

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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Unsettled; wet in north-west.

On the 1st a depression centred over Iceland was filling slowly as a ridge of high pressure over the Atlantic moved eastwards towards the British Isles. During the following day an anticyclone developed off south-west England but the centre of high pressure was quickly transferred eastwards and the British Isles came within the circulation of a deep depression which moved north-eastwards from mid-Atlantic to the Norwegian Sea. Pressure then remained low to the north and north-east of Britain for some time with a succession of frontal troughs and small depressions moving across all areas.

On the 17th a deep depression moved from south of Iceland towards the Faeroes with the associated fronts clearing eastern coastal districts of England early on the 18th. A ridge of high pressure then developed over the British Isles with an anticyclone becoming established over central areas on the 20th. The high-pressure centre slowly drifted south-eastwards during the next few days and although pressure remained high from Spain across western Europe until the end of the month, frontal systems occasionally crossed the British Isles from the west.

Weather

The weather during most of the month was unsettled and there were showers or longer periods of rain in all areas from time to time, with the heaviest falls generally in north-western areas. Hail, sleet and snow occurred at times, particularly between the 7th and 17th, and there were scattered thunderstorms during the first three weeks. It was mild at times during the first week and again during the last few days of the month.

Wind

Until the 18th winds were frequently fresh or strong and often reached gale force on exposed coasts and hills. On the 3rd, during gales over northern areas, a gust of 71 kt was recorded at the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh. From the 19th to 21st winds were generally lighter, except in the north-west, but from the 22nd until the end of the month fresh or strong winds again occurred in many areas with gales in some districts. On the 25th and 26th gales became severe around Irish Sea coasts and on the 28th a gust of 81 kt was recorded at the high-level station at Cairngorm in Scotland. Wind directions during the month were mostly between south-west and north-west, but were variable for a time over England and Wales on the 20th and 21st.

Temperature

Monthly mean temperatures were within 1 °C of average almost everywhere. Values were below normal over most of Scotland, in parts of east and south-east England and in a few widely scattered districts elsewhere in England and Northern Ireland. In remaining areas of the United Kingdom values were around or above normal.

During the first week of the month there were mild days in all districts; on the 3rd temperatures of around 18 °C were recorded along the Moray Firth, in North Wales and in Co. Down. Colder weather spread to all areas during the 7th and 8th and persisted for the next 10 days. Night frosts occurred in many places; on the night of 12th/13th the temperature fell

to -11.6 °C at West Linton (Borders Region) and minima of -6.0 °C were reported as far south as Bournemouth and Poole in Dorset. The weather became generally less cold from the 17th onwards and during the last few days of the month very mild conditions spread to most districts, the temperature rising to 17.9 °C at Hawarden Bridge (Clwyd) on the 29th.

Rainfall

Rainfall totals were well above average over Northern Ireland and most of Scotland, except in some eastern areas. In Northern Ireland it was the second wettest November this century, and in some western parts of Scotland more than twice the normal rainfall was recorded, Glasgow having its wettest November since 1939. In contrast, however, only just over half the normal rainfall for the month fell in parts of the Grampian Region. Above-average rainfall occurred over most of northern England, the north Midlands, much of Wales and over parts of Exmoor and Dartmoor. Remaining areas in England and Wales had below-average rainfall with less than 50 per cent of the normal falling in parts of southern England.

Showers or periods of rain affected all areas from time to time during the month. Rainfall was occasionally heavy; in the 24 hours from 09 GMT on the 13th several places in Co. Down and Co. Armagh recorded falls of more than 50 mm and on the 25th the heaviest 'daily' fall of the year in the United Kingdom, 185.2 mm was recorded at Honister Pass (Cumbria). Serious flooding occurred in parts of the Lake District, Yorkshire and Scotland following the heavy rain on the 25th.

Snow

Scattered sleet or snow showers were reported over high ground in Scotland on the 1st and 2nd and early in the last week, but the heaviest falls of the month occurred during the second and third weeks. On the 8th and 9th there were widespread reports of sleet and snow over Scotland and also over high ground in England and Wales. On the 14th and 15th snow affected many parts of the United Kingdom and lay

for a time on low ground, particularly in western Scotland where land and air traffic were disrupted.

Sunshine

Sunshine totals were above average, with values up to 150 per cent of normal, in Orkney and Shetland, eastern and southern Scotland, most parts of Northern Ireland, North Wales and much of England, except for some south-western areas and a few isolated places elsewhere. In most remaining districts between 75 and 100 per cent of the normal sunshine for November was recorded, although at Fort Augustus (Highland Region) it was the dullest November since 1956 with only 59 per cent.

Over Scotland the first half of the month was generally sunnier than the second and at Lerwick (Shetland) 42.6 out of a total of 48.7 hours of sunshine for the month were recorded during the first 16 days. In other parts of the United Kingdom there were sunny days at times throughout the month, but even in areas where monthly totals were above normal, there were about 10 sunless days.

Fog

Except during the third week of the month, fog in inland areas was reported only on a few isolated occasions. On the night of 16th/17th fog patches formed in many central and eastern areas of England and on the nights of 19th/20th and 20th/21st fog formed extensively, becoming dense in many areas and persisting throughout the day in places on both the 20th and 21st.

Hill and coastal fog patches were reported on a few occasions during the month, mainly associated with precipitation, but there were no persistently foggy spells.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

A funnel cloud was reported at Lossiemouth (Grampian Region) on the 15th. Unusual deposits of dust and 'coloured rain', probably due to dust carried from the Sahara, were reported from places in the north-west on the 28th.

Table 1 District values

District	air temperature °C					mean 30-cm earth temp °C	rain- days	rainfall	sun- shine
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	max.	min.	mean				
			difference from average						
0 Scotland N	14.9	-4.5	-0.8	-1.0	-0.9	-0.6	+4	166	102
1 Scotland E	18.0	-9.8	+0.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	+2	103	118
2 England E & NE	16.5	-7.1	+0.5	-0.8	-0.1	-0.5	0	93	128
3 East Anglia	15.3	-5.1	+0.3	-0.6	-0.1	-0.1	+1	82	113
4 Midland Counties	17.0	-7.5	+0.9	-0.3	+0.3	-0.1	+1	88	120
5 England SE & Central S	15.7	-6.7	+0.5	-0.3	+0.1	0.0	+3	68	118
6 Scotland W	15.8	-9.8	-0.1	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	+6	172	97
7 England NW & Wales N	17.9	-7.0	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.1	+4	128	105
8 England SW & Wales S	16.1	-6.0	+0.5	-0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+3	83	94
N Ireland	16.4	-4.9	+0.6	-0.1	+0.2	-0.1	+5	157	105
Scotland	18.0	-9.8	-0.2	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3	+4	147	106
England & Wales	17.9	-7.5	+0.5	-0.3	+0.1	-0.1	+2	90	113

*Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations