

Persistent wet weather October 2019

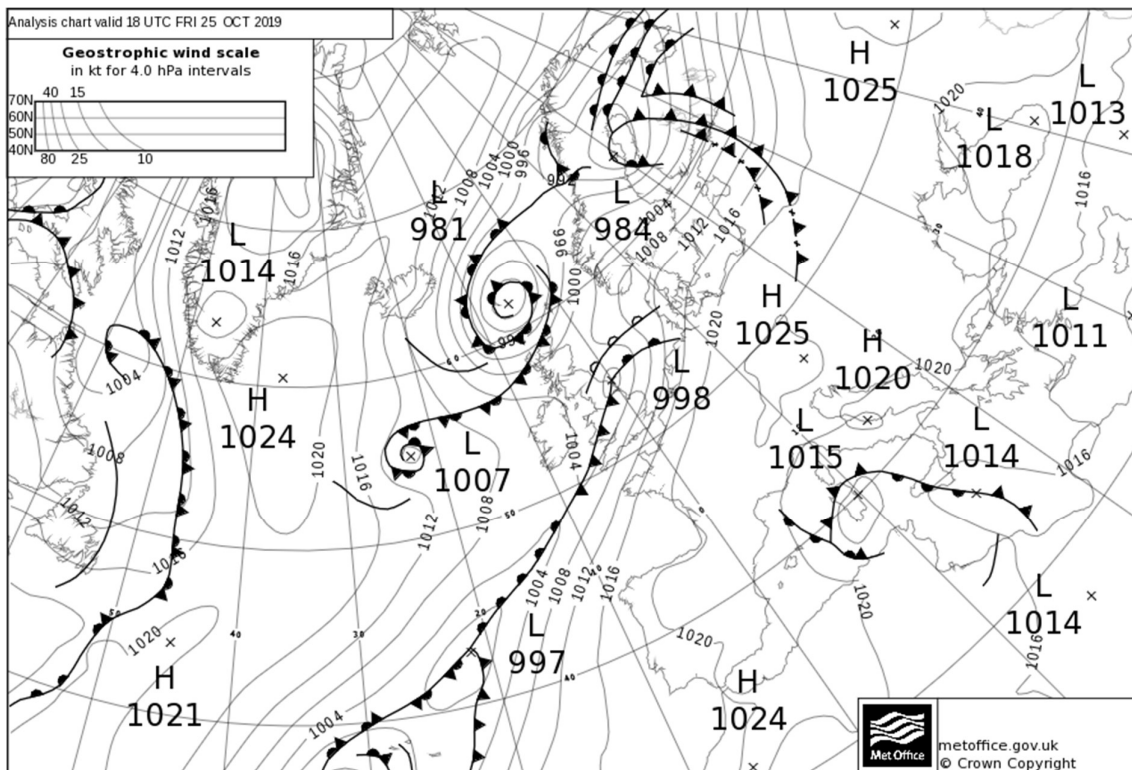
A slow moving front brought persistent heavy rainfall across England and Wales on 25 to 26 October 2019. The wettest area was across south Wales where over 100mm of rain fell across the high ground. Some locations across Wales and northern England received 75% or more of the monthly average rainfall.

Impacts

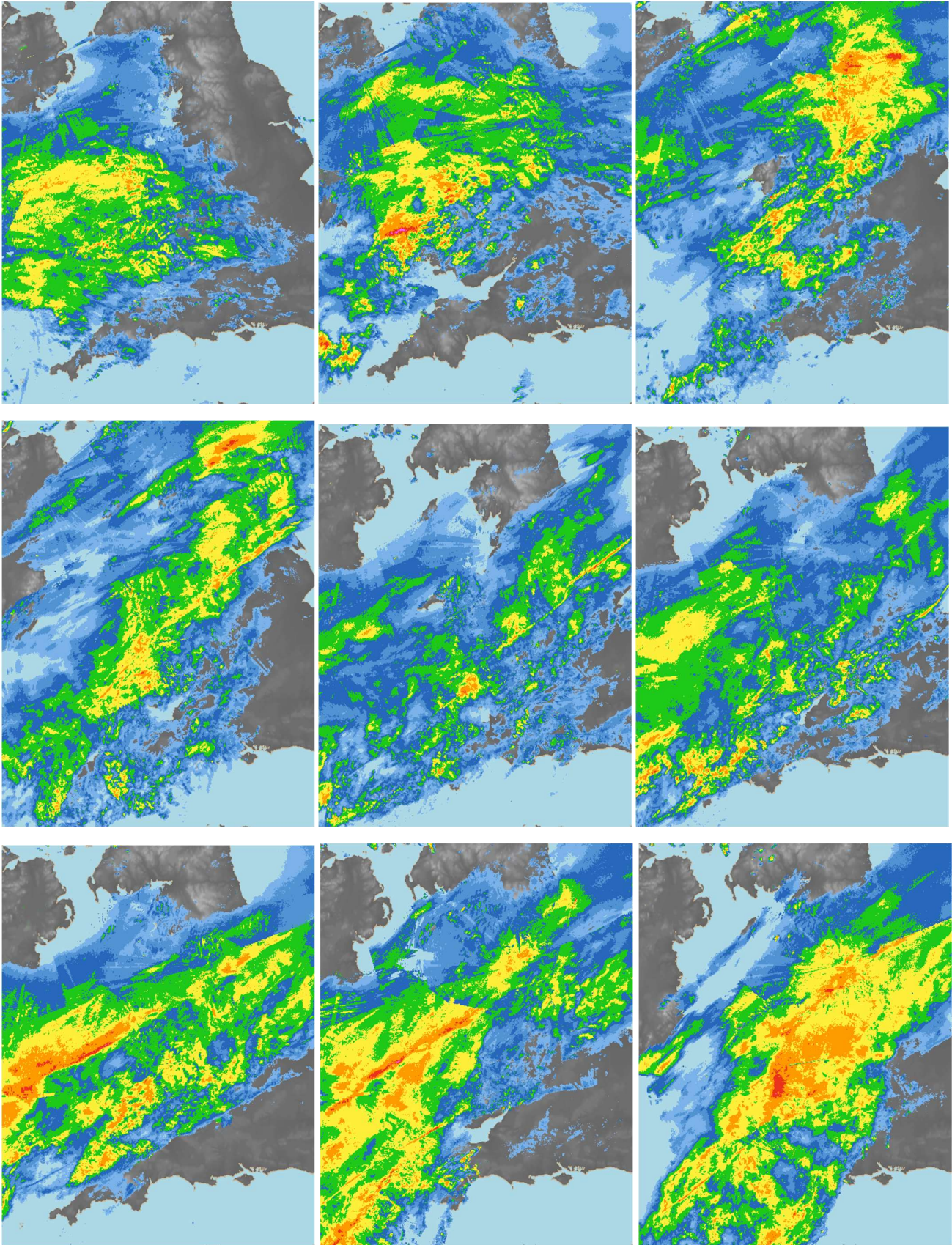
The heavy rain, falling on already very wet ground, led to flooding disruption across Wales, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Manchester. A number of roads were blocked by flooding – including the A555 Manchester Airport relief road. Rail services were also affected. Residents were evacuated from 25 homes in Skenfrith, Monmouthshire.

Weather data

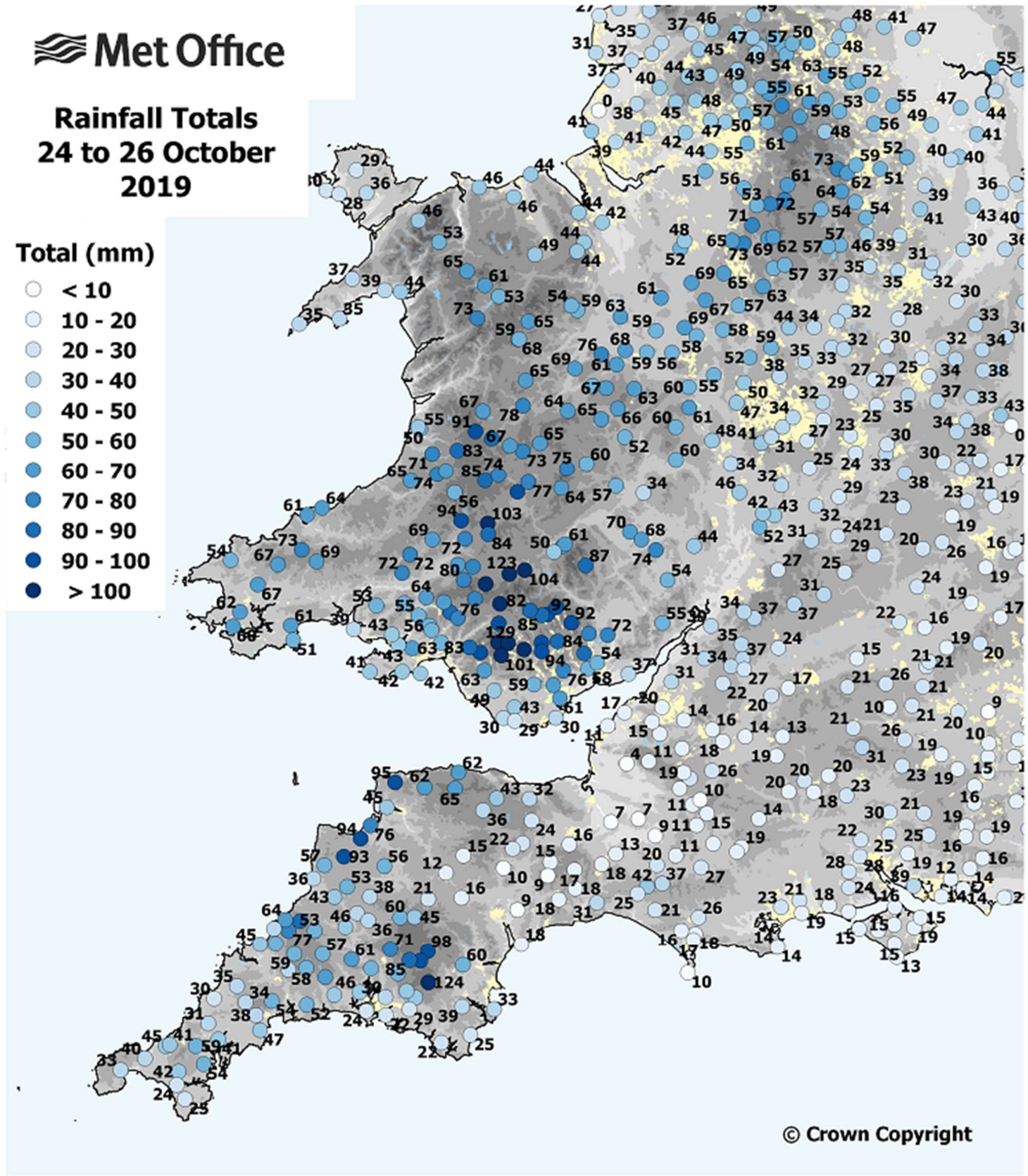
The analysis chart at 1800 UTC 25 October 2019 shows the slow moving front stretching from South Wales to Lincolnshire. The front was associated with a large temperature gradient; on 26 October the daily maximum temperature was around 7 °C in Birmingham and 17 °C in London.



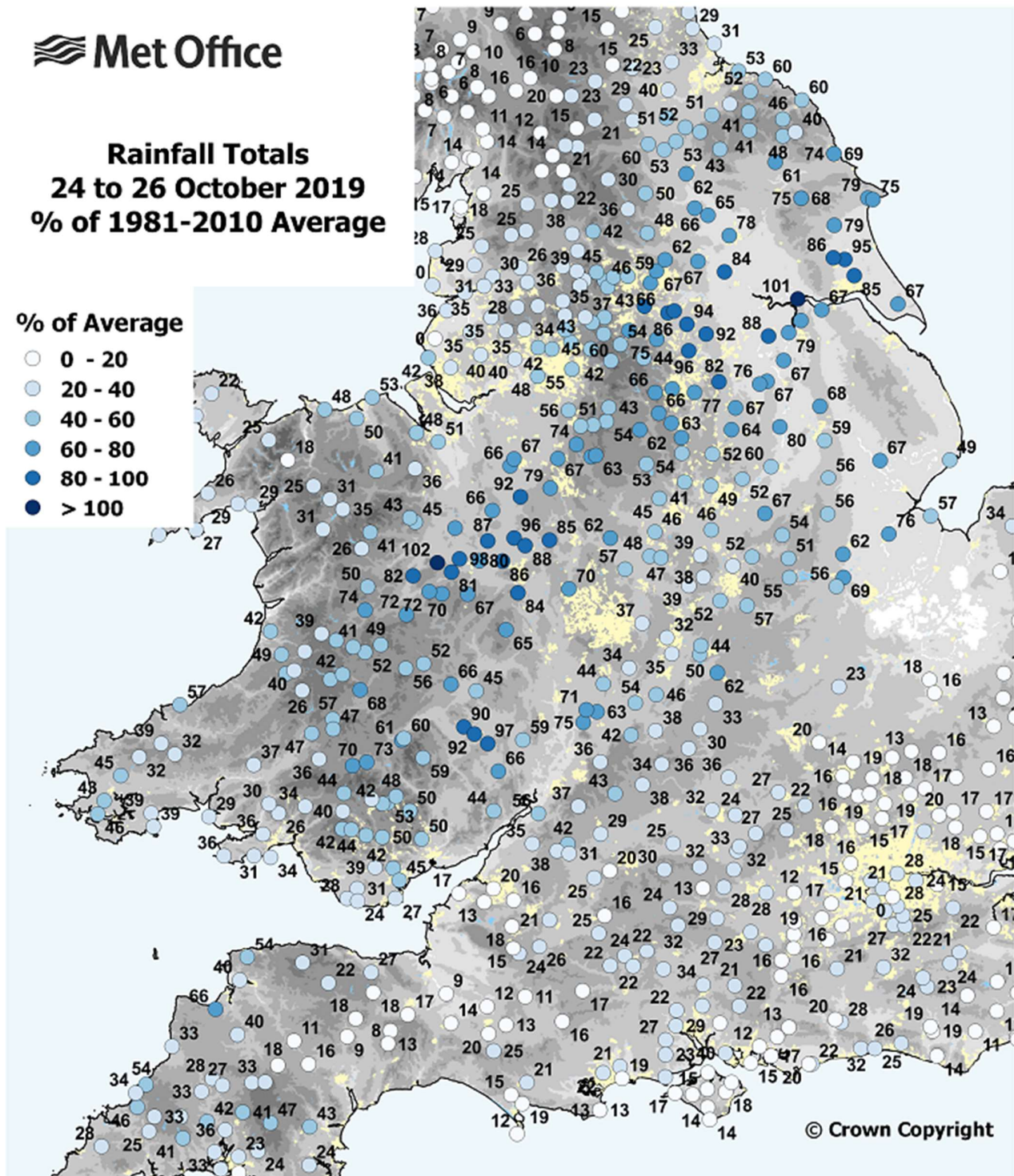
The panel of rain-radar images below indicate the persistence of the heavy rainfall (3-hour intervals from 0900 UTC 25 October to 0900 UTC 26 October 2019



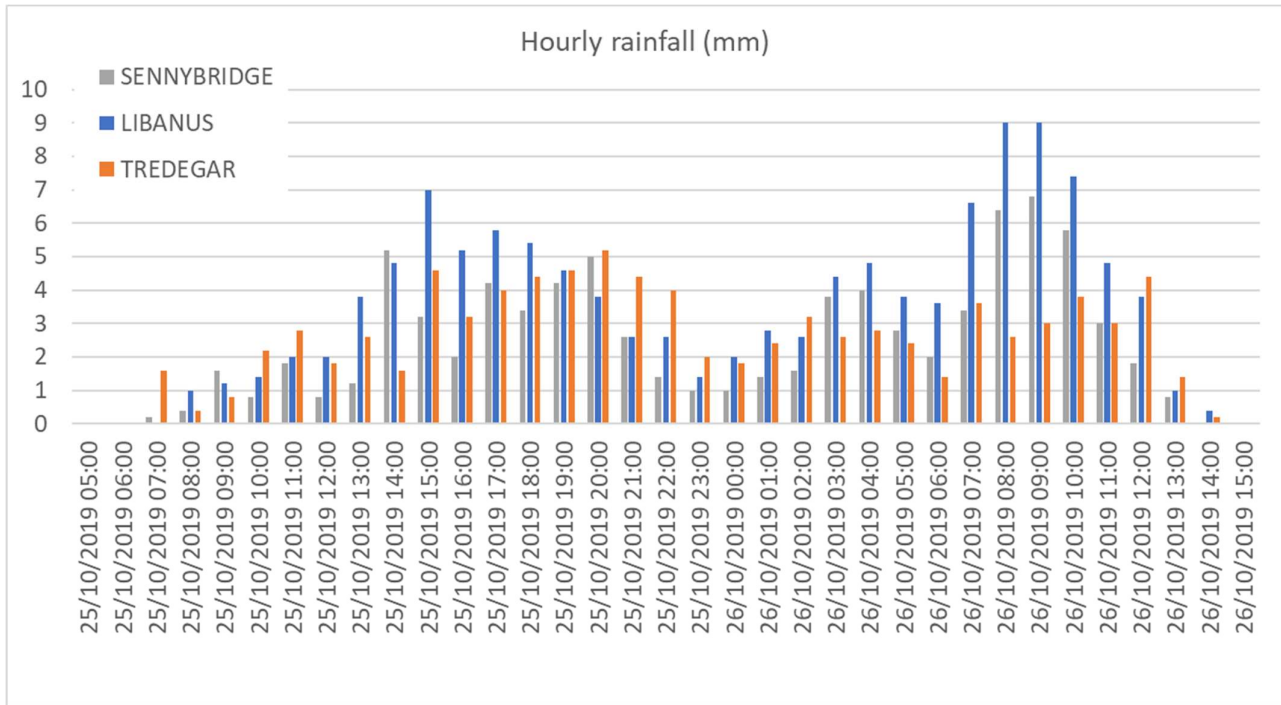
The map below shows rainfall totals for the 3-day period 0900 UTC 24 October to 0900 UTC 27 October 2019. 50 to 80mm fell across a swathe from north Devon through Wales to the Peak District. Upland areas of South Wales (particularly the Brecon Beacons) and Dartmoor recorded over 100mm with totals in some locations exceeding 130mm. Most of this rain during a 24-hour period on 25 October.



The map below shows rainfall totals for the 3-day period 0900 UTC 24 October to 0900 UTC 27 October 2019 as a % of the 1981-2010 October long-term average. Around 50 to 75% of the monthly average rain fell across a swathe from east Wales through Shropshire and the Peak District to Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, with some locations recording 75 to 100% of the monthly average.



The chart below shows hourly rainfall totals at three locations in Wales – Libanus and Sennybridge (both Powys) and Tredegar (Blaenau Gwent). Although the rainfall was not particularly intense, the chart indicates the persistence of the rainfall: in a 32-hour period Libanus recorded 120.6mm, and Tredegar and Sennybridge both over 80mm. This area had already experienced some very wet weather in late September and during the first half of October.



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