

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

OCTOBER

1992

VOLUME 109

NUMBER 10

Unsettled. Cold with snow in the north later.

Fronts crossed the country during the 1st and 2nd, and by noon on the 3rd a deepening low over north-western Italy became the controlling feature. For the next three days, fronts moved west over the country, but by midnight on the 6th a high was building to the west, and a south-moving cold front crossed all areas on the 8th and 9th. The high reformed and remained almost stationary on the 10th and 11th, although a cold front moved south during the 11th. A cold front crossed south-eastern areas on the 12th, but the high declined throughout the 13th, allowing fronts to cross from the north-west. By the 14th, pressure was low over Scandinavia, and cold fronts crossed all areas. The low hardly moved on the 15th and 16th, whilst a cold front associated with another Scandinavian low moved south on the 17th and formed a secondary low over south-west England by midnight on the 18th, which became the main feature by the 20th. Further systems crossed central parts on the 21st and 22nd, clearing on the 23rd. By 1800 on the 24th, fronts approached the south-west, and by noon on the 25th had developed into a deep low centred near The Wash. A ridge covered most parts on the 26th, but an occlusion affected western areas by midnight, moving eastwards during the 27th as a low became established over Scotland. By midnight, this low covered most parts, but had filled 24 hours later. Pressure rose during the 30th, although a weak cold front moved south-eastwards. Further fronts reached western areas by noon on the 31st.

Weather

On the 3rd, there was a thunderstorm over Guernsey. Hail occurred over Anglesey and the Scottish Isles on the 14th. Heavy showers of hail, sleet or snow were widespread on the 15th, and were thundery in north Devon, Anglesey and north-east England. Further wintry showers fell on the 16th, especially near western coasts of England and Wales. Hail and thunder affected north Wales on the 19th, and the south coast of England on the night of the 19th/20th, spreading to most parts of south-east England and East Anglia during the 20th. A house in Newport, IOW, was struck by lightning twice in two minutes, and houses were damaged by lightning in Essex. Heavy, sometimes thundery showers of hail, sleet or snow fell on the 23rd; on Merseyside, rail travel was decimated when overhead wires were struck, and a hospital switchboard was blacked out for 3½ hours. Thundery showers fell on the 24th, especially in East Anglia, and also in central areas of Scotland and England on the 27th, and along the Channel coast on the 28th, with hail reported from elsewhere. Northern Scotland had hail showers on the 30th.

Wind

Northerly gales affected the south-east on the 6th, and northern hills and coasts on the 13th. On the 15th, northern Scotland had gales, including a gust of 51 kn at Peterhead, Grampian. Severe gales affected Wales and southern England on the 25th. Widespread gusts over 60 kn led to several incidents, notably a yachtsman drowning off the Isle of Wight, a horse killed by a falling tree at Bristol,

and disruptions to cross-channel ferries. Two Cornish stations, Camborne and Cudrose, had gusts of 78 and 73 kn respectively. The 28th was windy in northern Scotland, including a gust of 77 kn at Fair Isle, and a gust of 52 kn was recorded at Edinburgh Observatory on the 31st. Directions were northerly or north-easterly up to the 12th, northerly or north-westerly from the 14th to the 17th, and then westerly or north-westerly.

Temperature

In one of the coldest Octobers since the War, several places, including Glasgow whose figures go back 135 years, equalled their records, or set new ones. Everywhere was colder than average, anomalies ranging from 1.8 °C below average at Kirkwall, Orkney and at Lerwick, Shetland, to 3.9 °C below average at Prestwick, Strathclyde and at Bargrennan, Dumfries and Galloway. The highest temperature was 20.7 °C at Elmstone, Kent on the 2nd, whilst the lowest was -7.7 °C at Santon Downham, Norfolk on the 31st. On the 26th, Braemar, Grampian recorded its lowest October temperature (-7.3 °C) for 21 years.

Rainfall

October was essentially wet, especially in eastern areas, where some parts had more than double average rainfall, and on Merseyside. Writtle, Essex had the highest percentage of average (216%). The highest daily total was 72 mm at Isle of Rum on the 26th, whilst 51 mm fell at Clatteringshaws, Dumfries and Galloway on the 31st. Ardtalnaig, Tayside Region, had the lowest percentage of average (45%), and parts of western Scotland had less than 50% of average. Severe flooding occurred at Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire on the 3rd following heavy rain, whilst the Merseyside area suffered three significant events: 46 mm fell overnight at Crosby on the 17th/18th; accidents caused by heavy rain killed four in Runcorn on the night of the 23rd/24th, and severe flooding occurred the following night. Much of the country had torrential rain on the 25th.

Table 1 District values

District	Air temperature °C					Mean 30 cm soil temp °C	Rain- days	Rainfall	Sun- shine
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	Max.	Min.	Mean				
			Difference from average					% of average	
0 Scotland N	17.8	-3.5	-2.1	-2.5	-2.3	-0.6	+1	87	90
1 Scotland E	17.5	-7.3	-2.9	-3.0	-3.0	-1.0	-1	89	87
2 England E & NE	17.0	-5.0	-3.1	-2.4	-2.8	-1.0	+3	114	90
3 East Anglia	17.4	-1.8	-2.9	-2.2	-2.6	-0.5	+2	145	102
4 Midland Counties	18.3	-3.9	-3.1	-2.2	-2.7	-0.8	+1	118	88
5 England SE & Central S	18.0	-2.1	-2.6	-2.5	-2.5	-0.7	+1	107	104
6 Scotland W	16.5	-7.2	-2.6	-4.0	-3.3	-1.2	-2	77	102
7 England NW & Wales N	16.7	-4.9	-2.9	-2.6	-2.7	-0.5	0	102	79
8 England SW & Wales S	19.0	-4.0	-2.5	-2.4	-2.6	-1.1	+1	76	102
N Ireland	16.9	-3.8	-2.5	-3.0	-2.8	-0.9	-1	80	107
Scotland	17.8	-7.3	-2.5	-3.2	-2.9	-0.9	-1	85	93
England & Wales	19.0	-5.0	-2.9	-2.4	-2.7	-0.8	+1	104	94

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations

Snow

The earliest heavy snow for 10 years fell in the Cairngorm area on the 15th. Several inches fell, blocking roads including the A9 at Aviemore. Wintry showers fell over Welsh hills on the 15th and the Cheviots on the 16th. Snow was reported from the Pennines on the 16th and the 23rd. Sleet and snow fell in southern Scotland and on northern English hills on the 25th, North Yorkshire having its first October snowfall for 30 years, blocking the A66 over the northern Pennines.

Sunshine

Only the Northern Isles, Scottish Highlands, southern counties of England and Wales, the north-east Midlands and East Anglia had above average sunshine. The highest percentage was at Lerwick, Shetland (139%), whilst the lowest (54%) was at Newton Rigg, Cumbria and at Pen-y-Ffridd, Gwynedd. Bognor Regis, West Sussex, enjoyed the highest daily total (9.9 hours on the 13th), and the highest monthly total (144.5 hours). Scottish totals varied from 118 hours on the Isle of Colonsay to 39 hours at Cape Wrath, Highland Region. Glasgow Airport had its sunniest October for 18 years.

Fog

Patches in southern and eastern areas on the morning of the 1st were confined to the East Anglian coast the following night. Parts of Scotland had patches around dawn on the 5th and again on the 8th, and some Midlands areas had patches early on the 13th. Freezing fog formed in Yorkshire, Shropshire and the Midlands overnight on the 18th/19th, with fog also affecting the Home Counties that night. Fog formed near the Lincolnshire coast around dawn on the 22nd, and a few patches affected southern England early on the 30th, re-forming the following morning, freezing in places.

Miscellaneous phenomena

None reported.