

Monthly Weather Report

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OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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February 1962 — *Stormy periods; mostly rather dry; cold later.*

Pressure was relatively high to the south-west of the British Isles until the 17th, with depressions from the Atlantic moving east over or to the north of Scotland, but during the next four days the anticyclone moved across southern England to Scandinavia. Thereafter until the end of the month the British Isles was under the influence of a cold easterly airstream which persisted even when the main centre of high pressure moved first to Iceland and later to Greenland.

The month opened with a north-westerly airstream which gave scattered snow showers in the north, but in the south weather was generally fine and sunny. Warm front rain, mainly slight, spread across the country on the 2nd, but on the 3rd a deep depression near Iceland brought widespread and at times heavy rain with hill and coast fog and with snow and gales in the north. A gust of 71 kt was recorded in the Hebrides. The next day was also dull and wet with heavy rain locally as the deepening depression moved east across Scotland. A following ridge gave a generally sunny day on the 5th but the 6th was dull with considerable rain in the north as a pronounced trough crossed the country and this was followed by a day of frequent showers as a polar low moved south-east from west Scotland to the North Sea.

Winds soon backed to the west again behind a ridge which crossed south-west England and the next three days were generally cloudy and mild with slight occasional rain.

An exceptionally stormy period began on the 11th as a very deep depression moved rapidly from Iceland towards southern Norway bringing severe gales to the whole of the northern half of the British Isles and heavy rain to most districts. A gust of 106 kt was recorded at Lowther Hill, Lanarkshire, and there was a fall of nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. of rain at Kinlochewe with a number of places in Scotland reporting falls in excess of 3 in. The stormy weather continued for another three days. On the 12th there was widespread rain, heavy at times with snow and thunder in the north with gales, severe in the north, veering to the north-west; a gust of 98 kt was recorded at Stornoway. There were frequent snow showers on the 13th and 14th with the north to north-west gales slowly moderating. Milder westerly winds with occasional rain returned the next day but the 16th was another exceptionally stormy day with a very intense depression near southern Scandinavia giving unusually severe gales in central and northern districts. A gust of 103 kt was recorded at Lowther Hill. There was much structural and tile damage on the eastern side of the Pennines and especially at Sheffield where about two-thirds of the houses suffered damage of one sort or another.

The next day was rather cold in a moderating north-westerly airstream but milder air spread in from the Atlantic on the 18th as the anticyclone to the south-west of the British Isles began to move eastwards. Two quiet rather dull days followed and on the 21st the anticyclone became centred over Scandinavia bringing easterly winds to southern England.

A cold easterly airstream was well established over the whole of the country by the 22nd and the next two or three days were generally cloudy in the east with scattered snow showers, but in the north and west there were good sunny periods. The easterly winds freshened on the 26th and 27th reaching gale force along the south coast and snow showers became frequent and prolonged with drifting in the east, but in the west they were only scattered; snow lay up to 4 in. deep in parts of Lincolnshire and 6 in. deep at Moor House where there were

drifts of 7 feet. A depression over northern France gave snow at Scilly and in the Channel Islands, a comparatively rare event; it lay 2 in. deep in Scilly and Guernsey on the morning of the 28th and 10 in. deep in Jersey.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was above the average everywhere, the deviation at 9 hr ranging from 5.7 mb at Lerwick to 11.1 mb at Scilly. Surface winds were generally between west and north-west until the 5th, south westerly on the 6th, mainly northerly on the 7th and 8th and between west and south-west on the 9th-11th, becoming generally north-westerly on the 12th-17th, south-westerly or variable on the 18th-20th and easterly from the 21st until the end of the month. Wind reached gale force on 20 days in Scotland and on the 3rd, 4th, 6th-8th, 10th-17th and 22nd-28th (20 days) in England and Wales. Gales were widespread on the 11th, 12th, 15th and 16th and unusually severe on the 11th and 16th.

Temperature — Mean temperature was above the 1921-50 average, the excess being 0.3°C in England and Wales, 0.4°C in Scotland and 0.5°C in Northern Ireland. Temperature was generally above the average during the first three weeks of the month (except around the 15th) but below the average during the last week.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 15.0°C at Cockle Park on the 20th, -7.2°C at Spadeadam on the 15th; (Scotland) 15.0°C at Stonehaven on the 9th, -9.2°C at Glenmore Lodge on the 24th; (Northern Ireland) 12.2°C at Kilkeel on the 4th, Ely Lodge on the 11th and Tollymore Park on the 14th, and at Newry on the 4th, 9th and 11th, -5.6°C at Garvagh on the 24th.

Precipitation — The general rainfall expressed as a percentage of the 1916-1950 average was 52 over England and Wales, 112 over Scotland and 75 over Northern Ireland. In England and Wales rainfall was less than 25 per cent of the average over central and southern England and the Midlands and above 150 per cent of the average locally in Cumberland. In Scotland rain was more than 175 per cent of the average in Ross and Cromarty and in north-west Inverness-shire, and less than 50 per cent of the average locally in eastern coastal districts.

Thunder was heard in Scotland on 11 days and in England and Wales on the 4th, 7th, 13th and 14th.

Snow or sleet fell at one place or another in Scotland on 24 days and snow was reported lying on 17 days. In England and Wales it fell on the 1st-3rd, 5th, 7th, 11th-16th and 23rd-28th (17 days). It was widespread on the 13th-15th and 23rd-28th, and lay up to 4 in. deep in eastern England on the 27th and 28th, and 10 in. deep in Jersey, ground being snow covered on the 13th-15th and 25th-28th over most of the country.

Sunshine — The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921-50 average was 111 in England and Wales, 112 in Scotland and 100 in Northern Ireland. In general sunshine showed a greater excess over the average in western and central districts than in the east, ranging in England from 152 per cent at Huddersfield to 74 per cent at Tunbridge Wells.

Fog — In Scotland fog was reported from one place or another on 16 days. In England and Wales it occurred on the 3rd, 6th, 9th, 10th, 15th, 16th, 18th-23rd and 25th-28th; it was widespread on the 3rd.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was visible in Scotland on 7 nights.