

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

**FEBRUARY 1992**

VOLUME 109

NUMBER 2

## Generally mild; wet and dull in the north-west, dry and sunny in the east

The month began with a ridge of high pressure covering most of England and Wales, while a slow-moving front trailed across Northern Ireland and central Scotland. The front moved away eastwards during the 2nd. Further fronts crossed all parts during the next two days. An anticyclone remained the dominant feature over southern areas over the 5th and 6th, before drifting south-eastwards on the 7th. Frontal troughs crossed most parts of the United Kingdom over the next few days, while a depression moved along the English Channel on the 11th. Further frontal troughs crossed all areas from the south-west over the next few days. By the 15th pressure was rising over southern areas of Great Britain; a north-westerly airstream became established on the 16th, with troughs moving down the airflow from time to time. On the 17th, a trough moved slowly eastwards, crossing most western areas and most of Scotland by late afternoon, before becoming slow moving on the 18th between two areas of high pressure. On the 19th the trough disappeared as the two centres combined over southern England. A series of fronts crossed north-western areas on the 20th; a front became slow moving from South Wales to East Anglia before dissipating during the afternoon. Frontal movement associated with an area of low pressure over the Atlantic spread eastwards during the 22nd and 23rd as the anticyclone over France drifted slowly away. A trailing front became slow moving across northern areas during the 24th. On the 25th further troughs affected northern and western areas. Further systems crossed all parts during the next two days. On the 28th a ridge of high pressure began to build from the south-west, blocking the advance of fronts from the west, although a weak front temporarily affected parts of Essex and Kent. Later in the day another frontal system affected northern and western parts before becoming slow moving along the western seaboard on the 29th.

### Weather

The month was generally unsettled and mild, with periods of rain or showers, heavy at times, mainly in the north and west, with the rain largely dying out over East Anglia and the south-east. While conditions became somewhat more settled in southern areas around the 15th, northern areas remained unsettled with snow, sleet or wintry showers. On the 17th, after a cold sunny start in most places, a band of rain, sleet and snow spread slowly eastwards, with the precipitation becoming heavy in places. Heavy snow in the Midlands led to some severe road conditions for a time on the 18th. The unsettled weather continued over the next ten days, with a change to more settled weather in southern areas on the 28th. Thunder was reported at Cape Wrath, Highland Region on the 3rd, at Aberporth, Dyfed on the 12th and at Manchester on the 13th, while hail was reported in West Yorkshire on the 10th and over Shetland on the 24th.

### Wind

Winds were strong in northern and western parts of the United Kingdom during the first few days, with gusts to 71 kn at Benbecula, Western Isles and to 62 kn at Orlock Head, Co. Down on the 2nd. Winds were frequently strong between the 21st and 29th, with gusts in excess of 50 kn at many places

in Scotland and northern England. On the 27th a gust of 54 kn was recorded as far south as Aberporth, Dyfed and 61 kn at Killough, Co. Down. Wind directions were southerly or westerly throughout the month.

### Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were above normal everywhere, ranging from 3 °C above normal at Inverness, Highland Region and Haydon Bridge, Northumberland to 0.6 °C at Plymouth, Devon.

The highest temperature was 15.7 °C at Elmstone, Kent on the 29th and the lowest was -11.4 °C at Kindrogan, Tayside Region on the 19th.

### Rainfall

Monthly rainfall amounts were above normal over much of Scotland apart from the eastern coastal areas and over parts of North Wales, Merseyside and Northern Ireland, but below normal elsewhere, ranging from 180% of normal at Isle of Rhum, Highland Region to less than 25% of normal in parts of Cambridgeshire.

Some places in the north and north-east including Fife Ness, Fife Region, Newcastle, Tyne and Wear and Wilsden, West Yorkshire had no significant rain, while several places in the south-east had only very small amounts. Among heavy falls during the month was one of 87 mm at Kinlochewe, Highland Region on the 21st.

### Snow

Snow and sleet occurred in northern areas on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Wintry showers in northern Scotland on the 9th and 10th gave snow on high ground and on the 11th there were further falls of sleet over Orkney. Fresh snow covered Great Dun Fell, Cumbria on the 12th, and over the next three days snow fell over large areas of the Pennines. By the 16th a large area of eastern Scotland and north-east England was covered in snow. Heavy wintry

showers affected many places on the 16th. On the 17th snow was heavy in the Midlands. On the 19th further snow fell in parts of Humberside, East Anglia, South Wales and central Southern England. Occasional snowfall throughout the rest of the month was generally confined to Orkney and the Western Isles.

### Sunshine

Monthly sunshine amounts were above average in eastern areas and below average in western areas, ranging from 171% of average at Whitby, North Yorkshire to less than 40% of average at Poolewe, Highland Region.

Many places in England and Wales had sunny periods on the 13th, 15th and 16th. Most of England and Wales except the south-east recorded between 7 and 10 hours of sunshine on the 28th. The highest monthly sunshine total was 107 hours at Whitby, North Yorkshire and the most in a day was 9.8 hours at Torbay, Devon on the 28th.

### Fog

Widespread dense fog, freezing in places, formed on the 1st over England and Wales, and persisted in many places into the afternoon of the 2nd. Patchy fog formed on the 7th over East Anglia and south-east England and became widespread overnight. On the 11th fog patches formed over Northern Ireland and northern England and again in England and Wales on the 12th. On the 19th there was patchy fog from South Wales through the Midlands to East Anglia, mainly on hills. Fog patches formed in some parts of southern England before midnight on the 24th, persisting in some areas until the following day, and over southern England on the 26th and southern and eastern England on the 29th.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

**Table 1 District values**

| District                 | Air temperature |                |                         |      |      | Mean<br>30 cm<br>soil<br>temp °C | Rain-<br>days | Rainfall     | Sun-<br>shine |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|------|------|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|                          | Highest<br>Max* | Lowest<br>Min* | Max.                    | Min. | Mean |                                  |               |              |               |
|                          |                 |                | Difference from average |      |      |                                  |               | % of average |               |
| 0 Scotland N             | 13.7            | -5.3           | +2.1                    | +2.0 | +2.0 | +1.7                             | +5            | 190          | 66            |
| 1 Scotland E             | 14.0            | -10.7          | +2.5                    | +1.8 | +2.2 | +1.2                             | 0             | 99           | 94            |
| 2 England E & NE         | 14.1            | -6.6           | +2.8                    | +1.8 | +2.3 | +1.0                             | 0             | 69           | 120           |
| 3 East Anglia            | 14.9            | -4.3           | +2.2                    | +1.1 | +1.7 | +1.3                             | -5            | 41           | 100           |
| 4 Midland Counties       | 14.2            | -4.3           | +2.4                    | +1.5 | +2.0 | +1.3                             | -2            | 54           | 101           |
| 5 England SE & Central S | 14.6            | -6.0           | +1.9                    | +0.9 | +1.4 | +1.0                             | -3            | 57           | 97            |
| 6 Scotland W             | 12.3            | -10.2          | +1.9                    | +2.1 | +2.1 | +1.4                             | +6            | 191          | 71            |
| 7 England NW & Wales N   | 14.5            | -5.0           | +2.1                    | +2.3 | +2.2 | +1.5                             | +3            | 116          | 92            |
| 8 England SW & Wales S   | 13.0            | -5.3           | +1.6                    | +1.6 | +1.4 | +1.3                             | -1            | 71           | 74            |
| N Ireland                | 12.9            | -5.6           | +1.8                    | +1.3 | +1.5 | +1.6                             | +4            | 124          | 78            |
| Scotland                 | 14.0            | -10.7          | +2.2                    | +2.0 | +2.1 | +1.4                             | +4            | 172          | 77            |
| England & Wales          | 14.9            | -6.6           | +2.2                    | +1.5 | +1.8 | +1.2                             | -1            | 72           | 97            |

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations