Storm Jorge

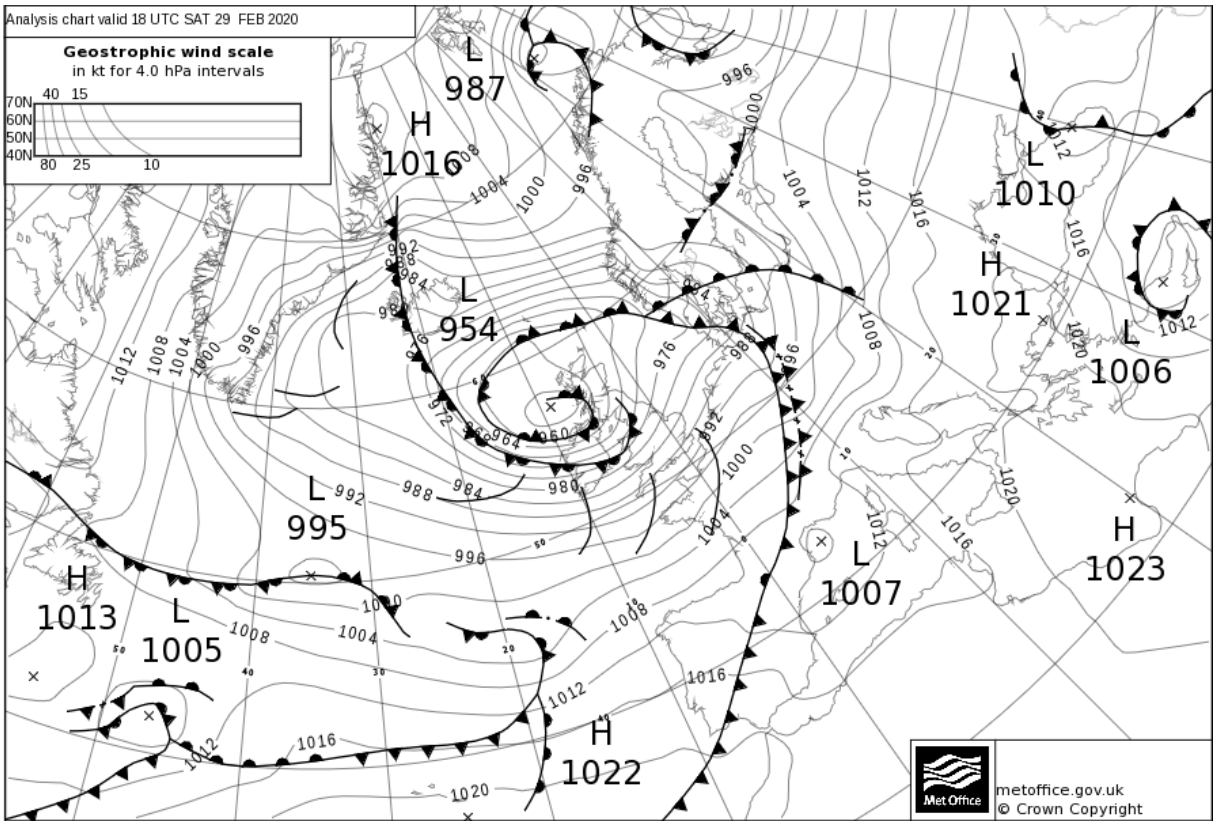
Storm Jorge was the fifth named storm of the 2019/2010 season. Jorge was named by the Spanish meteorological service and brought strong winds and heavy rain across the UK from 28 February to 1 March.

Impacts

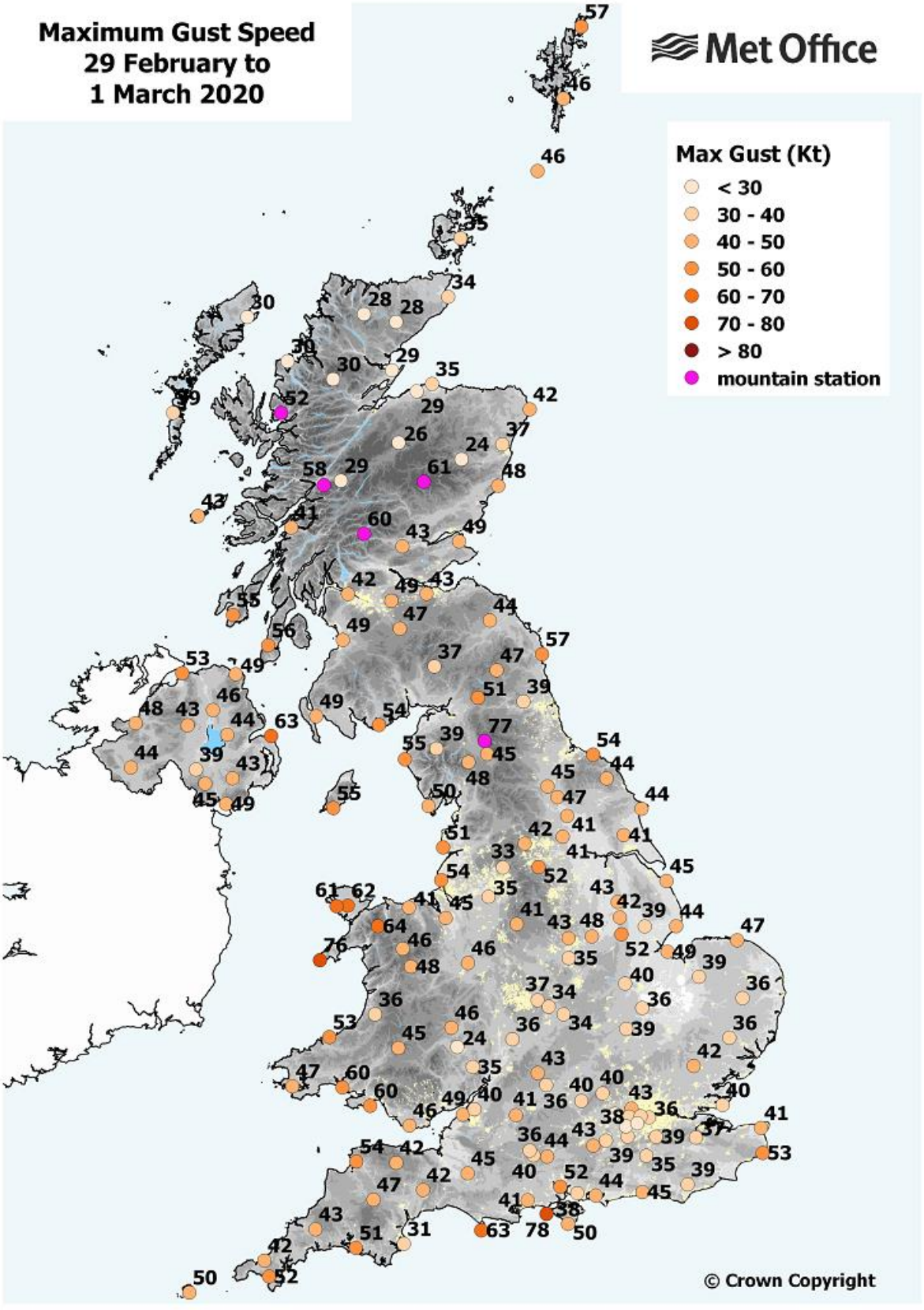
Weather impacts from storm Jorge were in general less severe than from storms Ciara and Dennis, but flooding problems continued in the aftermath of these earlier storms and as a result of further rain falling on already saturated ground. The railway line between Cardiff and Swansea as closed and there were reports of further localised flooding. The M4 in west Wales and was closed due to strong winds. Flooding problems from the exceptionally wet February continued across parts of Yorkshire.

Weather data

The analysis chart at 18 UTC 29 February 2020 shows storm Jorge centred to the west of Scotland.

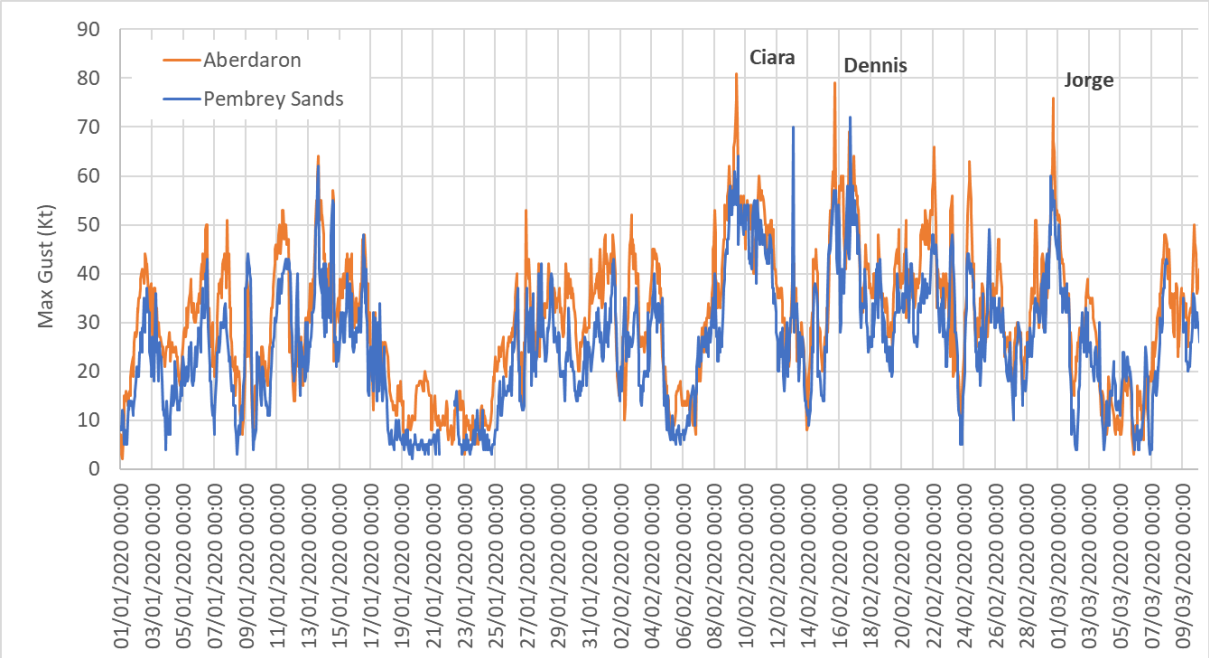


The map below shows maximum gust speeds from storm Jorge. Winds gusted at over 60 Kt (69 mph) around some exposed coastlines. The highest gusts were 78 Kt (90 mph) at Needles Old Battery, Isle of Wight, 76 Kt (87 mph) at Aberdaron, Lleyn Peninsula, 64 Kt (74 mph) at Capel Curig, Conwy and 63 Kt (72 mph) at Orlock Head, County Down and Isle of Portland, Dorset.

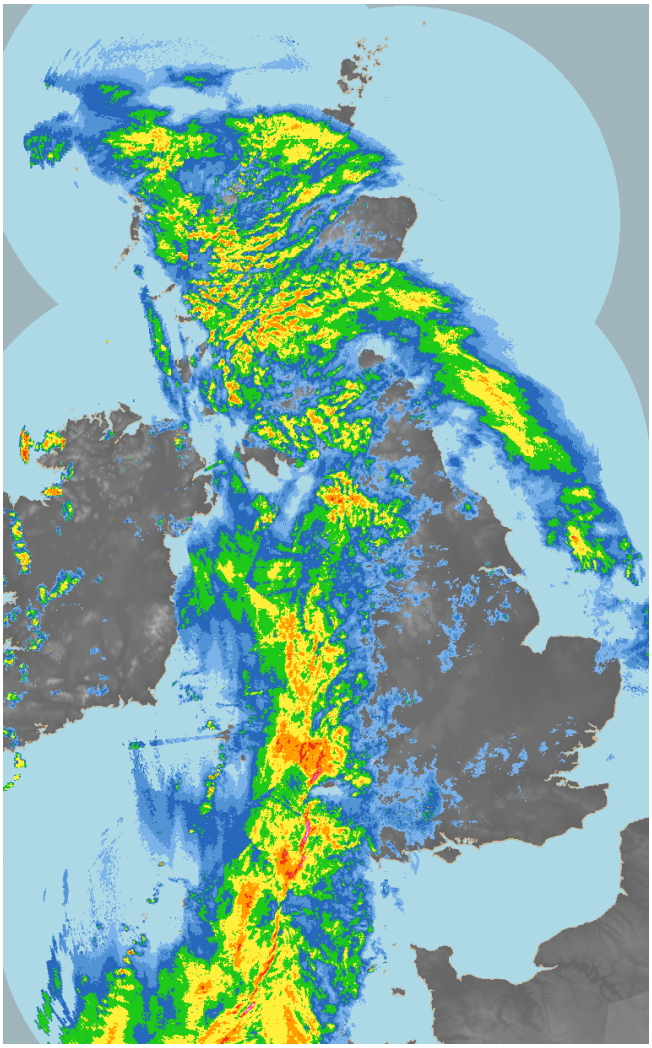


The chart below shows hourly maximum gust speeds for January, February and early March 2020 at Aberdaron, Lleyn Peninsula and Pembrey Sands, Dyfed, with the spikes in gust speeds at Aberdaron associated with storms Ciara, Dennis and Jorge. The chart also illustrates the

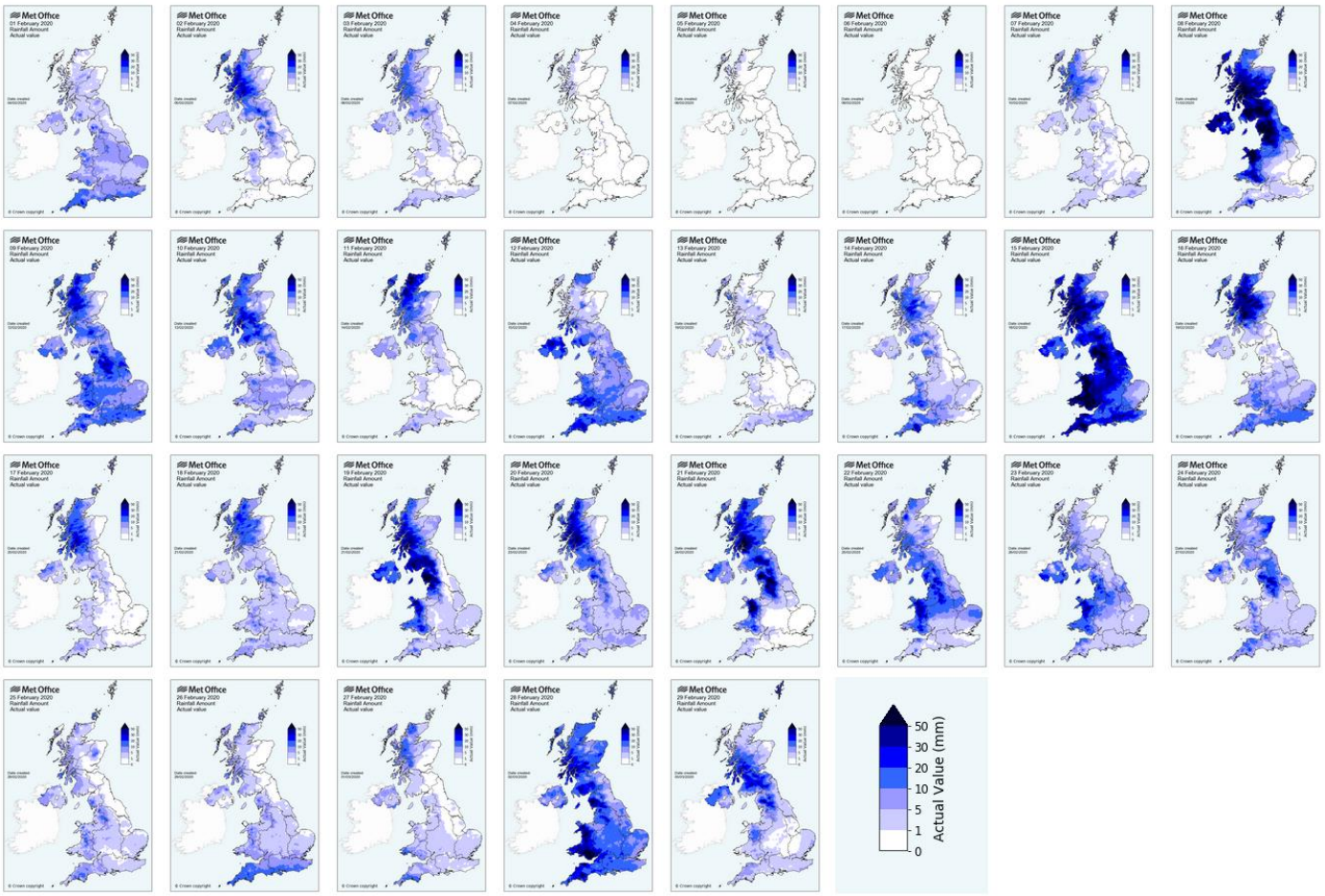
persistently windy nature of the weather throughout much of February, associated with a powerful Atlantic jet stream and winds at these locations often gusting at 40 to 50 Kt or higher.



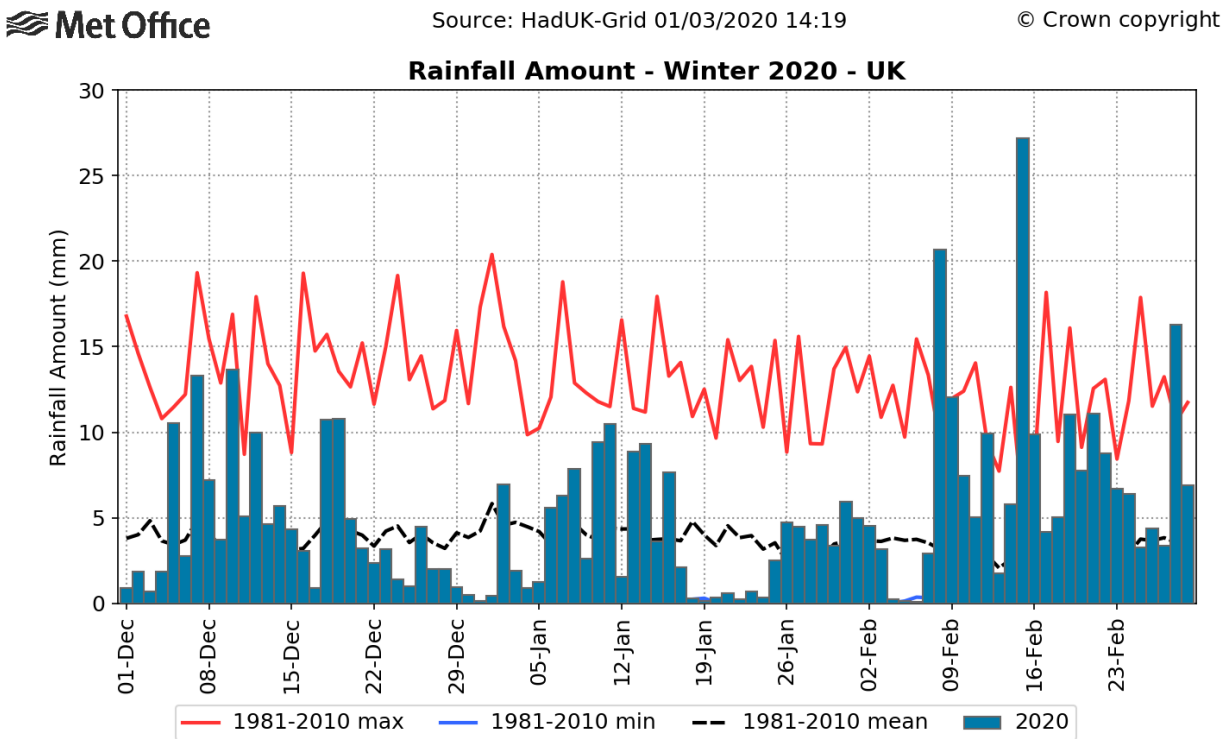
The rain-radar images at 0230 UTC 29 February 2020 shows heavy rain from fronts associated with Jorge sweeping across the UK ahead of the strongest winds, with the wettest weather across western upland areas of England and Wales and over 50 mm falling across these areas.



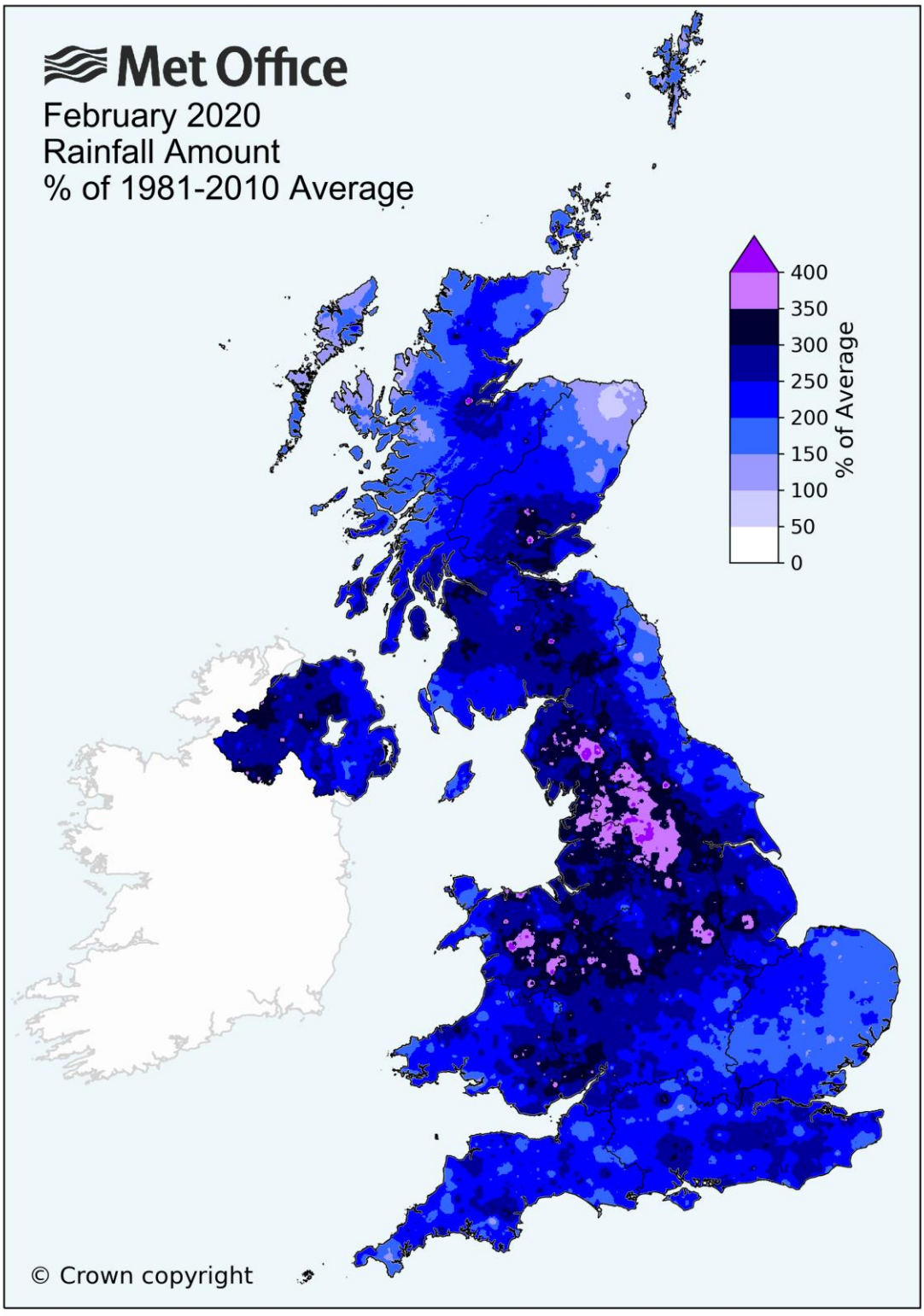
The panel of maps below shows daily rainfall totals through February 2020, with particularly wet days from Ciara (8th), Dennis (15th) and Jorge (28th).



The chart below shows UK area-average rainfall totals for each day of winter 2020 (December 2019 to February 2020 inclusive), illustrating the persistently wet nature of the weather from early February onwards, with the three peaks associated with these three named storms.



The provisional UK rainfall total was 209.1mm, 237% of the 1981-2010 average. This was the UK's wettest February and the fifth-wettest calendar month on record in a series from 1862. It was also the wettest February in the long-running England and Wales precipitation series from 1766.The map below shows UK rainfall totals for February 2020 as a percentage of the 1981-2010 February long-term average. Most of the UK received over twice the monthly average rainfall, with three times the average falling fairly widely and locally up to four times the average rainfall across parts of the south Pennines.



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