

Record rainfall - October/December 2002

Highest 30-day rainfall totals

The data in the following table has been derived from the homogeneous precipitation series, which are based upon selected station data. The series goes back to 1931 (using data available on 25 November 2002).

30 day rainfall totals

Region	Highest 30-day total in October/ November 2002	Record 30-day rainfall totals, using daily data back to January 1931
Northern Ireland	226.0 mm, beginning 20 October 2002	This is the highest 30-day total, previous highest 217.9 mm starting 19 October 1989.
England and Wales	209.4 mm, beginning 11 October 2002	This is the 3rd highest 30-day total in the series (treating each event separately). Highest 30-day total 240.0 mm, starting 9 October 2000.
Northwest England and Wales	240.4 mm, beginning 11 October 2002	This is the 3rd highest 30-day total in the series (treating each event separately). Highest 30-day total 247.0 mm, starting 20 October 1937.
Central England	155.8 mm, beginning 11 October 2002	This is the 3rd highest 30-day total in the series (treating each event separately). Highest 30-day total 182.8 mm, starting 22 November 1939.

October rainfall totals

The following table, uses actual rain-gauge information available from our real-time network on 1 November 2002.

Rainfall - October 2002

Station	Rainfall total (no of days of data used)	Highest previous October totals
Milford haven, Pembrokeshire	283.8 mm (31 days)	Highest October rainfall total, previous highest 250.2 mm in 1987, records back to 1964.
Dyce, Aberdeen	230.4 mm (31 days)	Highest October rainfall total, previous highest 200.0 mm in 1960, records back to 1957.
Aboyne, Aberdeenshire	230.0 mm (31 days)	Highest October rainfall total, previous highest 156.2 mm in 1993, records back to 1990.
Charterhall, Scottish Borders	198.0 mm (30 days)	Highest October rainfall total, previous highest 132.7 mm in 1993, records back to 1989.
Leuchars, Fife	169.6 mm (31 days)	Highest October rainfall total, previous highest 148.8 mm in 1976, records back to 1957.
Boulmer, Northumberland	158.8 mm (31 days)	Highest October rainfall total, previous highest 130.0 mm in 1981, records back to 1975.
Pershore, Worcestershire	133.8 mm (31 days)	Highest October rainfall total, previous highest 131.8 mm in 2000, records back to 1961.
Hillsborough, County Down	154.2 mm (31 days)	2nd highest rainfall total, highest total 174.7 mm in 1990, records back to 1979.
Aldergrove, County	157.2 mm (30.5 days)	3rd highest rainfall total, highest total 175.8 mm in 1976,

Antrim

records back to 1949.

Yeovilton, Somerset 142.2 mm (30.5 days)

3rd highest rainfall total, highest total 188.4 mm in 1976,
records back to 1964.

November rainfall totals

The following table, uses actual rain gauge information available from our real-time network on 2 December 2002.

Rainfall - November 2002

Station	Rainfall total (no of days of data used)	Highest previous November totals
Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire	371.8 mm (29.5 days)	Highest November rainfall total, previous highest 261.6 mm in 1970, records back to 1964.
Culdrose, Cornwall	253.3 mm (29.5 days)	Highest November rainfall total, previous highest 227.2 mm in 1963, records back to 1961.
Ballypatrick Forest, County Antrim	249.8 mm (30 days)	Highest November rainfall total, previous highest 194.3 mm in 1991, records back to 1988.
Middle Wallop, Hampshire	244.6 mm (30 days)	Highest November rainfall total, previous highest 176.4 mm in 2000, records back to 1975.
Hurn, Dorset	234.6 mm (30 days)	Highest November rainfall total, previous highest 217.3 mm in 1970, records back to 1952.
St.Mawgan, Cornwall	235.6 mm (30 days)	Highest November rainfall total, previous highest 200.1 mm in 1996, records back to 1957.
Yeovilton, Somerset	192.4 mm (30 days)	Highest November rainfall total, previous highest 140.1 mm in 1970, records back to 1964.
Aboyne, Aberdeenshire	187.8 mm (30 days)	Highest November rainfall total, previous highest 172.2 mm in 1997, records back to 1990.
Aldergrove, County Antrim	158.2 mm (30 days)	Highest November rainfall total, previous highest 144.8 mm in 1982, records back to 1949.
Hillsborough, County Down	149.8 mm (28 days)	Highest November rainfall total, previous highest 148.9 mm in 1995, records back to 1979.
Benson, Oxfordshire	142.8 mm (29.5 days)	Highest November rainfall total, previous highest 139.5 mm in 1970, records back to 1963.
Bracknell, Berkshire	165.8 mm (30 days)	2nd highest rainfall total, highest 175.2 mm in 1974, records back to 1971.
Heathrow, Greater London	151.0 mm (30 days)	2nd highest rainfall total, highest 151.2 mm in 1970, records back to 1949.
Dyce, Aberdeen	185.4 mm (30 days)	3rd highest rainfall total, highest total 268.3 mm in 1984, records back to 1957.
South Farnborough, Hampshire	170.2 mm (30 days)	3rd highest rainfall total, highest total 181.7 mm in 1974, records back to 1957.

The two-month total at Dyce currently stands at 415.8 mm for October and November, making it the highest two-month total since the Met Office electronic archive began for Dyce in 1957. The previous highest two-month spell was November and December 1984 with 387.4 mm.

The wettest two-month total at Milford Haven was 655.6 mm for October and November, making it the highest two-month total since the Met Office electronic archive began for Milford Haven in 1964, previous highest two-month spell was September and October 1976 with 421.3 mm.

December rainfall totals

The following table, uses actual rain gauge information available from our real-time network on 7 January 2003.

Rainfall - December 2002

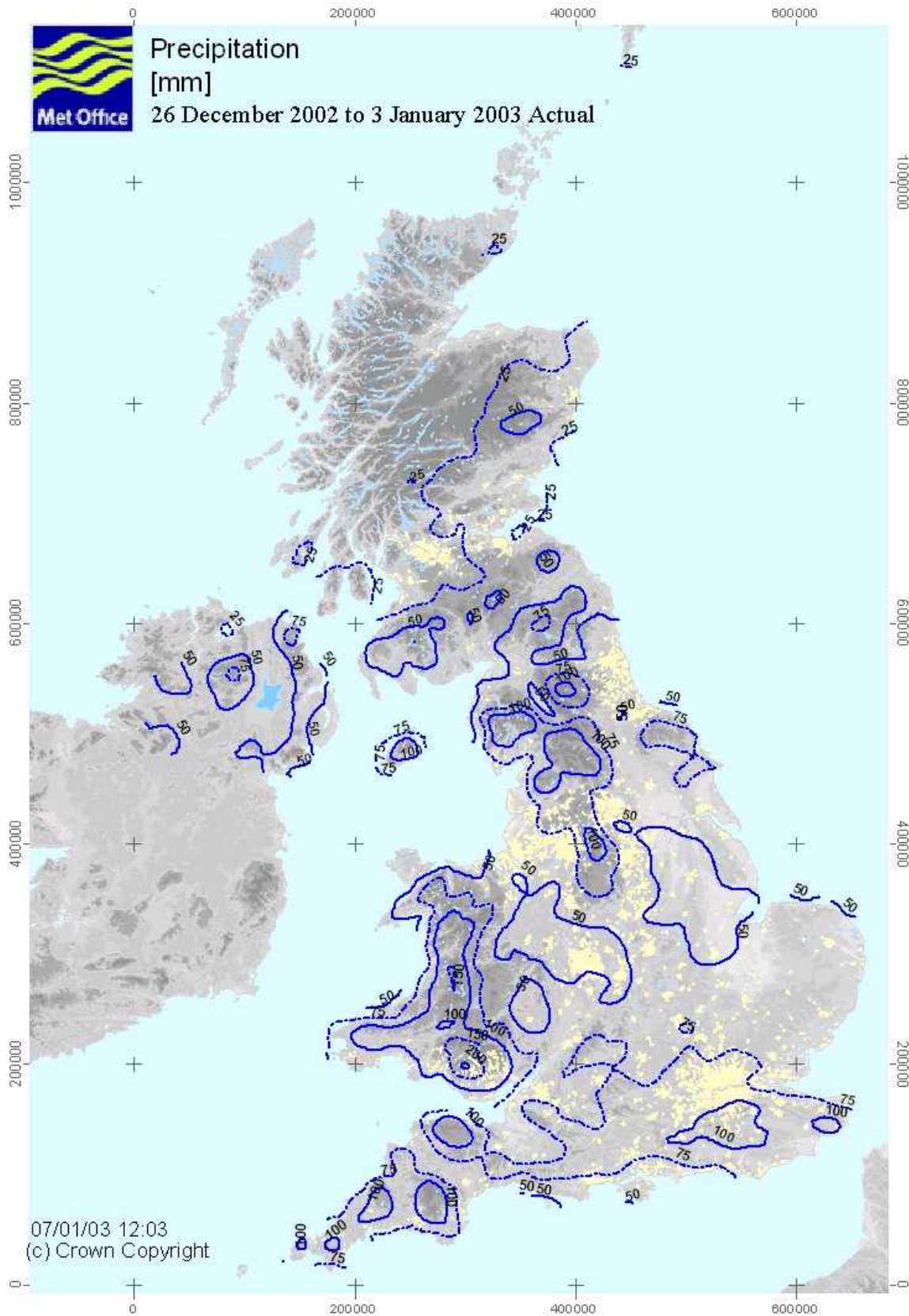
Station	Rainfall total (no of days of data used)	Highest previous December totals
Bracknell, Beaufort Park	125.0 mm (31 days)	2nd highest rainfall total, highest 150.1 mm in 1978, records back to 1971.
Heathrow	119.0 mm (31 days)	2nd highest rainfall total, highest 119.3 mm in 1989, records back to 1949.

26 December 2002 - 3 January 2003 rainfall totals

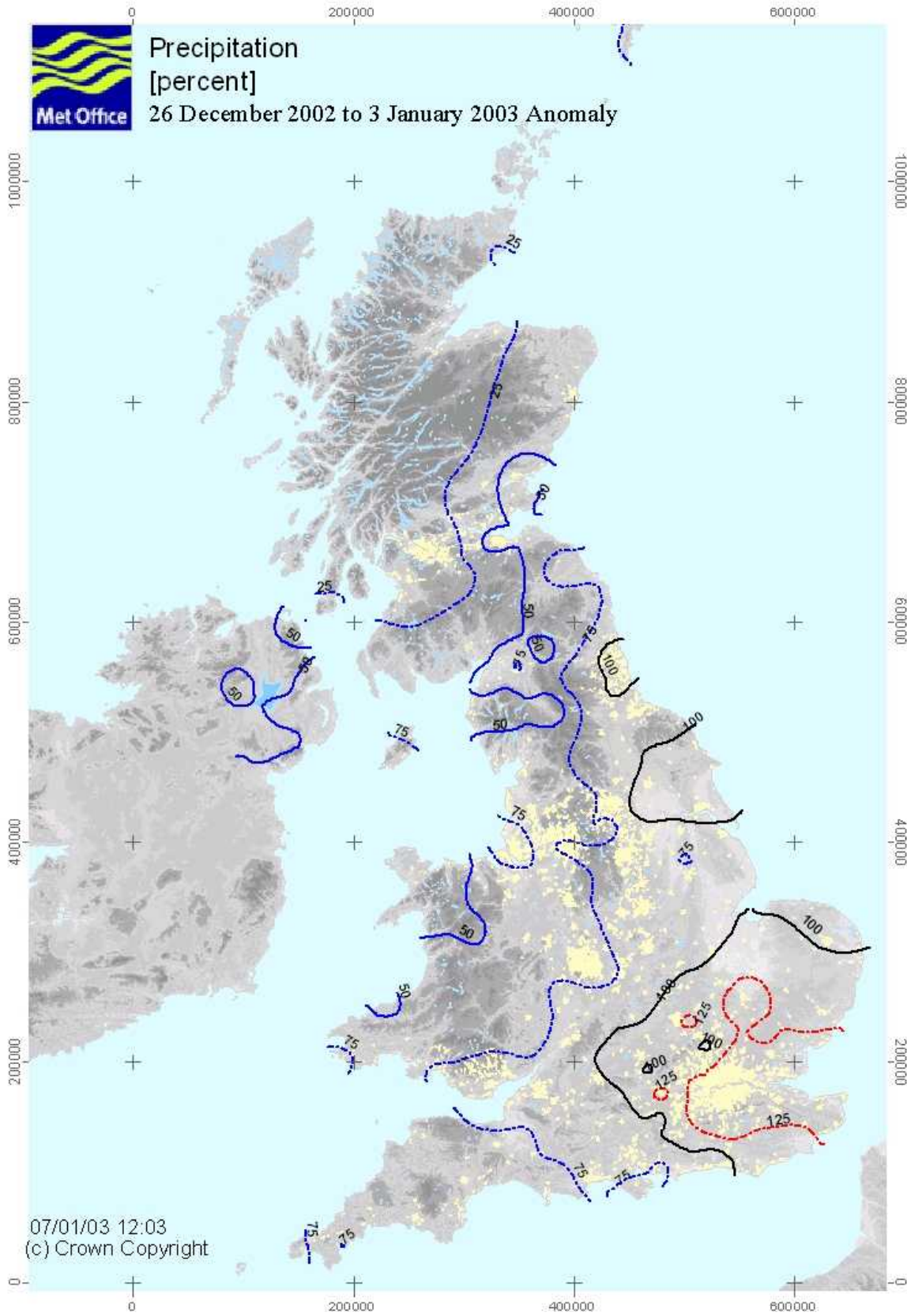
The flooding at the end of December 2002 and beginning of January 2003, was the result of a wet three-month period. The maps below show the nine-day rainfall totals prior to and around the time of the flooding, with some areas receiving 100 mm in this period, and many stations in south-east England experiencing 125 to 150% of December's average rainfall in this period.

Nine-day rainfall maps, 26 December 2002 to 3 January 2003:

Actual (mm) (per cent, compared to the whole of December)



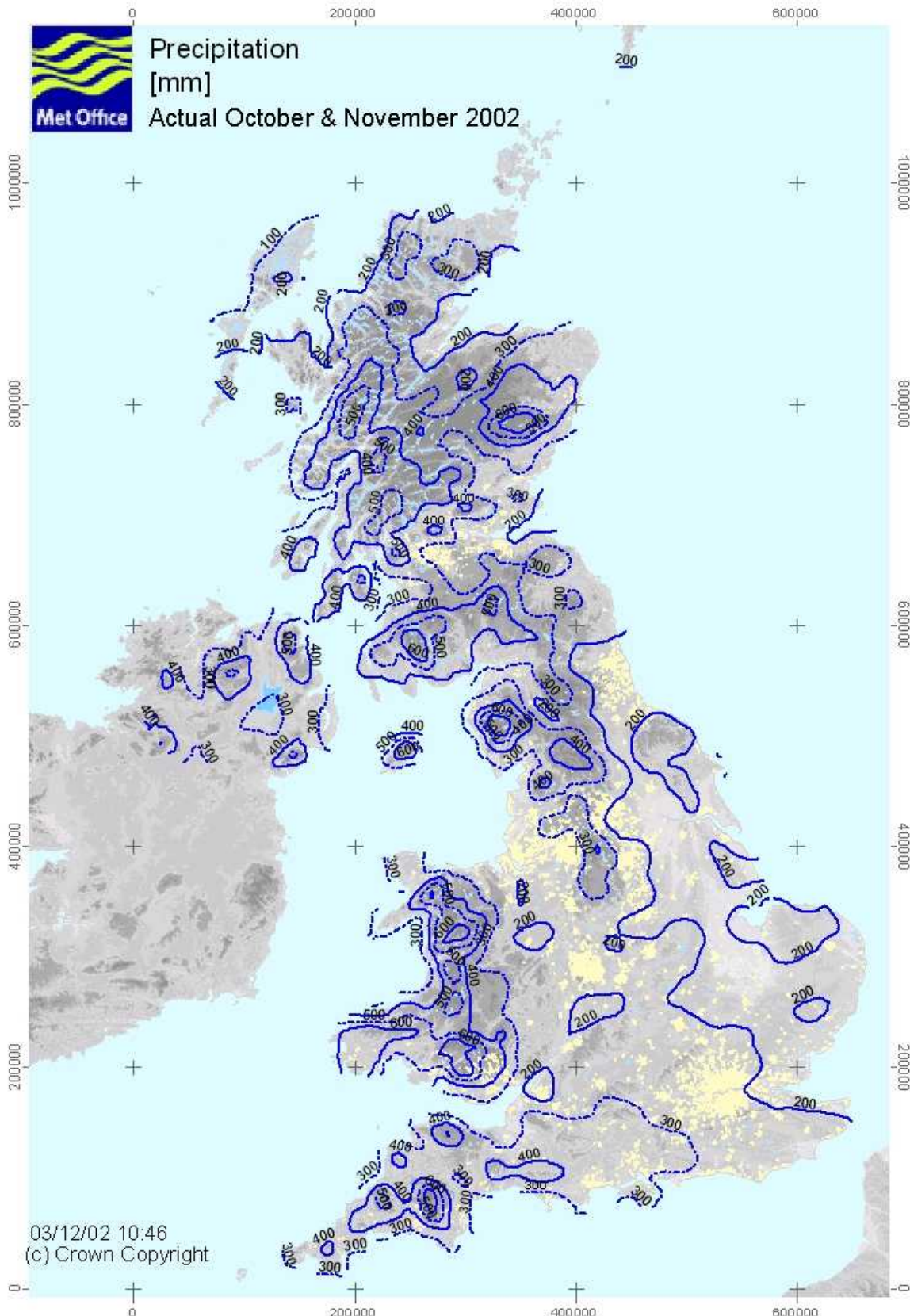
Actual (mm)(per cent, compared to the whole of December)



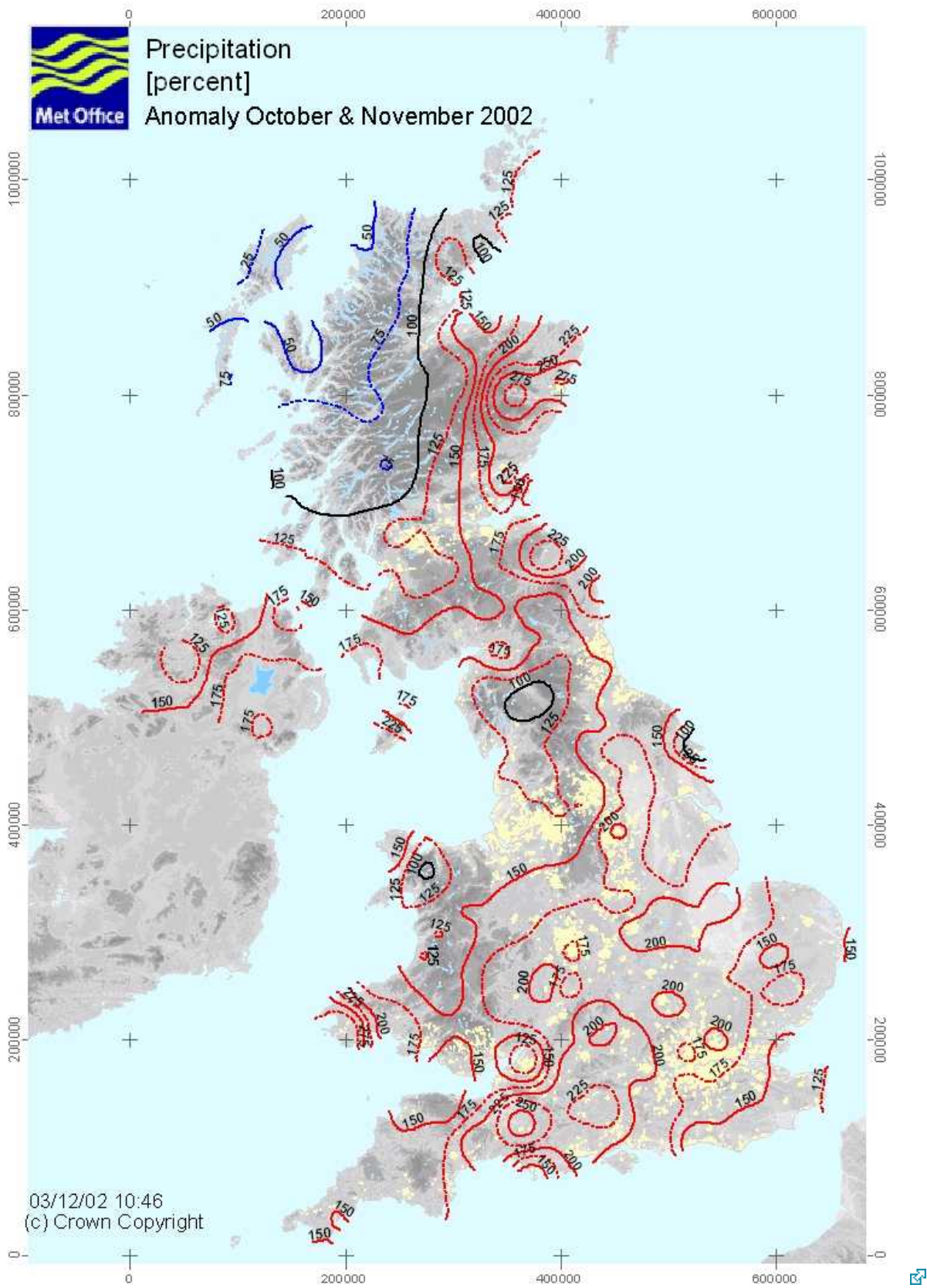
October and November rainfall combined

These initial regional averages use data available from about 180 observing sites available on 2 December 2002. They represent an initial assessment of the rainfall that was experienced across the UK during October and November 2002 and how it compares with the 1961 to 1990 average. The column headed 'Anom' (anomaly) shows percent of the 1961-90 long-term average.

October and November 2002: rainfall actual [↗](#)



October and November 2002: rainfall anomaly



Rainfall - October and November 2002

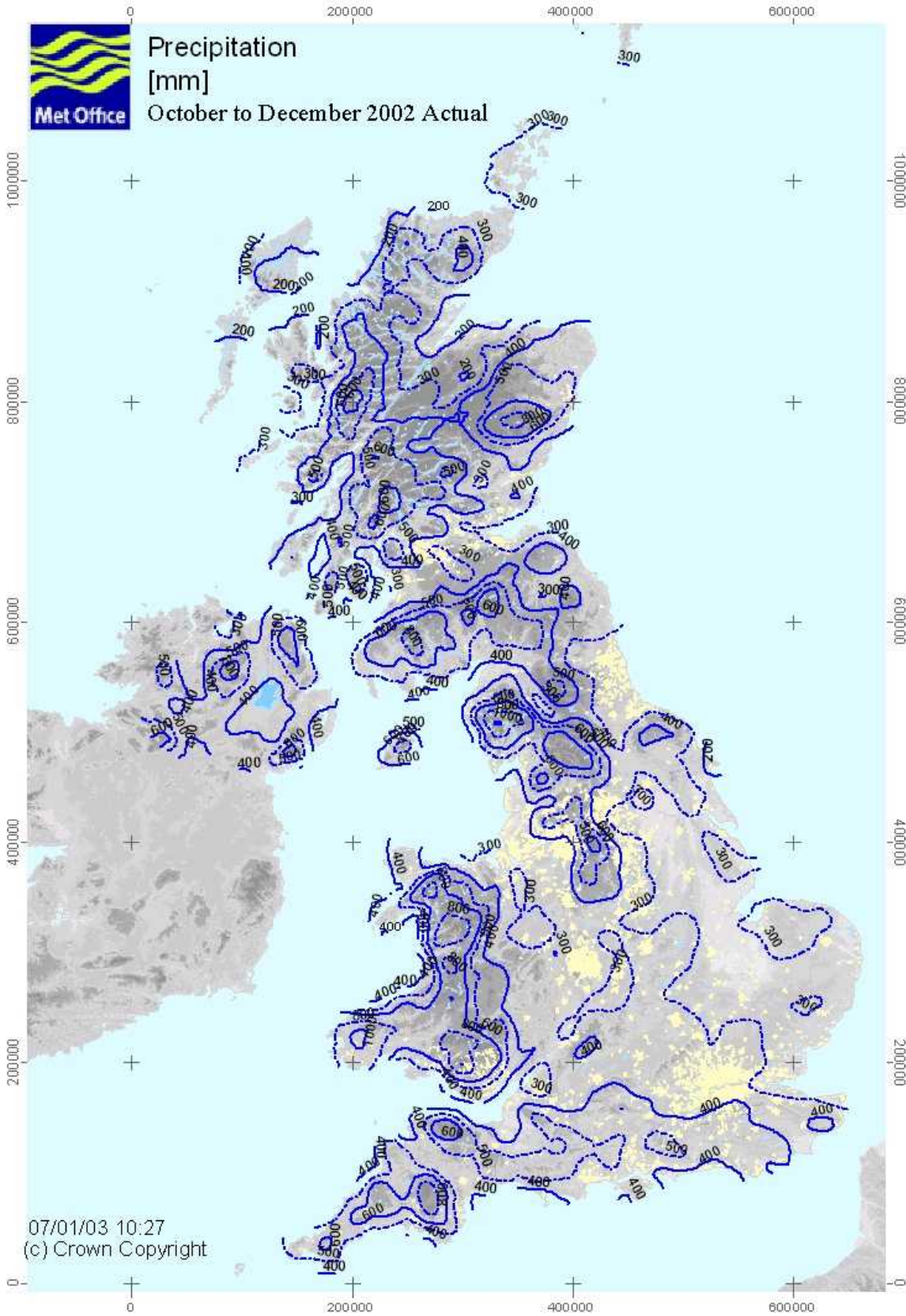
Region	Actual (mm)	Anomaly (%)
UK	304.6	137
England	256.3	163
Wales	438.5	151

Scotland	338.8	108
N Ireland	353.3	160
England & Wales	281.3	161
England N	253.8	141
England S	257.6	179
Scotland N	274.3	76
Scotland E	353.2	167
Scotland W	413.0	116
England E & NE	212.8	157
England NW & Wales N	335.9	127
Midlands	234.4	171
East Anglia	193.7	174
England SW & Wales S	416.2	170
England SE & Central S	274.4	181

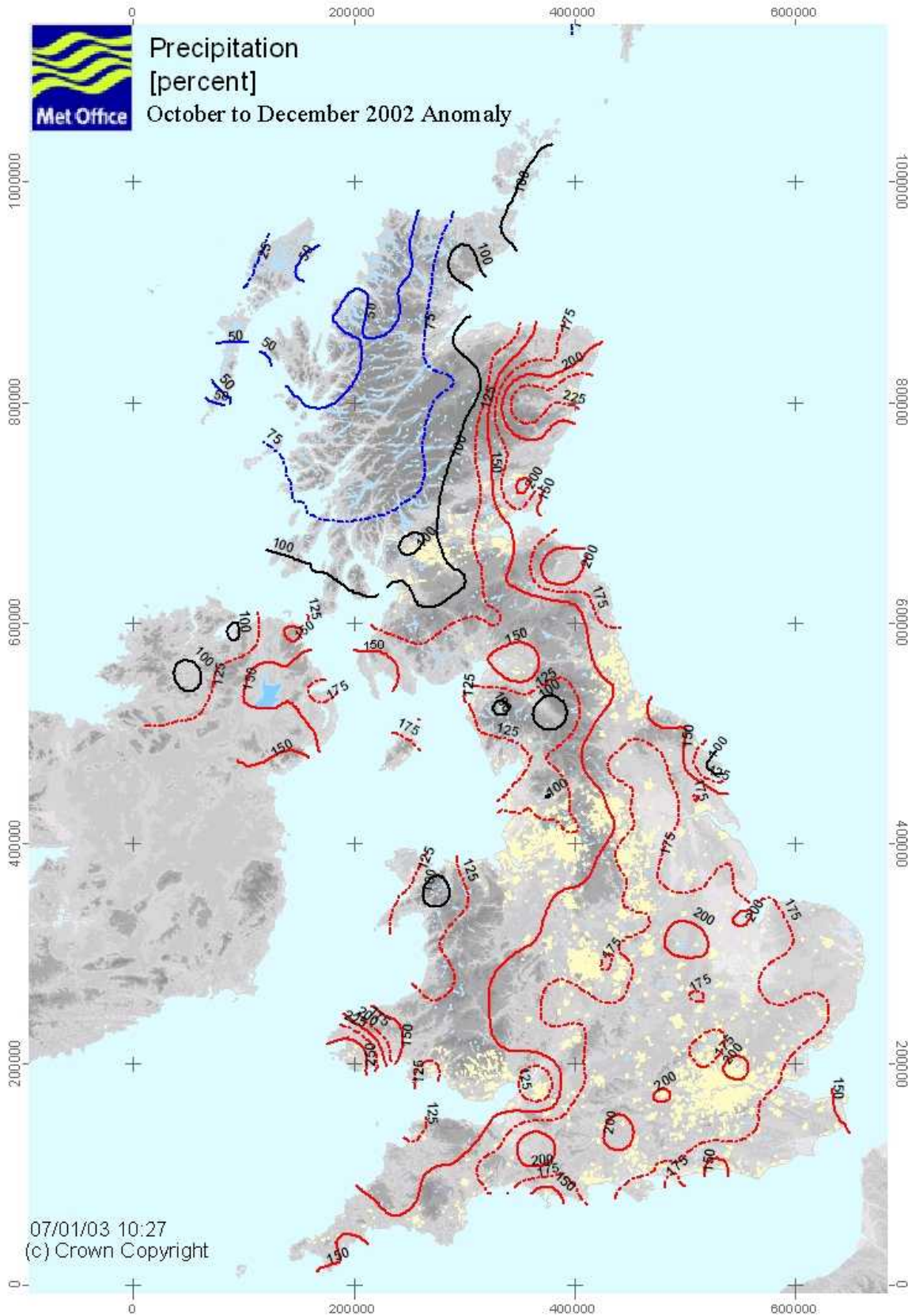
October to December Rainfall (combined)

These initial regional averages use data available from about 180 observing sites available on 7 January 2003. They represent an initial assessment of the rainfall that was experienced across the UK during October to December 2002 and how it compares with the 1961 to 1990 average. The column headed 'Anom' (anomaly) show the per cent of the 1961-90 long term average.

October to December 2002: rainfall actual



October to December 2002: rainfall anomaly



Rainfall - October to December 2002

Region	Actual (mm)	Anomaly (%)
UK	413.7	123
England	380.7	158
Wales	613.7	137
Scotland	407.6	87

N Ireland	446.7	136
England & Wales	412.7	153
England N	384.8	142
England S	378.5	170
Scotland N	317.3	59
Scotland E	444.9	141
Scotland W	492.8	93
England E & NE	323.8	157
England NW & Wales N	491.9	123
Midlands	350.0	164
East Anglia	291.2	175
England SW & Wales S	581.3	152
England SE & Central S	414.8	179

Last updated: 11 February 2013

