

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

# OCTOBER

# 1989

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

VOLUME 106

NUMBER 10

## Starting dry and warm, but then wet and windy

High pressure centred to the west of the United Kingdom at the start of the month drifted slowly eastwards, crossing the United Kingdom during the 2nd and 3rd. A new area of high pressure established to the west of Ireland, but a series of frontal systems moved south-eastwards across the United Kingdom between the 4th and 11th. A cold front associated with a deep depression near Iceland moved eastwards across Scotland during the 11th/12th, became slow moving over the north and west of England and Wales on the 12th and cleared the rest of England and Wales early on the 13th, while the depression passed close to northern Scotland. An anticyclone near the south-west of the British Isles on the 14th drifted eastwards over central Europe by the 17th, while further fronts affected Scotland, north-west England and North Wales between the 15th and 18th. After the 19th the weather became dominated by low pressure to the north-west of the United Kingdom. A very active secondary depression swept north-eastwards across the United Kingdom overnight on the 20th/21st, with a waving cold front affecting most of England and Wales during the 21st and 22nd. On the 24th another frontal system moved quickly across Scotland and formed a wave over England and Wales on the 25th before becoming slow moving again over southern England during the 26th. A deep depression formed on the front in the south-west approaches on the 27th, moving slowly north-eastwards across the Irish Sea and northern England, before moving away during the 29th. The situation remained unsettled until the end of the month, with an exceptionally deep depression to the south-west of Iceland and associated fronts affecting all areas.

### Weather

The weather was relatively quiet at the beginning of the month but became unsettled with some windy spells. However, between the 14th and 18th it was mainly dry in southern areas of Great Britain. From the 19th it was generally unsettled, with some very wet weather at times. Over Wales the 20th was probably the wettest day since 23 January; two people were killed and several had narrow escapes as gale-force winds and heavy rain disrupted traffic in western areas, brought down trees and caused widespread flooding. Many parts had a period of very heavy rain and strong winds on the 28th, and further heavy rain affected southern counties overnight on the 30th/31st. Thunder was reported somewhere in the United Kingdom every day from the 19th to 24th.

### Wind

Late on the 20th and on the 21st England and Wales became very windy with gusts of more than 50 kn over southern counties of England and Wales including 63 kn at Sheerness, Kent and 69 kn at Portland Bill, Dorset. On the 28th, a very vigorous depression brought gales to many exposed parts of southern England and Wales, with widespread gusts of more than 60 kn in the south-west with a peak gust of 88 kn at Portland Bill. Wind directions were mainly southerly or westerly, but north-westerly at times in the first two weeks.

### Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were above normal everywhere except northernmost parts of Scotland, ranging from just below normal at Wick, Highland Region to about 2 °C above normal in the London area. On the 2nd Cape Wrath, Highland Region had a mean temperature of 8.5 °C and a maximum of 8.9 °C, while Tummel Bridge, Tayside dropped to -2.6 °C overnight, but during the following day rose to 15 °C. The highest temperature during the month was 23.2 °C at Faversham, Kent on the 5th and the lowest was -3.0 °C at Grantown-on-Spey, Highland Region on the 15th.

### Rainfall

Monthly rainfall totals were above normal nearly everywhere apart from parts of eastern and southern Scotland and parts of eastern England and East Anglia, ranging from more than 180 per cent in the west Midlands and South Wales to as little as 56 per cent at Lowestoft, Suffolk.

Between the 20th and 22nd the Brecon Beacons area of South Wales had 133 mm of rain, making it the wettest area over the period, with heavy falls of 83 mm at Tredegar, Gwent and 55 mm at Llangenny, Powys. Scalpay, Western Isles recorded a heavy fall of 103 mm on the 30th. Among other heavy falls were 62 mm at Onich, Highland Region on the 16th, 80 mm at Cwnbargoed and 77 mm at Cilfynydd, both Mid Glamorgan, and 84 mm at Yarner Wood, Devon on the 20th, 66 mm at Fort William, Highland Region on the 21st, 106 mm at Moel Cynnedd, Powys and 66.5 mm at Holme Moss, West Yorkshire on the 28th and 64 mm at Stornoway, Western Isles on the 30th.

### Snow

Snow or sleet fell on one or two days in the first half of the month in the far north of Scotland. On the 27th precipitation over the highest Scottish mountains fell as snow, but it was short lived. There were no reports of snow lying anywhere below 600 m.

### Sunshine

Monthly sunshine amounts were about or below normal nearly everywhere. Parts of the east Midlands had between 100 per cent and 123 per cent of normal, while western Wales had only just half of normal. On the 17th most places south of a line from the Mersey to the Humber had between 8 and 10 hours of sunshine, and on both the 4th and 24th most places south-east of a line from the Severn to The Wash had 7 to 9 hours sunshine. The highest monthly sunshine amount was 135 hours at Herne Bay, Kent and the most in a day was 10.7 hours at East Kilbride, Strathclyde Region on the 2nd.

### Fog

Fog patches developed across western and south-west England and central and southern Scotland during the early hours of the 1st and again on the 2nd over much of central, southern and eastern Scotland. On the 3rd there was patchy thick fog, especially over the Midlands, clearing by mid morning. Fog patches in the more southern counties of England and Wales on the 12th were short lived. Patchy fog formed in parts of Lincolnshire on the 15th, southern England on the 17th, clearing during the morning, and widely over England and Wales on the 18th, mostly clearing during the morning but persisting all day in the Vale of York. Some patchy fog formed over inland parts of England and Wales by dawn on the 23rd and for a time over south-eastern England on the 24th. Some hill fog occurred on the 5th, 10th and 27th over central areas, on the 28th in northern England, on the 29th and 31st in western England and Wales. Coastal fog occurred, on the tip of Dyfed on the 25th, on southern coasts of England and Wales on the 27th, on the east coast of Scotland on the 28th, on western coasts of England and Wales on the 29th and 31st.

### Miscellaneous phenomena

None reported.

**Table 1 District values**

District	Air temperature °C					Mean 30 cm soil temp °C	Rain-days	Rainfall	Sunshine
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	Max.	Min.	Mean				
	Difference from average					% of average			
0 Scotland N	17.0	-3.0	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+3	141	85
1 Scotland E	19.0	-2.0	+0.8	+0.7	+0.7	+0.8	+4	96	98
2 England E & NE	19.1	0.0	+1.2	+1.2	+1.1	+1.1	+3	103	97
3 East Anglia	21.8	2.1	+1.4	+1.8	+1.6	+1.3	+3	76	94
4 Midland Counties	19.1	0.3	+1.2	+1.5	+1.4	+1.3	+2	127	93
5 England SE & Central S	21.5	2.3	+1.6	+1.8	+1.7	+1.4	+1	108	95
6 Scotland W	18.9	-2.0	+0.5	+1.0	+0.8	+0.9	+6	129	90
7 England NW & Wales N	19.2	0.5	+0.6	+1.6	+1.0	+1.6	+5	128	82
8 England SW & Wales S	20.2	1.7	+1.0	+1.7	+1.2	+1.5	+2	141	73
N Ireland	18.8	2.0	+0.5	+1.2	+1.0	+1.0	+5	139	84
Scotland	19.0	-3.0	+0.5	+0.6	+0.6	+0.6	+4	130	91
England & Wales	21.8	0.0	+1.2	+1.6	+1.3	+1.4	+3	122	89

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations