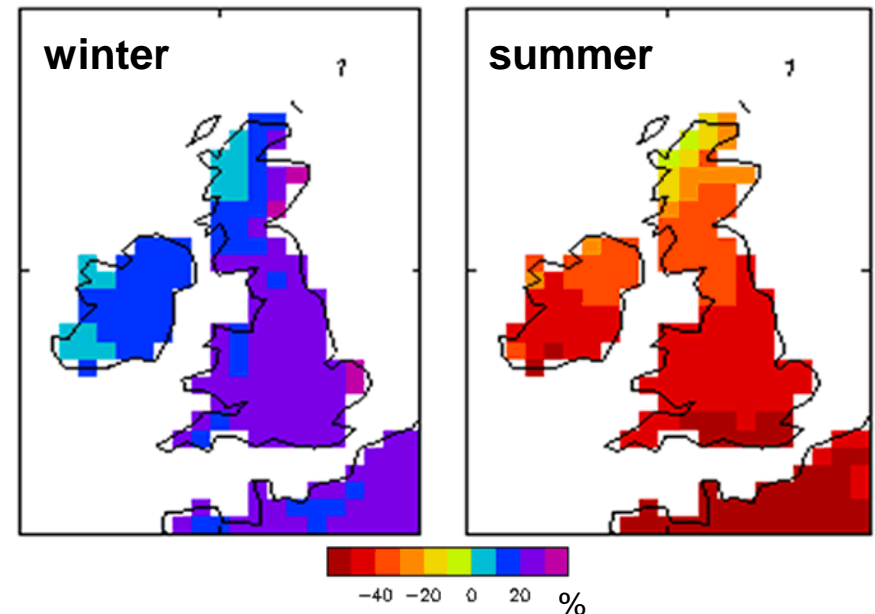
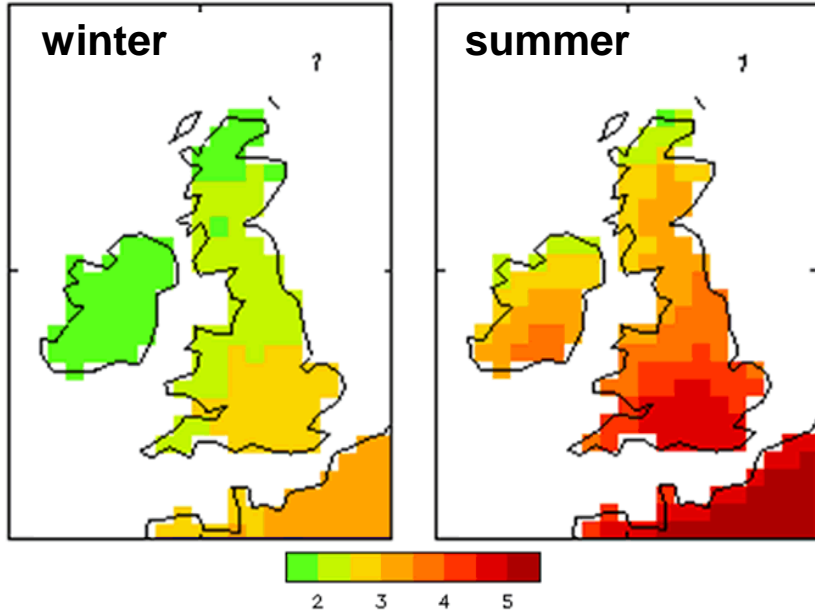
- Extremely high values across the whole of the UK.





# The future

## UK temperature change

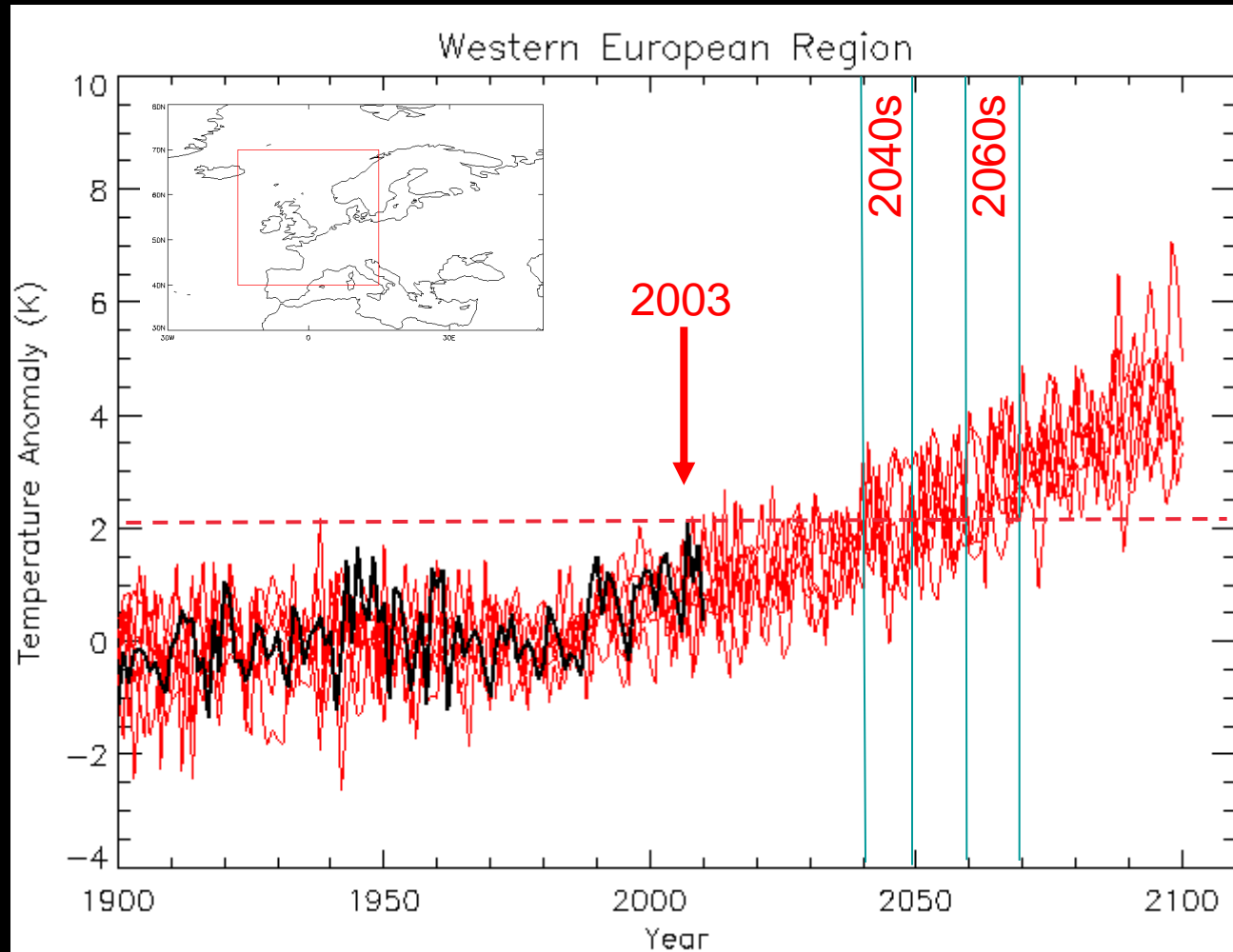


## UK precipitation change



# Western Europe - Spring

- Black line: observations (HadCRUT3) up to 2010
- Red line: an ensemble of projections being prepared for the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) AP5 report





# Questions & answers