

# Monthly Weather Report

## OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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### November 1966 — *Cold; frequent northerly winds*

Weather was mainly cyclonic in character except on the 2nd-3rd when a ridge of high pressure extended from the Atlantic across the British Isles to Scandinavia, on the 9th-10th when an anticyclone was centred in our South-West Approaches, and over the north of the country on the 20th and 21st.

Fresh to strong north-easterly winds, associated with a large anticyclone centred off north-west Scotland and a ridge extending over the Norwegian Sea, brought wintry showers to most districts on the 1st, but the 2nd and 3rd were sunny with moderating wind and well scattered showers as the ridge moved slowly southwards over northern districts. Overnight fog covering much of England south-east of a line from Durham to Dorset on the morning of the 4th, gave place to periods of unusually heavy rain as a complex depression off western Ireland deepened and moved southwards; falls exceeding 2 inches were reported from the west country, and there was widespread flooding. Troughs and centres associated with the depression remained over southern England maintaining generally dull wet weather until the 7th, but sunny spells and southerly winds from low latitudes brought afternoon temperatures in some parts of south-east England up to 16°C on the 7th, though much of the north-east remained dull with fog and drizzle.

The 8th was also foggy for much of the day in the Midlands, but on the 9th an anticyclone from the Atlantic approached our south-west coasts bringing freshening north-westerly winds, a return to below-normal temperatures and sunny periods with well scattered showers, which were of snow in the north. These conditions continued on the 10th as the anticyclone approached the Bay of Biscay.

The 11th-13th was generally dull and wet as fronts associated with disturbances near Iceland moved eastwards across northern districts. Southern England, however, remained dry on the 11th, as the anticyclone moved into northern France, and southerly winds on the western flank of this anticyclone brought temperatures above average again during this period, especially at night.

A sunny day with scattered showers in a north-westerly airstream on the 14th was followed by stormy weather with gales in most areas on the 15th and 16th as a depression near Iceland moved south-east into the North Sea. Gusts of 68 knots were recorded in many western districts on the 16th. As the depression moved away over the continent winds began to subside but gales continued along the east coast on the 17th.

On the 18th pressure rose over Scandinavia, and from then until the 23rd north-easterly winds maintained below average temperatures with scattered showers and sunny periods in most districts, except in east and south east England where there were periods of more continuous rain due to minor disturbances over western Germany or the southern North Sea.

With clearing skies after rain earlier on the 23rd, freezing fog formed over much of the Midlands and south-east England during the night of the 23rd/24th and persisted throughout the day in parts of south-east England, though it cleared during the morning in most other districts.

A belt of frontal rain moved south-east across the country on the 25th, and temperatures rose above normal on the 26th as westerly winds, associated with a deep depression in the Norwegian Sea, brought rain to most districts. The mild wet weather continued on the 27th, but winds veered towards north-west on the 28th bringing a sharp fall of temperature and snow showers as far south as Somerset. A deepening depression to the north of Scotland brought widespread rain, heavy at times, on the night of the 29th/30th as it moved into the northern North Sea, and the month ended stormy with north-westerly gales in the north and west and wintry showers in nearly all areas.

**Pressure and Wind** — Mean pressure was above the average nearly everywhere except in the extreme east. The difference from average at 9hr ranged from +5.7mb at Benbecula to -0.6mb at Gorleston. Surface winds were predominantly north-easterly during the first week except for the 3rd-4th and 6th-7th when winds especially in the south were rather variable or southerly. During the remainder of the month they were mainly north-westerly, apart from south-westerlies on the 11th-13th

and north-easterlies on the 18th-22nd. Gales were reported on 11 days in Scotland and on 14 days in England and Wales, and were widespread on the 15th and 16th.

**Temperature** — Mean temperatures were mainly below the 1931-60 average although there were some milder spells; one of these on the 7th-8th was mainly confined to south-east England, but others, on the 11th-15th, and 26th-28th, were more general.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 17.8°C at Eastwick Lodge on the 7th, -7.2°C at Kielder Castle and Corbridge on the 21th; (Scotland) 12.8°C at Faskally on the 7th and at Dunbar on the 12th -11.7°C at Balmoral on the 11th; (Northern Ireland) 12.2°C at several stations on the 11th-13th, 25th and 26th, -7.8°C at Knockmany Forest on the 23rd.

**Rainfall** — In England and Wales rainfall was mainly below the 1916-50 average except in the eastern half of the West Riding of Yorkshire, of Lincolnshire and of Kent, and over Norfolk, Suffolk, North Wales and in a belt extending northwards from the Somerset-Wiltshire border to Cheshire. It ranged from 50 per cent of the average locally in Oxfordshire to 150 per cent of the average in the extreme east of Kent. In Scotland rainfall was mainly below the average south of a line from Dyce to Fort William, and in western coastal districts south of Fort William. It was more than twice the average in parts of Inverness-shire.

Thunder was heard on 7 days in Scotland and on 11 days in England and Wales; thunderstorms were fairly widespread on the 15th.

Sleet or snow was reported on 18 days, ground being snow-covered in parts of the Midlands and north-east England on the 29th when it lay to a depth of 1 inch in places. In Scotland snow was widespread during the last four days of the month.

**Sunshine** — Sunshine was below the 1931-60 average over much of central and northern Scotland with deficits of more than 15 hours around the inner Moray Firth. Elsewhere in Scotland sunshine was above the average with excesses of around 25 hours locally in the west and south. In England and Wales sunshine was generally greater in the west than in the east, though some north-facing coasts in the west had large deficits. Percentages ranged from 153 at Cannington to 59 at Colwyn Bay.

**Fog** — Fog at 9hr was observed at one place or another on 6 days in Scotland, and on 19 days, mainly during the first two and fourth weeks, in England and Wales. Fog persisted throughout the 7th and 8th over much of the Midlands and south-east England and there was widespread freezing fog in the south-east on the 24th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena** — The aurora was visible in Scotland on 10 nights.

TABLE 1—DISTRICT VALUES, NOVEMBER, 1966

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUNSHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
			Difference from Average							
0 SCOTLAND, N.	10.5	-3.4	-1.8	-1.9	-1.9	-	-	+2	119	93
1 SCOTLAND, E.	11.7	-3.9	-1.7	-1.2	-1.4	-	-	+3	98	88
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	12.2	-3.9	-1.0	-1.3	-1.1	+0.2	+0.1	+3	87	100
3 ENGLAND, E.	16.7	-2.8	-1.5	-1.0	-1.3	+0.2	0.0	+7	110	89
4 MIDLANDS	14.4	-2.8	-1.5	-1.2	-1.4	-0.3	-0.1			
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	16.1	-6.0	-1.4	-1.0	-1.2	-0.4	-0.3	+1	69	92
6 SCOTLAND, W.	11.7	-7.6	-1.3	-1.6	-1.4	-0.6	-0.1	-1	87	136
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	12.6	-3.9	-1.2	-0.6	-0.9	-0.1	+0.2	+2	87	94
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	13.3	-2.8	-1.7	-1.9	-1.7	-0.7	-0.5	-3	69	105
N. IRELAND	11.6	-5.6	-1.5	-2.0	-1.7	-	-	0	101	113
SCOTLAND	11.7	-7.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-	-	+1	108	106
ENG. and WALES	16.7	-6.0	-1.4	-1.2	-1.3	-	-	+1	87	95

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