

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

**JUNE****1979**

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

VOLUME 96

NUMBER 6

## Mostly unsettled; thundery at times.

An anticyclone, which was centred over southern parts of the British Isles on the 1st, moved slowly north-eastwards to Scandinavia during the next few days allowing troughs of low pressure to move into all areas from the east and south-east. A rather complex low-pressure system then persisted until the 9th, when a small anticyclone developed off north-east England. As this anticyclone moved slowly eastwards, all areas were once again affected by complex low-pressure systems, which lasted until the 13th. A succession of fronts and ridges then crossed all districts from the north-west until the 16th, when an anticyclone to the south-west began to move towards Ireland. The British Isles remained under the influence of this anticyclone until the 20th, as the centre of high pressure moved slowly north-eastwards into northern Europe. The weather became less settled again during the last ten days of the month as frontal troughs crossed all areas from the west.

### Weather

The month started with a warm, dry day in many areas on the 1st, but this was followed by much more thundery weather which extended northwards over the United Kingdom during the next few days. Except for the 9th and 10th, when many places were dry, it remained unsettled, with thunderstorms in many districts, until just after mid-month.

From the 17th to 20th the weather became generally fine and warm, although coastal areas were often cool and sea fog was rather persistent around some coasts. Unsettled weather then returned to all areas and lasted until the end of the month. There were further thunderstorms in places, particularly on the 24th when they occurred widely over southern and central parts of England and Wales.

### Wind

During the first half of the month winds were occasionally fresh or strong on exposed coasts, but elsewhere were often light and variable in direction. On the 14th fresh or strong north-westerly winds spread over most areas, and reached gale force on some exposed coasts on the 15th. During the 16th wind speeds dropped and for the next few days all areas, except northernmost parts of Scotland, had light and variable winds with sea-breezes developing in many coastal districts. Winds became stronger again from the 21st, mainly from directions between south-west and north-west, and gales occurred on several days in exposed places in the north during the last ten days of the month.

### Temperature

Monthly mean temperatures were mostly within 1 °C of normal over the United Kingdom. Values were around or a little above average over much of Scotland away from western and northern coasts, and over a large part of northern England and the northernmost counties of the Midlands. Elsewhere values were below normal, being more than 1 °C below the average in a few isolated areas.

The first few days of the month were rather warm in many inland areas, particularly in Scotland where a maximum of 29.0 °C was recorded at Corpach in the Highland Region on the 3rd. Temperatures were then very variable until the 16th, although coastal districts were cool at times. Between the

17th and 20th a fine, warm spell occurred in most areas with maxima exceeding 27 °C at a number of places. From the 21st until the end of the month temperatures returned to nearer the normal, but some areas were cool at times and ground frost was reported in parts of southern Scotland on the 27th.

### Rainfall

Rainfall totals were very variable, owing to the thundery nature of much of the precipitation. Except in the north of Scotland and the Northern Isles, most parts of the United Kingdom had much less than average rainfall during the month, with many places recording less than 50 per cent of normal. In parts of Lincolnshire and Clwyd less than 20 per cent of normal was recorded, and at the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh, where only 3.5 mm of rain fell, it was the driest June since records began in 1896. In sharp contrast, the north of Scotland and small areas throughout the rest of the United Kingdom had above-average rainfall with values exceeding 150 per cent of normal at a number of places.

Thunderstorms or outbreaks of thundery rain were most frequent during the first half of the month and again on the 24th. There were heavy falls of rain in some places during these periods. On the 7th 31.3 mm fell in 43 minutes from 1502 GMT at West Hills House, near West Heath (Birmingham) and on the 12th 24.4 mm fell in 30 minutes from 1442 GMT at Abbotsinch Airport (Glasgow). On the 13th 29.5 mm fell in 10 minutes from 1333 GMT at Embsay Reservoir (North Yorkshire) with serious flooding in the nearby town of Skipton.

### Sunshine

Sunshine totals were about or just above average over much of the eastern half of Scotland, in the Glasgow area, over the Isle of Man, and over most of north-eastern England north of the Humber. Values in these districts were between 100 and 110 per cent of the normal. Elsewhere sunshine was below average, with values mostly between 75 and 100 per cent of the normal for the month, but only just over 50 per cent in a few places. Over Northern Ireland it was the dullest June since 1966.

In most areas the sunniest periods occurred during the anticyclonic spells at the beginning of the month and during the latter part of the third week. In contrast, however, the third week was very dull in the Northern Isles with only 4.7 hours of sunshine being recorded at Lerwick between the 14th and 21st.

### Fog

Overnight fog patches in inland districts occurred mostly during the first two weeks and during the latter half of the third week of the month, but cleared quickly after sunrise. Coastal fog was widespread at times throughout the month and occasionally persisted all day, particularly around the coasts of northern Scotland and over the Northern Isles. Hill fog was also reported frequently, often associated with rain or drizzle.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

On the 24th a small tornado struck parts of east Berkshire and south Hertfordshire. Considerable structural damage to buildings was reported in Windsor (Berkshire) and in Kings Langley (Hertfordshire) and many trees were ripped up.

**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		% of average	
0 Scotland N	28.5	3.5	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.5	0	102	92
1 Scotland E	25.5	1.0	+0.2	+0.6	+0.4	+0.5	-2	73	105
2 England E & NE	26.5	3.0	-0.3	0.0	-0.1	+0.5	-4	67	98
3 East Anglia	26.1	3.9	-0.8	-0.1	-0.4	+0.1	-1	77	83
4 Midland Counties	27.6	3.0	-0.5	-0.1	-0.3	0.0	-3	61	87
5 England SE & Central S	26.7	4.0	-1.2	-0.1	-0.7	-0.5	-1	85	70
6 Scotland W	28.5	1.0	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	0.0	-1	69	95
7 England NW & Wales N	25.0	3.0	-0.6	+0.1	-0.3	-0.4	-3	51	89
8 England SW & Wales S	25.5	3.7	-1.2	-0.4	-0.8	-0.3	-1	53	78
N Ireland	24.6	2.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	0.0	-1	71	84
Scotland	28.5	1.0	+0.1	+0.3	+0.1	0.0	-1	81	97
England & Wales	27.6	3.0	-0.8	-0.1	-0.4	-0.1	-2	66	84

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations