West Berkshire

Winter Road Services

Period 01/10/2025 to 30/04/2026

RoadMaster Report

Prepared by DTN

Summary - West Berkshire

End of season summary 2025-2026: Central Southern England

October was slightly milder than average, with mean temperatures around 0.5C above normal, while rainfall was near the average. The month began unsettled with Storm Amy bringing strong winds and heavy rain on the 2nd–3rd. Thereafter, high pressure became established over the UK, resulting in a long settled and dry spell with daytime temperatures slightly above average but cooler nights. More unsettled conditions returned after the 19th as low pressure systems moved in from the west, followed by a brief northerly outbreak bringing colder nights. RSTs remained above zero throughout the month.

November was a little wet, with around 100–125% of average rainfall recorded, while temperatures were still slightly above normal overall by around 0.5–1.5C. The first half of the month was dominated by mild westerly and south-westerly flows, with Storm Claudia bringing very wet and windy conditions on the 14th. A marked colder spell developed from the 18th as northerly winds spread across the UK. RSTs, which had previously remained above zero, fell below zero in many places during several nights in the second half of the month. Conditions became more unsettled again toward the end of the month.

December was mild overall, with mean temperatures around 1.5C above average, and slightly wetter than normal with around 100–125% of expected rainfall. The month began unsettled under frequent Atlantic fronts, including Storm Bram on the 9th, bringing wet and windy conditions. Brief ridges of high pressure around mid-month allowed clearer and colder nights at times, although generally mild south-westerly and southerly flows dominated. During the second half of the month, high pressure alternated between southern Europe and Scandinavia, producing periods of settled but often cloudy weather. RSTs were mostly above zero during the first part of the month but became marginal or below zero in some days later on.

January was wetter than average, with around 150–200% of expected rainfall, while temperatures overall were close to average despite a strong contrast between a cold start and a milder remainder. The opening days were notably cold and wintry under a northerly flow, with frequent frosts, wintry showers and RSTs widely below zero. Conditions turned less cold after the 6th as Atlantic fronts and Storm Goretti brought snow briefly turning to rain and a transition to milder south-westerly air. From mid-month onward, unsettled and generally mild conditions dominated, with further low pressure systems and Storm Chandra affecting the region on the 27th. RSTs were below zero early in the month, occasionally marginal around mid-month, but mostly remained above zero through the latter half.

February was very mild wet, with temperatures around 2.0–2.5C above average and rainfall near 200% of normal across most areas. The month started under mild south-easterly and southerly flows, bringing extensive cloud and keeping overnight temperatures elevated. Around mid-month, a brief colder interlude followed the passage of low pressure systems, with sleet and wet snow occurring temporarily on the 18th–19th. However, this colder spell was short-lived and milder Atlantic conditions soon returned. RSTs stayed mainly above zero throughout the month, although they became marginal or locally below zero during the colder spell between the 13th and 18th.

March was mild and dry, with mean and maximum temperatures generally around 0.5-1.0C above average and rainfall reduced to only around 50–75% of normal. The first part of the month was dominated by a mild south-westerly flow as the jet stream remained north of the UK, bringing breezy and occasionally wet conditions. Around the 14th, a colder north-westerly airflow briefly developed, causing temperatures to fall closer to seasonal values. Milder and more changeable weather then returned for much of the remainder of the month, with occasional fronts interspersed with drier periods. RSTs remained predominantly above zero throughout, becoming only marginal to below during the brief colder spell in mid March, and another one later in the month, even below zero in places on the 22nd and 26th.

April was milder than average and notably dry, with mean temperatures around 0.5–1.5 °C above normal and only 20–50% of average rainfall recorded. The month began unsettled with several low pressure systems moving through, including Storm Dave on the 4th–5th which brought strong winds and showers. Conditions gradually became more settled as high pressure increasingly dominated, especially from the 19th onward, producing a prolonged dry, calm and bright spell. Southerly and south-easterly flows helped maintain relatively mild conditions throughout the month. RSTs remained consistently above zero for the entirety of April, with only brief dips under clearer and calmer nights.

West Berkshire

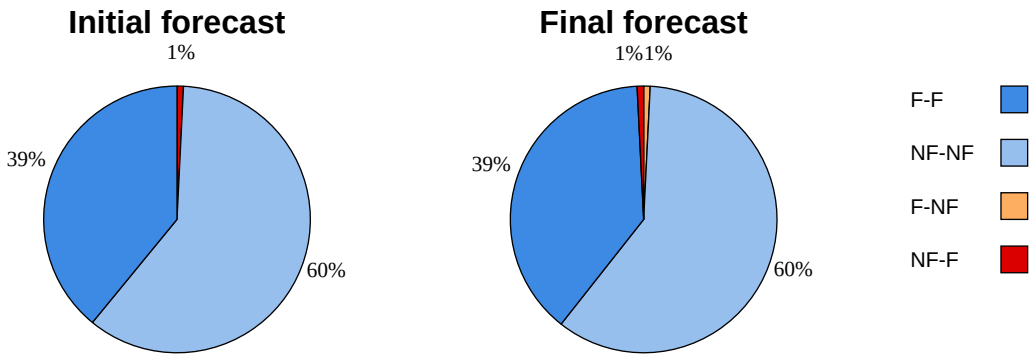
Analysis of Site Forecasts and Performance

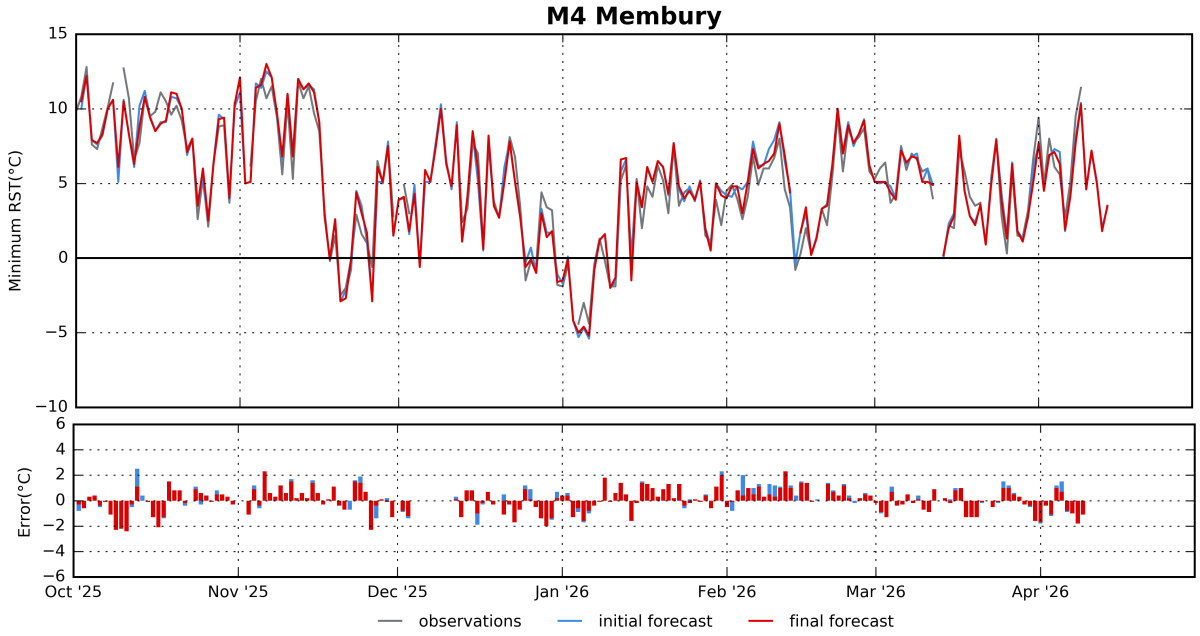
Critical nights at or below 3°C

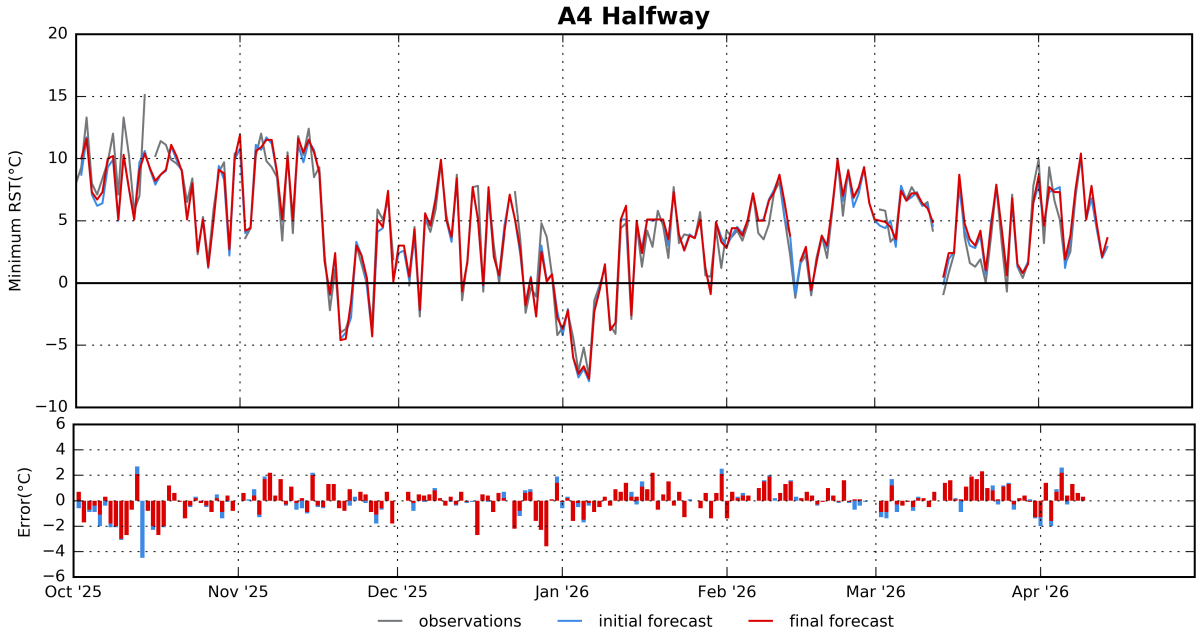
01/10/2025 to 30/04/2026

		Initial forecast					Final forecast				
Site	**No Data**	**Critical Nights**	**NF-NF**	**F-F**	**NF-F**	**F-NF**	**Critical Nights**	**NF-NF**	**F-F**	**NF-F**	**F-NF**
M4 Membury	37	58	38	19	1	0	59	38	19	1	1
A4 Halfway	30	70	39	31	0	0	68	38	30	0	0
TOTAL	**67**	**128**	**77**	**50**	**1**	**0**	**127**	**76**	**49**	**1**	**1**

	Initial forecast					Final forecast				
Site	**Perc. Correct**	**Miss Rate**	**FA Ratio**	**Bias**	**RMSE**	**Perc. Correct**	**Miss Rate**	**FA Ratio**	**Bias**	**RMSE**
M4 Membury	98%	5%	0%	0.11	1.06	97%	5%	5%	-0.03	1.01
A4 Halfway	100%	0%	0%	0.11	1.07	100%	0%	0%	0.2	1.14
TOTAL	**99%**	**2%**	**0%**	**0.11**	**1.07**	**98%**	**2%**	**2%**	**0.09**	**1.08**




M4 Membury
Minimum RST(°C)
15
10
5
0
−5
−10
Error(°C)
6
4
2
0
−2
−4
−6
Oct '25
Nov '25
Dec '25
Jan '26
Feb '26
Mar '26
Apr '26
observations
initial forecast
final forecast


A4 Halfway
Minimum RST(°C)
20
15
10
5
0
−5
−10
Error(°C)
6
4
2
0
−2
−4
−6
Oct '25
Nov '25
Dec '25
Jan '26
Feb '26
Mar '26
Apr '26
observations
initial forecast
final forecast

Performance Indicators

At DTN we have set out targets that we think are not only achievable, but also surpass-able. Below we set out performance targets that we will monitor against over the course of a customer's contract, including them in monthly and annual performance reports.

Following the recommendations of UK's Institution of Civil Engineers, we judge the value of our forecasts by looking at the road frost status. Using a 2 x 2 contingency table we compare the forecast against the actual:

	Frost Forecast (F)	**No Frost Forecast (NF)**
Frost occurred (F)	Correct forecast - frost (F/F)	Missed event (NF/F)
No frost occurred (NF)	False alarm (F/NF)	Correct forecast - no frost (NF/NF)

Only critical nights with a minimum road surface temperature below 3.0 °C are considered in the quality monitoring. The table allows the computation of the performance indicators below.

Percentage Correct (PC): Suggested target is 92% or higher
The percentage correct is the number of correct forecasts, divided by the total number of forecasts issued for critical nights:
PC = [(F/F + NF/NF) / Total number of critical nights] x 100 %

Miss rate (MR): Suggested target is < 8%
This indicates how many of the observed frosts were not forecasted, divided by the total number of nights with observed road frost:
MR = (NF/F) / (F/F + NF/F) x 100 %

False Alarm Ratio (FAR): Suggested target is < 9%
This looks at the frequency of nights with road frost forecasted while the road surface temperature stayed above 0 °C. We divide this number of nights with a false alarm by the total number of nights with frost forecasted:
FAR = (F/NF) / (F/F + F/NF) x 100 %

Bias: Suggested target is -0.25 °C
The bias is the mean over all differences between forecast and observation, in our case applied to the minimum road surface temperature. A negative bias indicates too pessimistic forecasts. Conversely, a positive bias suggests too warm forecasts.

Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE): Suggested target is < 1.40 °C
By squaring the differences between forecasted and observed temperature minima we remove the direction of the forecast error. The RMSE penalizes higher errors, it must not be compared with the mean absolute error.