

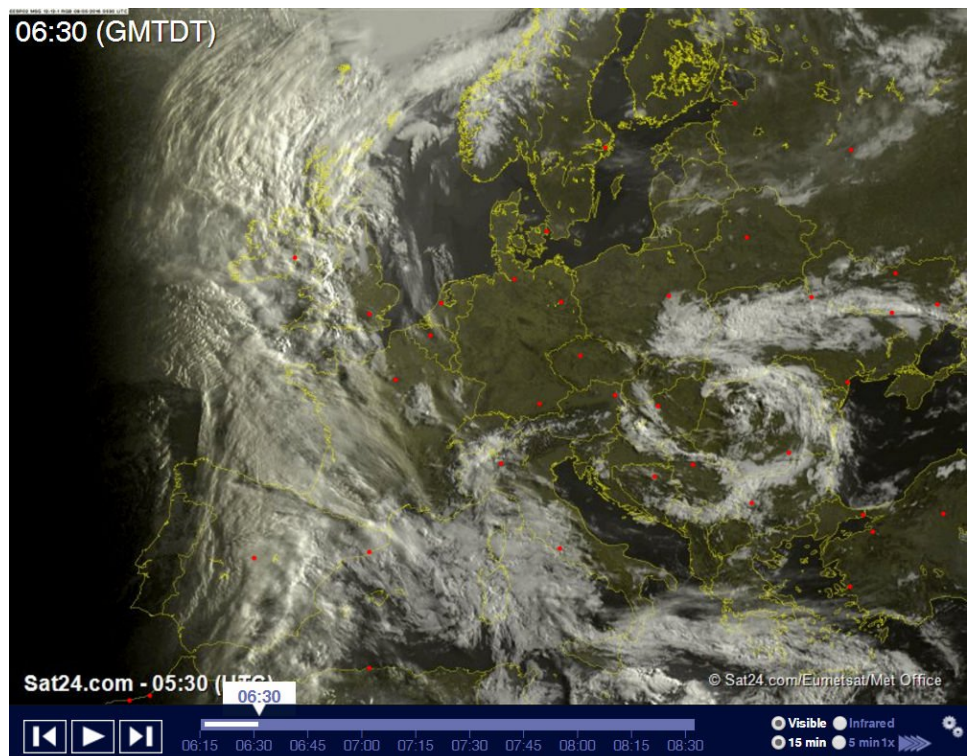
Will today be good for solar cooking?

160508

Solar cooks are at the mercy of the weather, especially in the UK. You can refine your predictions about solar cooking conditions in your area by using the following websites. Remember - you can still cook with a tube cooker (like the SM70) if you can cast a sharp shadow, so you can still cook under light, high-level clouds.

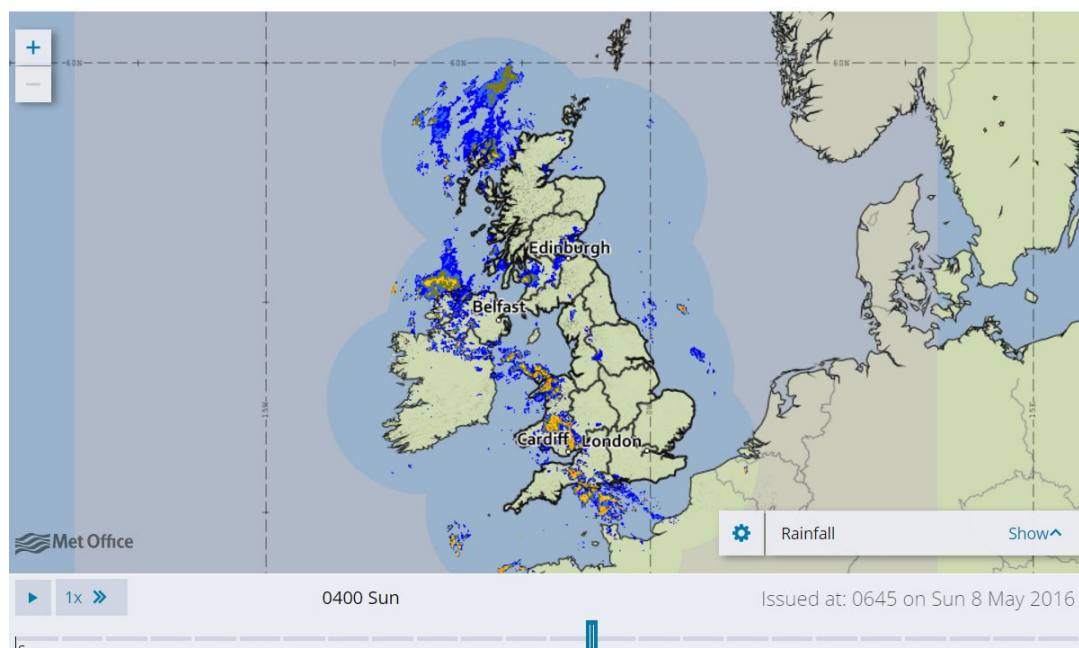
Cloud cover

Recent satellite images of Europe are always available here: <http://en.sat24.com/en/eu/infraPolair> Ten images, taken during the last two hours, are displayed sequentially to give an impression of how the cloud mass is moving. In this picture, as the sun rises across the Atlantic (to the left of the picture), we can see that there are clear skies above Denmark, Germany, and the south-east of England. The rest of the UK has some cloud cover. Playing the sequence of pictures on this occasion allowed us to estimate when the sky would clear over the west of the UK. These images also give an impression of the density of the clouds



Rain

This website allows you to look at twenty-four recent radar images of rainfall, taken at fifteen minute intervals. It will display the pictures sequentially so you can see how quickly and in which direction the rain showers are progressing: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/observation/rainfall-radar#?map=Rainfall&fcTime=1462629600&zoom=5&lon=-4.00&lat=55.21>



Rainfall is shown in dark blue, with yellow patches indicating where it is more intense.

Used together, these two websites will enable you to make a guess about whether it is worth attempting to cook solar in the next few hours.

If you want to look further into the future, then the sites listed on the next page may assist you.

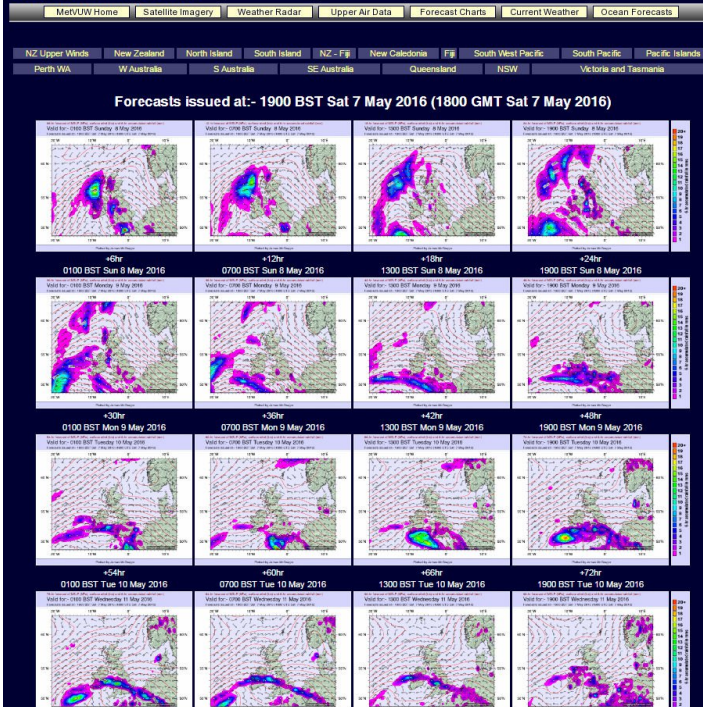
BBC Weather

This website enables you to find local weather forecasts based on Met Office data for the next ten days. Type your location – city, town, or postcode – into the light green box. Remember that the further ahead you try to predict, the less accurate the forecast is likely to be.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/2643743>



metvuw.com



Likelihood of Rain

This page from metvuw uses UK Met Office data to produce these pictorial predictions about the likelihood of rain. Each picture shows the likelihood of rain having fallen during the previous six hours. These predictions are available for up to a week in the future.

<http://www.metvuw.com/forecast/forecast.php?typ=e=rain®ion=uk&noofdays=all>

Jet Stream

The Jet Stream is a system of winds high in the atmosphere that has a significant influence on our weather. Usually, it is a good sign for solar cooks if one of the jet stream winds is NOT above the UK, as shown in the picture on the right. This site displays predictions for the location and ferocity of the jet stream from the present time and up to fifteen days into the future. If you click the 'Animate' button (seen here top left) a series of predictions will play out on your screen.

<http://www.netweather.tv/index.cgi?action=jetstream>

This site contains much more information about the Jet Stream and its influence.

