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Advance prediction Winter 2026

(December 2026 to March 2027)



Photo credit due to Trevor Eldridge

Species of the Season: The Robin

"A cold wind was blowing from the North, and it made the trees rustle like living things."
George R. R. Martin

Lesley Coyle Dorset 11th November 2026

Winter 2026 Forecast

Welcome to the Winter 2026 website entry.

At the Indigenous UK Weather Towers, we work with nature's rhythm rather than the calendar's. Our winter begins around 20th November and is divided into two phases:

- Early winter (20 Nov – 19 Jan): Frosts seldom last more than a week, often shorter, while stormy periods become increasingly frequent.
- Late winter/early spring (20 Jan – end March): Long spells of one type of weather dominate. Sometimes this is the true winter, in other years it feels more like an early spring.

St Martin's Day: The important news for today of course, is that the wind direction for the very vast majority of the UK was northerly and north-easterly. It makes not too much difference as to whether the wind is northerly or north-easterly, both are bitterly cold winds, both dry winds too.
The very tip of Scotland experienced north westerly winds, which is a very destructive, wetter wind.
People of Wales and the Southwest please note, you too will likely get very cold with snow too this winter.
Patience is the watchword with the methodology, it gets there, always. Nature has prepared, and nature is never wrong. So pull out your scarves, hats, gloves and blankets. Cold is coming!

The Wind Days and Nature's Weather Warnings

Traditional "wind days" guide our seasonal forecasting:

- Michaelmas (29 Sept): Sets the predominant wind until the next marker on December 21st. This year, E/SE winds dominated.
- St Martin's Day (11 Nov): The most accurate wind day. This year we expected NE winds and ended up with N/NE.
- St Thomas' Day (21 Dec): Winter deepens.
- 24–27 Dec: Full cold moon + perigee + high tides = adverse weather risk.
- 22nd – 26th Jan: Super full moon + perigee + high tides = adverse weather risk.

The N/ NE Wind

The NE wind has a reputation in folklore as being bitterly cold and dry wind that brings wintry storms and harsh conditions. Traditionally tied to wintry showers and snow bringing bitingly cold air.

Seasonal Background

2026 was exceptionally dry for most, followed by a warm, parched summer that forced drought orders in many regions. Nature, in its wisdom, now seeks to restore balance — expect December rainfall before the true cold sets in. It is also worth noting we do tend to experience severe winters every 16 years or so. The last such winter was of course winter 2010.

Month-by-Month Outlook

- December: December will likely start off on a stormy note, and progress into frostier weather as the month progresses, likely with a brief respite into rainier weather again around 17th. With the combination of the full cold moon, perigee and highest tides from 24th – 27th December, we can expect some adverse weather around then – although this is traditionally a stormy period I expect the adverse weather is more likely to be extreme cold this year, with frost and possibly snow in northern areas.

- January: January will be a bitterly cold month with snow for almost everyone. Severe conditions will set in quickly (if not already set in from the final days of December). For some fine powder drifting into massive drifts, for others large flakes that settle fast. Travel disruption, stress for farmers and strain on livestock are all likely. Snow fall will be topped up throughout the month with no obvious break in sight at all. The month could well end with blizzard conditions. I expect January to be the most severe month of winter.

- February: Remember: the hottest days in June give the coldest days in the following February — and June 2026 included notable heat across nearly all areas in the UK, with a number of temperature records broken. There are no snow moons in February, and February is always a wild card month that I never forecast correctly. Therefore, I will say the snow and cold weather will either continue, or will end up being fair but extremely frosty and cold. February, as always is a wild card.

- March: Cold extends well into spring, although I do not expect any more snow in March. A late, harsh spring lies ahead.

Closing Thoughts

This winter has long been signalled as a severe one. Last year our forecast went drastically wrong. If things go awry, it is human interpretation, not the signs themselves, that falter. Having reviewed the wind day information from last November, I can see exactly where we went wrong too.

Akin to "*Beast from the East"* in 2018 is a good bet, but if really cold then we may even relive that memorable winter of 2010 (although the peak will likely be January, not December). I have to cover my basis, since each day another piece of the jigsaw falls into place and builds the picture.

We trust the methodology, and what nature tells us, and we learn from experience. We're confident in our winter work, Dave's track record speaks for itself, so we just hope we've learnt enough from him, and interpreted nature and his methodology correctly. I hope we have. Time will tell.

Notes from Nature

Berry crops are abundant: hawthorn (both common and midland), berberis, wortle, juniper, bryony, rowan, elder, holly, yew, and spindle are all heavily laden. Lords-and-ladies popped up in abundance yet disappeared just as fast — the ground-feeding animals know exactly what is to come, and nothing will go to waste this year.

Roadside plants struggled reached impressive heights this year despite the drought.

Huge rose hips by the thousands, all came out late but in abundance. Lichen of every variety in abundance too, and wonderful displays of mushrooms and fungi this year. Of course, these foods will go first, as the ground will not be accessible come February. Ivy and snow berries are coming through now, and for sure we will have four crops of ivy berries this year, each generation around 30 days behind the next.

Seed-bearing trees such as sycamore, hornbeam, ash, and alder are heavy with seed. There are sunflower seeds in abundance too. Nut trees — chestnuts, hazels, beech — are producing superb crops; have you ever seen more nuts? Next years catkins are already in abundance too.

Oaks have struggled with acorn production this year, and this is the only small detail that is making me hesitant with regards to this forecast. However last year was a mast year, so my thinking is this year is a bust year. The oaks have retained their leaves well as of November 11th, which is a classic harbinger of a difficult winter to come, and once again galls galore. Oak apples have been devoured quickly this year too. The willow also shows abundant displays of galls.

Nature seems to be preparing not only for resident species but also for incoming birds from Arctic and northern European regions — fieldfares, redwings, starlings, bramblings, and jays from the near continent. Robins staked out their territories back in September — another quiet signal from nature.

Squirrels have been utterly crazy this autumn too, and can currently be spotted burying their findings in the lawn. Birds are feeding up on anything and everything available.

Nature is speaking to us with unmistakable intent. All signs point to a long, cold, and memorable winter ahead.

David Andrews and I will record our notes from nature podcast for YouTube next week to discuss the winter forecast. ☺

Enjoy winter, and I am wishing you all a magical Christmas, and all you aspire to in 2027.

Best wishes,

Lesley

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DECEMBER 2026

December starts with a relatively warmer period from the 3rd - 14th, as discovered by Alexander Buchan the Victorian meteorologist, certainly in the south of England this claim has some justification producing much warmer weather than between mid-December and Christmas, but the difference is not marked. About a week of cold, relatively dry - though somewhat still and foggy weather does tend to develop just before Christmas and this makes the second half of the month colder than the first in most years. The average duration of this cold dry period is 18-24th December, with a peak around 19-21st. Night frosts are widespread during this period. Around 25th commences one of the most definite of all our weather spells. It has been called the 'post-Christmas storm,' occurring most years it lasts about a week from 25th to the 1st January with peak around the 28th December. Structural damage from such storms is generally considerable. December starts mild, but, as the month progresses it gets colder before the end of the month with widespread snow often following the mild start in Scotland and northern England. This snow may reach East Anglia and the Midlands in some years, but seldom the southern and western areas to any great extent, where floods are more frequent at this time than blizzards.

To summarise: December will likely start off on a stormy note, and progress into frostier weather as the month progresses, likely with a brief respite into rainier weather again around 17th. With the combination of the full cold moon, perigee and highest tides from 24th – 27th December, we can expect some adverse weather around then. Although this is a traditionally a stormy period, I expect the adverse weather is more likely to be extreme cold this year, with frost and possibly snow in northern areas. It is unlikely to be a white Christmas for most of us, but it's not often I say this so take note – a white Christmas is not impossible this year. If we don't get snow, it will be frosty I give the exact same forecast for New Years Eve/ Day too. Sunshine for some, not all. The grass will not be growing on New Years Day.

Lunar phases and folklore remain important tools in indigenous weather forecasting – here's how they align this December:

DECEMBER 2026

Last Quarter Moon = 1st @ 06:08 = Stormy

New Moon = 9th @ 00:51 = Frost

First Quarter Moon = 17th @ 05:42 = Rain

Full Cold Moon = 24th @ 01:28 = Frost

Last Quarter Moon = 30th @ 18:59 = Frost

DoP/ Quarter Day: 21st December – St Thomas

Geminids Meteor Shower: 13th & 14th

Highest Spring Tides 24th – 27th (Very high)!

APOGEE: 11th @ 06:47

PERIGEE: 24th @ 08:31

Met Office Notes: 1st – 14th = Stormy period/ 25th – 31st = Stormy Period

BUCHAN NOTES: 3rd – 15th = Warm Period

DECEMBER'S FULL MOON IS CALLED THE FULL COLD MOON/ HUNTING MOON.

Lesley Coyle Dorset 11th November 2026

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JANUARY 2027

JANUARY – is on average the coldest month of the year in Britain. The coldest day is traditionally associated with 13th January – St Hilary, and in fact the three days 12- 14th January do tend to bring cold temperatures to London, the Home Counties and SE England. Early January is a continuation of the December stormy weather after a break of a few days after the New Year, from 5-17th, in some years taking all this period. A cold spell often develops in mid-January, with a rapid decrease in storms. This is associated with a considerable rise in barometric pressure over central Europe, and, to a lesser extent over northern Europe. It is quite common over much of Britain and results in remarkable frost during some seasons. Towards the end of January barometric pressure generally begins to fall again, normally quite considerably too over most of Europe, leading in many years to quite stormy periods. On the average such times last about nine days from 24th January to the 1st February – even if there are one or two fine days in the middle. Typical weather is dull, mild, and wet, but not particularly cold. Many will recall the North Sea floods of 1953 that brought flooding, deaths, and destruction to much of the North Sea coastline, including the east of England, during this late January period.

To summarise: During January we can expect frozen ground and snow falls from start to finish. Of course I am not suggesting that it will snow every single day for 4 weeks, more that it will be bitterly cold and any precipitation will fall as snow. The snow will be disruptive and cause travel and farm husbandry problems. A snow bound month for everyone. I think Beast from the East 2018 is a good precedent to set, but maybe even December 2010. The month will likely end in blizzard conditions and will be the most severe month of winter.

Lunar phases and folklore remain important tools in indigenous weather forecasting – here's how they align this January:

JANUARY 2027

New Moon = 7th @ 20:24 = Snow, else cold rain

First Quarter Moon = 15th @ 20:34 = Snow, else cold rain

Full Moon = 22nd @ 12:17 = Snow, else cold rain

Last Quarter Moon = 29th @ 10:55 = Cold & High Winds

DoP – St Paul: 25th

Quadrantids Meteor Shower: 3rd & 4th

Highest Spring Tides 23rd – 26th

APOGEE: 8th/ PERIGEE: 22nd

Met Office Notes: 18th – 24th = Quiet Period/ 5th – 17th = Stormy period/ 25th – 31st = Stormy Period

BUCHAN NOTES: None

FULL MOON IS CALLED THE WOLF MOON

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FEBRUARY 2027

FEBRUARY - tends overall to be a fairly quiet, dry, and moderately cold month. The term 'Filldyke' applied to February (from February filldyke saying) is an exhortation, not a reference to its excessive rainfall. When the late January and early February storms have finished, that may not be until 4th February, the weather becomes gradually colder. Buchan places his first cold period of the year at 7 – 14th February and in Europe, the spell 7 -13th has been called 'after winter.' Over a 100-year average at Greenwich Observatory, the 11th produces the month's coldest day and 11 - 12th produces the coldest night. Severe freezing/icing is not unknown either. Such cold spells however do not occur with the regularity of the stormy periods with a percentage regularity of some 60%, though in most years the North of England & Scotland usually gets some heavy falls of snow around the middle of the month. There is usually a short period of mild unsettled weather around 16 – 20th February, followed by a short return to colder conditions during 21 -25th February, though this is seldom unduly severe. Finally, the last few days of the month return to mild but mainly stormy weather. February is a damp month with the least natural evaporation of the whole year too.

To summarise: I have such a dreadful track record with forecasting Februaries, I don't really want to do it! February is a real wild card month that I don't think I've ever got right! So I will just say what I think, and we will see. The hottest days in June give the coldest days in February, and June 2026 included notable heat with temperature records broken. There are also no snow moons in February, which is confusing. I think it could therefore be one of three things. I think January's snowy weather could arrive late, making February as I have forecast for January (something that has happened with Dave's forecasts in the past, or it could be that the cold and snowy weather simply continues across February, with much less snow than January, or it could be that February is cold with extremely frosty weather, but no snow as such. I will let you decide what you think is most likely. That's everything I have to share. February, will always be a wildcard month.

Lunar phases and folklore remain important tools in indigenous weather forecasting – here's how they align this February:

FEBRUARY 2027

New Moon = 6th @ 15:56 = Fair

First Quarter Moon = 14th @ 07:58 = Stormy

Full Moon = 20th @ 23:23 = Fair & Frosty

Last Quarter Moon = 28th @ 05:16 = Rain

DoP – St Candlemas: 2nd

Highest Spring Tides: 22nd – 25th

APOGEE: 3rd/ PERIGEE: 19th

Met Office Notes: 24th – 28th = Stormy period

BUCHAN NOTES: 7th – 14th = Cold Period

FULL MOON IS CALLED THE SNOW MOON

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MARCH 2027

The first part of March is normally unsettled and stormy over western Europe particularly between Britain and the Baltic and is associated with north to northeast airstreams. On average, the stormiest parts of this period over Britain are the 1-2nd and 6-9th March, with Scotland and northern parts of Britain receiving stronger winds than districts further south. By contrast, 12-19th March is normally less stormy and produces markedly fine conditions. In east Scotland and many other districts of Britain, it is the driest period of the year. Night frost, however, is likely despite quite warm day temperatures at times. In the Home Counties and SE England, it normally remains dry until 25th March, and the period 17-25th March the driest part of the year for the London area. There is a tradition the equinoctial gales begin on or near the 21st of March. In fact, they do not normally affect Britain before 24-25th March, beginning first in the northern and western districts. From then until the end of the month the weather is normally very stormy, and there is a general lowering of temperature as the winds blow first from the SW or west and then veer to the NW or north. Sleet and snow over northern districts and over high ground and elsewhere are a fairly regular feature of the last few days of March and produces storms two out of every three years.

To summarise: March will start off on a cold and rainy note, with the weather becoming more settled mid-month, although still cold, before coming cold and windy around 22nd. March is also likely to end on a frosty note. As such a late, cold spring after a properly cold, long, harsh winter.

Lunar phases and folklore remain important tools in indigenous weather forecasting – here's how they align this March:

MARCH 2027

New Moon = 8th @ 09:29 = Cold Rain

First Quarter Moon = 15th @ 16:25 = Fair

Full Moon = 22nd @ 10:43 = Cold & High Winds

Last Quarter Moon = 30th @ 01:53 = Frosty

DoP/ Quarter Day = 25th

Highest Spring Tides: 23rd – 26th

APOGEE: 4th AND 31st/ PERIGEE: 20th

Met Office Notes: None

BUCHAN NOTES: None

FULL MOON IS CALLED THE SAP MOON