

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

Summary of observations compiled from returns of official stations and voluntary observers

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April 1967 — Generally cool, dull and rather dry

The month began with cyclonic weather but after the 2nd it was mainly anticyclonic except between the 5th and 11th when pressure was low to the south and east of the British Isles and high in a belt extending from northern Scandinavia to the Azores, and also between the 19th and 21st when the weather was dominated by low pressure to the north and east of the country.

On the morning of the 1st, frost was widespread; Cardington had its coldest April night on record with a minimum temperature as low as -7°C . Later in the day fronts associated with a deep depression near Iceland brought rain to most districts, many places in western Scotland recording more than 40 mm; the rain continued throughout the night and for much of the 2nd. An anticyclone became established in our South-West Approaches during the next three days and, although weather continued unsettled in Scotland with wind reaching gale force at times, it was sunny and warm over southern England with afternoon temperatures reaching 16°C at places near the south coast on both the 4th and the 5th.

The weather pattern changed on the night of the 5th/6th as an intense depression moved southwards from the northern North Sea to the Low Countries bringing widespread rain and gales to all eastern districts. From then until the 12th a ridge of high pressure to the north of Scotland extended from northern Scandinavia to the Azores while pressure remained low to the south-east and south of the British Isles. Scotland and north-west England enjoyed nearly a week of dry sunny weather with temperatures near average, but over most of the rest of the country north-easterly winds brought generally cold, dull and rather wet weather. In south-east England, after a fine night fog patches cleared quickly on the morning of the 9th, but during the next two days there was almost continuous rain associated with a depression over northern France; falls exceeding 30 mm in 24 hours were common. In parts of East Anglia the temperature on the 11th did not rise above 5°C .

On the 13th the ridge of high pressure, previously to the north of Scotland, drifted slowly southwards and remained over the British Isles during the next two or three days. Weather was mainly dry, sunny and warm after the dispersal of early morning fog patches, day temperatures rising progressively over most of the country and reaching 23°C in parts of Hampshire on the 17th; many places had more than 12 hours of sunshine. In the Dungeness area, however, mist or fog patches persisted for most of the day.

The anticyclone over the British Isles withdrew to the west of Ireland on the 17th allowing a northerly airstream from high latitudes to bring colder air over the whole country. The next day was sunny but cool with maximum temperatures some 10°C lower than the previous day. The cold northerly winds were temporarily interrupted on the 19th by a depression from the Atlantic which deepened near the Faeroes as it moved eastwards. A cold front associated with this depression brought heavy rain to Scotland, with falls exceeding 30 mm in the Western Isles, and rain to most of the remainder of the United Kingdom that night. Winds behind the depression became north-westerly again on the 20th and brought wintry showers to Scotland; these showers spread to most other districts the next day.

The cold weather was brought to an end on the 22nd by a depression moving south-eastwards across the British Isles accompanied by widespread rain. The next few days were changeable, frontal rain from the Atlantic alternating with sunnier and drier spells.

From the 27th to the 29th an anticyclone was centred to the west of Ireland and weather was milder with prolonged sunshine in the west, but frontal systems moving around the anticyclone brought slight rain to northern and eastern districts. Afternoon temperatures in parts of eastern Scotland reached 22°C on both the 28th and 29th. A renewal of north-westerly winds brought wintry showers to Scotland and northern England on the last day of the month.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was above the 1931-60 average everywhere, the excess at 0900 GMT ranging from 1.6 mb at Shoeburyness

to 6.3 mb at Ballykelly. Surface winds were south-westerly at first, becoming north-westerly between the 3rd and 5th and north-easterly between the 6th and 13th. They were very variable during the remainder of the month except for north-westerlies between the 17th and 21st. Winds reached gale force on 9 days in Scotland and 11 days in England and Wales, gales being widespread in northern districts on the 5th and 6th. A gust of 67 kt was recorded at Dyce on the 5th.

Temperature — Over the month as a whole temperatures were below the 1931-60 average except in eastern Scotland. There were, however, two or three warm spells, one around mid-month, another towards the end of the month, and a third, which was mainly confined to southern England, around the 4th and 5th.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 22.2°C at several places on the 17th, at Durham on the 28th, -9.4°C at Moor House on the 1st; (Scotland) 22.2°C at Montrose on the 16th and at Buddon Ness on the 28th, -11.7°C at Buddon Ness on the 1st; (Northern Ireland) 21.1°C at Armagh on the 28th, -4.4°C at Parkmore Forest on the 1st.

Rainfall — In England and Wales rainfall was generally below the average except in the south-east; it was less than 25 per cent around Exeter and more than 150 per cent near Dovercourt and at places bordering the Thames Estuary. In Scotland rainfall was above average in the north, north-east and south-west with a few places recording 150 per cent of their average, while many places in eastern and central Scotland had less than half their usual amount.

Thunder was heard in England and Wales on 4 days and in Scotland on 13 days.

Snow and sleet showers occurred on about 11 days, mainly during the first and fourth weeks; it was most widespread on the 21st. Only the higher peaks in Scotland and northern England were snow-covered.

Sunshine — It was a dull month generally but sunshine was above the average in central and eastern Scotland and also at one or two places on the English Channel coast. Percentages in England and Wales ranged from 55 at Watnall to 109 at Brighton.

Fog — Morning fog occurred in Scotland on 7 days and in England and Wales between the 1st and 2nd, 9th and 11th, 13th and 17th, 23rd and 30th (18 days). Hill and coast fog was fairly extensive in western districts on the 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, and 29th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was seen in Scotland on one night.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES, APRIL, 1967

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE $^{\circ}\text{C}$					EARTH TEMP. $^{\circ}\text{C}$		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUNSHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 30 cm.	Mean 122 cm.			
	Difference from Average					% of Average				
0 SCOTLAND, N.	16.7	-3.9	0.0	-0.4	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	-1	107	99
1 SCOTLAND, E.	21.1	-3.9	+0.3	+0.4	+0.3	0.0	-0.1	0	65	102
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	22.2	-5.0	-0.4	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	0	76	80
3 ENGLAND, E.	21.8	-5.0	-1.3	-0.4	-0.9	-0.3	0.0	+1	119	90
4 MIDLANDS	21.7	-5.0	-1.0	-0.2	-0.6	-0.3	+0.1	-1	77	74
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	22.2	-6.4	-0.9	-0.4	-0.6	-0.5	0.0	-1	98	90
6 SCOTLAND, W.	20.0	-6.5	-0.4	-0.1	-0.3	-0.3	-0.1	-2	76	98
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	18.9	-4.4	-0.9	0.0	-0.4	-0.5	-0.1	-2	67	78
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	20.6	-5.6	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-0.6	-0.1	-5	43	77
N. IRELAND	21.1	-2.8	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-	-	-4	79	92
SCOTLAND	21.1	-6.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	-1	77	100
ENG. and WALES	22.2	-6.4	-0.8	-0.2	-0.5	-	-	-1	78	81

*Highest Max. and Lowest Min. of the District Value Stations.