



UK & Ireland Spring 2018 Weather Forecast

Spring General Outlook – Covering March to May

A more than obvious cold and wintry start to the meteorological spring will follow on for a prolonged period from the back end of the meteorological Winter/February. We also expect these conditions to prevail until at least mid-March and beyond, with some slight variations to slightly milder conditions at times.

This period is also likely to see a continuation of some quite heavy and disruptive snow and further widespread disruption and school closures are to be expected, particularly, throughout the weekend of the 3rd/4th March in southern regions to begin with and later in parts to the north. The wintry weather and further snow showers will also pave the way to another period of widespread and potentially crippling snow events for in and around mid-March.

The remainder of March will then bring a Topsy-Turvy pattern of further cold with some interludes of potentially milder weather at times from the south of the country. However, it is entirely feasible that the cold could win out throughout the remainder of the month to deliver another potentially record-breaking cold March. We expect it to turn significantly colder with a number of further widespread snow events for in and around the 15th March, and from this point forward there could be very little in the way of mild weather on offer. We also expect this cold to be coupled with a number of potentially dangerous snow events during the final part of March and into early April – for in and around the Easter period too.

We then expect this type of pattern to be replaced later in April to deliver our first real warmth of the year and a taste of early summer sunshine is looking increasingly likely, particularly, during the second half of the month.

May could then deliver our first above-average month of the spring season in terms of overall temperatures - although some colder and even wintry conditions can't be entirely ruled out at times, particularly in parts of the far north across higher ground. However, the early summer blasts during May are likely to see temperatures approaching the mid to high 20's at times, particularly, in southern parts of the country, and there are some good and early indications for a good start to summer this year (JUNE), but with caveats...

March

We can expect an exceptionally cold and unusually snowy month overall particularly at the start, middle, and end month points for major and widespread snow events. Some interludes of milder weather are possible at times – but we do expect little or no mild spells during the final third of March and into early April.

We would therefore expect temperatures to be at well below-average for the month of march overall, and with more near-average rainfall to well above-average snow amounts for many parts of the country.

****AMENDMENT ALERT** Although we stated to expect little or no mild spells during the final third of March, it will be a little milder for several days. However, we still fully expect a major blast of winter and the return of widespread snow during the final few days of March and into early April as originally stated as a key date and would point out that the current milder weather is simply a small diversion in our forecast for this given period. DATE ADDED 21/03/2018.**

April

We can expect April to begin how March started and ended (on a cold and wintry note) and there will be the significant risk for some notable and widespread snow events during the early part of the month and the upcoming Easter period. However, it has become increasingly likely that we will experience our first taste(s) of spring warmth during the second half of the month on our current indications, and this could deliver some of the warmest temperatures of this year to date. However, this also doesn't totally dispel some further shots of colder and wintry weather flirting with us at times within this period too.

We would therefore expect temperatures to be at more near to below-average for the month overall, and this is also dependent on a medium probability/confidence pattern change during the second half of the month. We would also expect more near-average rainfall amounts and above-average snowfall amounts for the month as a whole.

May

Early indications repeatedly keep turning up May as a potentially much warmer than average month overall. Temperatures could range in the low 20's quite widely at times, and even the mid to high 20's could come about in more southern and central parts of the country. However, the last of the colder and wintry weather may still not have finished with us and some interludes of unseasonal weather could still be expected at times, particularly, across higher ground in parts of the north.

We would therefore expect temperatures to be at more near to above-average for the month of May on current indications, and we can also expect more near to below-average rainfall amounts (All medium confidence – May is proving a tricky month to forecast for).

Published 1st March 2018 – James Madden

****Amended due to forecast error on: 21/03/2018****

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