



In the summertime...



Summer in Essex

- Average maximum temperature: 21 or 22°C
- Average minimum temperature: 12°C
- Average days with thunderstorms: 8 days
- All of these amongst the highest in the UK



Summer weather in Essex

High temperatures in the County:

- In 2013: 33°C on 1 August
- In 2011: 32°C on 27 June
- In 2006: 31°C on 19 July



Summer in Essex

- Highest temperatures occur when the wind blows in from the near continent
- Essex and its proximity to continental Europe, means that the County is close to the source of hot 'tropical continental' air masses which sometimes feed in from the south or east
- Coasts in Essex are less hot than inland areas with a sea breeze – as sea temperatures are in the range of 14 to 19°C through the summer months



Summer heat

- Summer 2003 was a record breaking summer
- Temperatures exceeded 30°C in Essex between 6 and 10 August
- High temperatures led to an increase in heat related fatalities
- August 2003 heatwave instigated the formation of the Heat-Health Watch service



Heat-Health Watch

- Produced by the Met Office in association with Public Health England
- Service runs between 1 June and 15 September each year
- Operates on four levels...



Heat-health Watch

- **Level One:** *Heatwave and Summer preparedness*
- **Level Two:** *Heatwave is forecast – Alert and readiness: 60% risk of heatwave in the next 2 or 3 days*
- **Level Three:** *Heatwave action: temperature reached in one or more of the Met Office National Severe Weather Warning regions*
- **Level Four:** *Major incident – emergency response: Central Government will declare a Level 4 in the event of severe or prolonged heatwave affecting sectors other than health*



Heat-health Watch

In Essex, the trigger temperature sequence is:

- A daytime maximum of 30°C or higher
- Followed by a night-time minimum of 15°C or higher
- Followed by a second daytime maximum of 30°C or higher



Useful links

- Met Office Heat-health forecast website link:
- <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/heat-health/#?tab=heatHealth>

- Public Health England heatwave advice link:
- <http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/EmergencyResponse/ExtremeWeatherEventsAndNaturalDisasters/Heatwaves/>

- Age UK website advice link:
- <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/health-wellbeing/keeping-your-body-healthy/staying-cool-in-a-heatwave/the-sun-and-skin-health/>



In addition to...

...and separate from the Heat-Health Watch:

- Met Office Alerts and Warnings for severe weather available through:
- TV and radio broadcasts
- Met Office website and app



Impact Matrix – the colour of an Alert or Warning

- Colour determined by combination of likelihood and impact
- Matrix below shows a high likelihood of a medium impact event produces an AMBER warning





Severe Weather Warnings Colour Codes



NO SEVERE WEATHER EXPECTED

Keep up to date with latest forecast



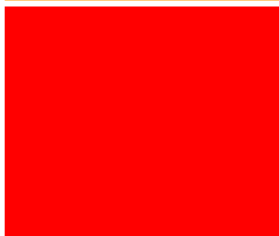
BE AWARE

Remain alert and keep up to date with latest forecast



BE PREPARED

Remain vigilant, keep up to date with latest forecast and take precautions where possible



TAKE ACTION

Remain extra vigilant, keep up to date with latest forecast. Follow orders and any advice given by authorities and be prepared for extraordinary measures



Alerts and Warnings for...

- Snow
- Ice
- Strong Winds
- Fog
- Heavy Rain





Impacts

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/advice/>

	Very Low	Low	Medium	High
Impact and advice applying to ALL SEVERE WEATHER	The weather is not expected to have any noticeable impacts but there may be some minor issues e.g. when travelling some extra care may be needed on occasions and there may be some disruption to outdoor events	BE AWARE. More widespread snow lying on roads and pavements but road networks generally open. Care needed with only localised travel disruption. Problems mostly confined to usual prone areas. Take extra care when walking, cycling or driving in affected areas. Journeys through affected areas may take longer than usual.	BE PREPARED. Take precautions where possible and ensure you access the latest weather forecast. BE PREPARED for some disruption to normal daily routines. Travel only if well prepared and BE PREPARED for longer journey times.	TAKE precautionary ACTION and remain extra vigilant. Follow orders and any advice given by authorities under all circumstances. Ensure you access the latest weather forecast. EXPECT significant disruption to normal daily routines. Avoid all non-essential journeys. If you must make a journey carry emergency food/ clothing/ blanket etc.

There are impacts specific to rain, wind, snow, ice and fog.



Impacts

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/advice/>

	Very Low	Low	Medium	High
Impact and advice associated with RAIN	<p>Some flooding of low lying fields, recreational land and car parks but little or no disruption to travel.</p> <p>Wet road surfaces and possibility of ponding water leading to difficult driving conditions.</p> <p>Take extra care when driving in affected areas.</p>	<p>Localised flooding of low lying fields, recreational land and car parks.</p> <p>Flooding of a small number of homes and businesses.</p> <p>Wet road surfaces and possibility of ponding water, especially in known trouble spots.</p> <p>Local disruption to travel - longer journey times.</p> <p>Water on roads - drive according to the conditions encountered.</p>	<p>Some flooding of homes, businesses and transport links possible.</p> <p>Disruption to travel likely.</p> <p>Disruption to gas, electricity, water supplies and telecoms.</p> <p>Some evacuations may be required. Be prepared to protect yourself and your property</p>	<p>Widespread flooding of property.</p> <p>Severe disruption to travel.</p> <p>Loss of gas, electricity, water supplies.</p> <p>Significant disruption to communities.</p> <p>Evacuation expected.</p> <p>Significant risk to life.</p> <p>Take action to protect yourself and follow the advice of the emergency services.</p>



Impacts

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/advice/>

	Very Low	Low	Medium	High
Impact and advice associated with WIND	<p>Debris dislodged and some branches removed.</p> <p>Perhaps some very limited travel disruption.</p> <p>Difficulties on some prone routes e.g. cross winds on exposed or high level roads.</p>	<p>Some branches or trees brought down.</p> <p>Localised travel disruption.</p> <p>Localised problems for high-sided vehicles on prone routes.</p> <p>Drive with care, especially on exposed routes.</p> <p>BE AWARE of possible debris being blown around.</p>	<p>More widespread tree damage & other debris, slates etc dislodged from roofs.</p> <p>Some minor structural damage possible.</p> <p>Risk of injury from flying debris.</p> <p>BE PREPARED for some travel disruption e.g. closed bridges.</p> <p>Potential for some localised interruptions to power.</p>	<p>Widespread structural damage, e.g. roofs blown off, mobile homes overturned, power lines brought down.</p> <p>Risk to personal safety from flying debris.</p> <p>Potentially widespread and/or prolonged interruptions to power.</p> <p>Expect widespread transport disruption due to e.g. roads blocked by fallen trees.</p>

Warnings on the website



The screenshot shows the Met Office website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Public', 'Products and services', and 'Research'. Below this is the Met Office logo and a search bar. A prominent banner at the top of the main content area reads 'Yellow warning of severe weather has been issued'. Below the banner, a list of regions affected by the warning is displayed: 'East Midlands, East of England, London & South East England, North East England, North West England, South West England, Wales, West Midlands, Yorkshire & Humber'. The website is divided into several columns. The left column contains a 'Change location' panel with a search bar and a list of 'Recently viewed locations' including Aylesbury, London, Brighton, Oxford, and Grays. Below this is a 'Five day forecast' panel for Aylesbury, showing weather icons, temperatures, and wind speeds for Thursday through Monday. The middle column features a 'UK weather' panel with a map of the United Kingdom showing weather icons across different regions. The right column contains a 'News' section with articles such as 'August Bank Holiday weather' and 'A forecaster's perspective on Eton Dorney'. At the bottom right, there is a 'Features' section with an image of a cyclist.

Lists regions affected by the warning

Indicates any warnings issued

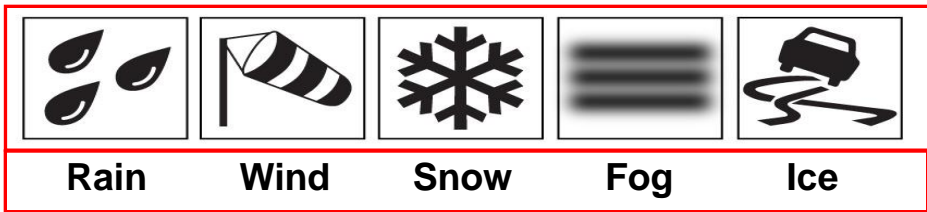


Warnings page – National view

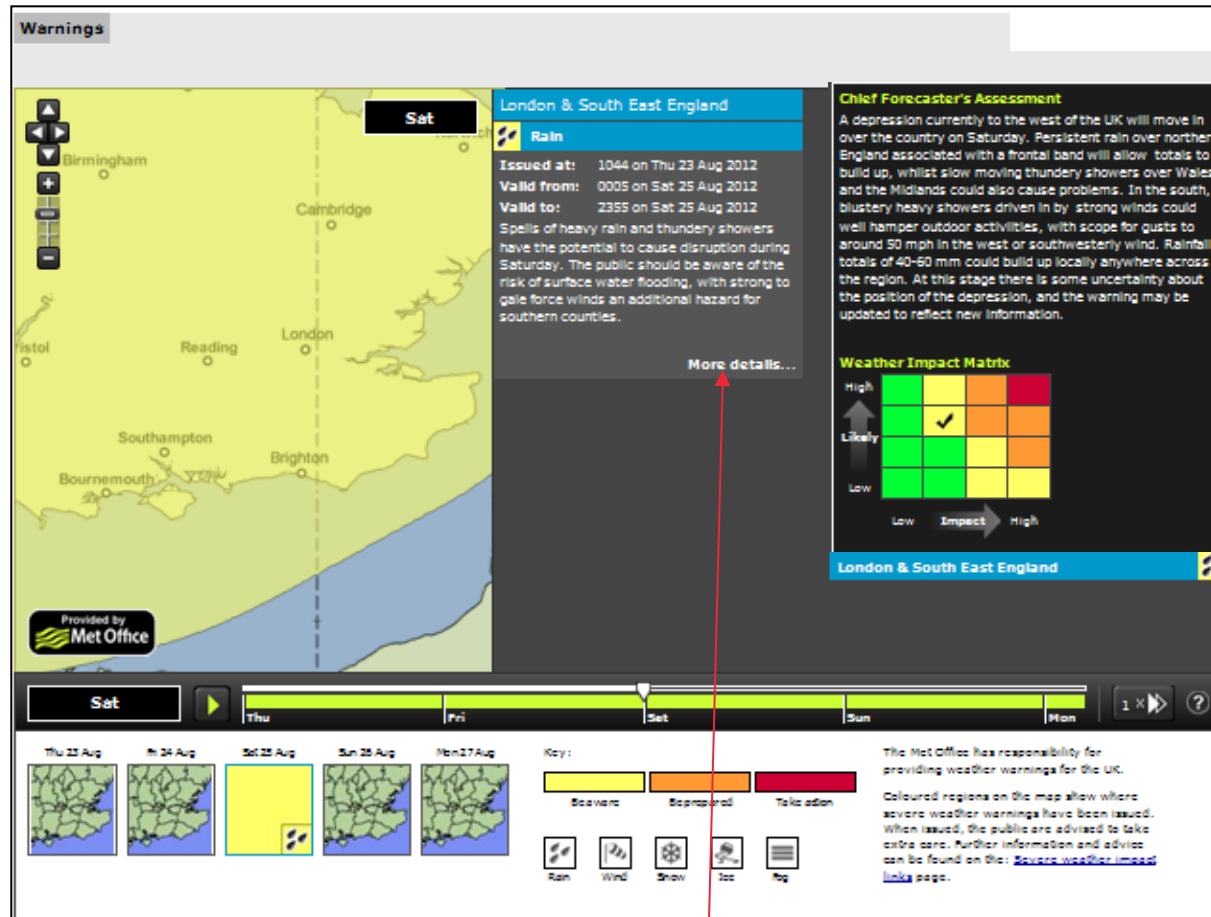
The screenshot shows the Met Office Warnings page for the United Kingdom. A map of the UK is displayed with a yellow shaded area covering the south and east of England, indicating the area covered by a rain warning. A text box on the right provides details for the 'Rain' warning, including the issue time (1044 on Thu 23 Aug 2012), validity (0005 on Sat 25 Aug 2012 to 2355 on Sat 25 Aug 2012), and a description of heavy rain and thundery showers. A list of regions is shown on the right, with a yellow rain icon next to the 'London & South East England' region. A timeline at the bottom shows the warning's duration from Thursday to Saturday.

Area covered by warning

Icons indicating weather element of warning



Warnings page – Regional view



Warnings

London & South East England

Rain

Issued at: 1044 on Thu 23 Aug 2012
 Valid from: 0005 on Sat 25 Aug 2012
 Valid to: 2355 on Sat 25 Aug 2012

Spells of heavy rain and thundery showers have the potential to cause disruption during Saturday. The public should be aware of the risk of surface water flooding, with strong to gale force winds an additional hazard for southern counties.

[More details...](#)

Chief Forecaster's Assessment

A depression currently to the west of the UK will move in over the country on Saturday. Persistent rain over northern England associated with a frontal band will allow totals to build up, whilst slow moving thundery showers over Wales and the Midlands could also cause problems. In the south, blustery heavy showers driven in by strong winds could well hamper outdoor activities, with scope for gusts to around 50 mph in the west or southwesterly wind. Rainfall totals of 40-60 mm could build up locally anywhere across the region. At this stage there is some uncertainty about the position of the depression, and the warning may be updated to reflect new information.

Weather Impact Matrix

High	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red
Likely	Green	Green	Yellow	Orange
Low	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow
	Low	Impact	High	

London & South East England

Provided by Met Office

Sat

Thu 23 Aug | Fri 24 Aug | **Sat 25 Aug** | Sun 26 Aug | Mon 27 Aug

Key:

- Severe
- Severe
- Taken action

Rain | Wind | Snow | Ice | Fog

The Met Office has responsibility for providing weather warnings for the UK. Coloured regions on the map allow where severe weather warnings have been issued. When issued, the public are advised to take extra care. Further information and advice can be found on the [Severe weather impact links](#) page.

Click on 'More details...' to see the Impact Matrix and Chief Forecaster's Assessment



Met Office

