

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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November 1969 — *Sunny but cold; some heavy rain and notable snowfalls*

Numerous depressions and troughs of low pressure over or near the British Isles during the month were accompanied by winds which were frequently between west and north.

Weather — The weather on the whole was rather stormy and this resulted in an exceptionally fog-free November. At times, strong winds interrupted drilling operations in the North Sea and disrupted air and sea traffic. Some heavy rain occurred in most districts and, on the 21st, Omagh (Co. Tyrone) was cut off by flood-water for 24 hours following torrential rain in the locality. Wintry showers were frequent in the north, while snow settled on high ground in Devon as early as the 15th and sleet occurred in Jersey on the 17th.

Wind — Gales occurred about twice as frequently as usual on exposed coasts, especially in the south. They occurred on 26 days in England, 15 days in Wales and in Scotland and on 2 days in Northern Ireland. Slight damage to property occurred in Scotland on the 1st/2nd and a gust of 64 kt was recorded at Dounreay (Caithness) on the 1st. Gales were widespread in England and Wales on the 9th; a gust of 83 kt was reported at Brixham (Devon) and one of 74 kt was recorded at Lizard. Gales in Northern Ireland on the 22nd caused some damage.

Temperature — Monthly mean temperature was everywhere below average. Near the south-east coast of England the mean temperature was only just below average but in parts of Scotland it was more than 3 degC below the normal. At Kinlochewe (Ross and Cromarty) mean temperature was 3.8 degC below average, and at Lerwick (Shetland) it was the coldest November since records began in 1926.

At the start of the month a number of places in England had their warmest November day on record, for example at Boscombe Down (Wiltshire) where the temperature of 17.6°C on the 2nd was the highest since records began in 1931. Extreme maxima recorded during the month included: 20.6°C at Totnes (Devon) on the 3rd, 17.8°C at Prestatyn (Flintshire) and Dunbar (East Lothian) and 16.1°C at various places in Northern Ireland on the 2nd.

However, it became colder in most districts after the 3rd and, apart from a mild interlude in the southern half of the country from the 18th to 23rd, temperatures remained below average for the rest of the month. Frost occurred frequently in the north and was widespread in the south during the last week. Among the minima recorded were: -12.2°C at Grantown-on-Spey (Moray) on the 16th and 18th; -10.0°C at Lacock (Wiltshire) on the 30th, -8.0°C at Moel Cynnedd (Montgomeryshire) on the 30th; -5.6°C at Rosetta (Co. Down) on the 14th.

Rainfall — Most areas had more rainfall (including melted snow) than normal. Over two and a half times the average occurred in Flintshire and more than twice the average fell in parts of northern England, on the south-east coast and in the Scilly Isles. It was the wettest November at Bidston (Cheshire) since records began in 1867. On the other hand, less than half the normal amount of rain fell in parts of Angus.

Rain was heavy in north and west Scotland on the 1st and 2nd and spread to Wales and north-west England the next day. A fall of 61 mm within 24 hours was recorded at Glen Etive (Argyll) on the 2nd. Persistent rain spread to south-west England on the 6th; 79 mm fell in 24 hours at Lizard and Mount Batten (Devon) had its heaviest 24-hour November rainfall since records began in 1921. The outstanding heavy rainfall of the month occurred in Northern Ireland during the 21st/22nd. Rainfall was heaviest in the east of the region where, during the 24 hours ending 0900 GMT on the 22nd, nearly 138 mm of rain were recorded at Ballybraddin Forest (Co. Antrim). Other places in the same area recorded 'daily' falls in excess of 100 mm. Statistics

show that falls of this magnitude can be expected to occur on only one day in about 40 years at a particular place. Flooding occurred in many places and Armagh Observatory experienced its heaviest rainfall in 24 hours since records commenced there in 1841.

Thunder occurred rather more often than usual for November. It occurred on 17 days in England, 14 days in Scotland, 7 days in Wales and 1 day in Northern Ireland. Thunderstorms with hail occurred widely in south-west England on the 14th when electric power installations were damaged.

Snow — Snow or sleet occurred much more frequently than usual. Snow fell on 15 days or more in parts of Scotland and northern England and was reported in Cornwall during the last few days of the month. There were at least 10 cm of snow lying in the Borders during the 11th/12th. During the 15th to 17th general snowfall occurred in North Wales and the northern half of England and, following heavy snow showers, at least 25 cm of snow were lying in the mountains of northern Scotland by the end of the period. In Derbyshire snow caused some damage and at Ashover, height 186 m, 20 cm of snow accumulated in 4 hours on the 16th. On the same day, over 40 cm of level snow were lying at Moorhouse, 556 m, (Westmorland). On the 25th, about 5 cm of snow covered the ground in eastern England. From the 27th to 29th snowfalls amounting to about 10 cm blocked roads on high ground in the north and snow lay up to 2 cm deep in some places in the south.

Sunshine — In most areas it was sunnier than normal and some places recorded over one and a half times the average sunshine. Ringway (Cheshire) and Huddersfield (Yorkshire) recorded 185 and 183 per cent of average sunshine respectively. It was the sunniest November at Ross-on-Wye (Herefordshire) since 1925 and at Boscombe Down since records began in 1932. By contrast the month was dull in a few areas in Scotland, mainly in the west.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was observed on 13 nights in Scotland.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES, November 1969

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE °C					EARTH TEMP. °C		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUN-SHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 30 cm.	Mean 122 cm			
0 SCOTLAND, N.	13.3	(-5.6)	-2.9	-3.7	-3.3	-1.2	+0.5	+3	112	100
1 SCOTLAND, E.	16.1	-5.6	-2.3	-2.5	-2.4	-0.8	+0.3	-1	118	128
2 ENGLAND,N.E.	17.2	-5.6	-1.7	-2.3	-2.0	+0.2	+1.3	+4	188	139
3 ENGLAND, E.	18.0	-5.6	-0.9	-1.1	-1.0	+0.3	+0.9	+2	129	116
4 MIDLANDS	17.2	-4.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.3	+0.1	+1.0	0	116	154
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	17.4	-6.1	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	+0.4	+0.7	+3	148	129
6 SCOTLAND, W.	15.6	-8.6	-2.4	-2.7	-2.5	-0.2	+0.8	+3	115	111
7 ENGLAND, N.W and N.Wales	16.0	-6.7	-1.6	-2.0	-1.8	+0.4	+0.9	+5	198	148
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S.Wales	17.2	-5.6	-0.7	-1.4	-1.1	+0.8	+0.9	+2	135	133
N.IRELAND	15.9	-14.4	-2.1	-2.5	-2.3	-	-	(+1)	127	100
SCOTLAND	16.1	-8.6	-2.5	-3.0	-2.7	-	-	(+2)	119	113
ENG. and WALES	18.0	-6.7	-1.1	-1.5	-1.3	-	-	(+3)	149	137

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