

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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## Dry in south-west England and eastern Scotland, wet elsewhere

A depression to the west of the British Isles early on the 1st moved eastwards to be centred over the Irish Sea by late evening, clearing south-east England by the evening of the 2nd, to be replaced gradually on the 3rd by a ridge of high pressure over the eastern Atlantic. High pressure became established over the United Kingdom for the next three days, but on the 7th a depression over Norway moved southwards over the North Sea, filling rapidly, while its associated frontal system crossed all parts of Great Britain on the 8th. On the 9th western parts of the United Kingdom were influenced by a ridge of high pressure, while eastern areas still felt the effect of the now shallow depression over the North Sea. On the 10th an anticyclone was centred over the English Channel and pressure was high over the whole of Great Britain. Pressure remained high to the south and east and low to the north-west of the British Isles for the next two weeks, with weakening troughs crossing all areas on the 12th and 13th, and 17th and 18th. A further trough affected many parts of Scotland on the 20th, before moving slowly into western counties of England and Wales, while a shallow depression over France moved northwards to affect southern and central areas. The depression moved away over the North Sea leaving the United Kingdom in a northerly airflow. Pressure rose from the south-west to influence central and southern areas for the rest of the month; however, fronts moving around the northern flank of the anticyclone continued to affect some northern and western areas.

### Weather

The month was cool everywhere for the first 10 days, but became warm for a while in the middle of the month and then ended cool in the east but warm in the west. It was dry and warm over most parts on the 29th and 30th, but cooler and more cloudy on the 31st. Thunderstorms brought heavy rainfall to parts of South and West Yorkshire on the 9th, causing flooding and disrupting traffic. Over England and Wales during the weekend of the 21st and 22nd, widespread and at times violent thunderstorms gave very heavy rain in many places, particularly from North Wales to East Anglia, causing floods in some parts of eastern and northern England and the Midlands. Many roads in Lancashire and Greater Manchester were closed temporarily by flash floods: the M61 motorway near Preston was brought to a halt by flood-water more than a metre deep. On the 22nd a landslide blocked the railway line at Manningtree, Essex while the area from Chelmsford to Ipswich had one of its worst storms in living memory. Flooding was caused by torrential rain accompanied by hailstorms as big as golf balls. The hailstones smashed windows and windscreens, causing havoc, disrupting traffic and creating a wintry landscape as they lay up to 30 cm deep in places. During a cricket match at Isleworth, Greater London on the 22nd one player was killed by lightning and nine others were injured. East Bergholt, Suffolk reported hailstones more than 20 mm in diameter on the 22nd.

### Wind

It was a generally quiet month with gales recorded only in northern and north-eastern areas on the 6th and 26th. These included mean winds of

36 kn at Sumburgh, Shetland and 35 kn at Fraserburgh, Grampian Region on the 6th and 35 kn at South Shields, Tyne and Wear on the 26th. The highest gust at a low-level station was 57 kn at Fair Isle, Shetland on the 6th. Directions were mainly westerly or north-westerly throughout the month.

### Temperature

Monthly mean temperatures were near normal in most parts of the United Kingdom ranging from 0.6 °C above normal in south-west England to 0.9 °C below normal in eastern Kent.

For the first 10 days of the month it was rather cool everywhere with frost on one or two nights in Welsh valleys and Scottish glens, followed by a very warm period during the middle of the month. On the 16th the temperature in London reached 28 °C with a fine hot day over much of southern England. On the 18th southern counties of England had their hottest August night since 1980, with temperatures averaging more than 21 °C in parts of Sussex, Kent and Hampshire. It became hot on the 20th and 21st and then cooler until the 28th to 31st, the August bank holiday weekend, when it again became very warm. The highest temperature recorded during the month was 30.2 °C at Liphook, Hampshire on the 21st and the lowest was -4.4 °C at Inverinan, Strathclyde on the 5th.

### Rainfall

Monthly rainfall totals were above normal in southern Scotland, Northern Ireland, northern and eastern England, parts of the Midlands and North Wales, but below normal elsewhere. Rainfall amounts ranged from as little as 13 per cent at Plymouth, Devon to 273 per cent in Norfolk.

East Anglia had the wettest August for over 30 years, while south-west England had the driest August since 1981. North Wyke, Devon reported the driest August since records began there in 1959. While southern areas enjoyed a hot spell on the 16th, Scotland, Northern Ireland and some northern parts of England and Wales had heavy rain and storms; some minor roads in the Highlands

were almost impassable because of flooding. Heavy falls included 87 mm at Creebridge and 86 mm at Bargrennan, both in Dumfries and Galloway, on the 16th, 73 mm at Birmingham Airport, West Midlands on the 22nd, and 56 mm at Hemsby, Norfolk on the 25th.

### Sunshine

Sunshine amounts were above normal generally in South Wales, south-west England and eastern Scotland and below normal elsewhere, ranging from 70 per cent in the Western Isles to 118 per cent in Shetland.

The highest daily sunshine amount was 14.9 hours at Cumnock, Strathclyde on the 5th. The most sunshine in the month, 260 hours, was measured at St Helier, Jersey, with South Wales, south-west England and the south coast having generally more than 200 hours.

### Fog

Overnight fog was widespread in all areas except the south-west on the 10th and formed in the south-west on the 14th, in East Anglia on the 19th, 23rd and 24th and was widespread in South Wales, central southern and south-east England on the 30th. There was occasional hill fog in south-west England and extensive fog on hills in western Scotland on the 28th. Coastal fog occurred mainly in the south-west on the 2nd and 3rd, and extensively on western, southern and eastern coasts on the 20th.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

On the 6th there were reports of waterspouts off Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, one spout to over 600 m. Reports indicate that this was much higher than the previous British record, a 300 m spout off Lincolnshire in 1979. There were reports of tornadoes during thunderstorms in the Rochdale, Greater Manchester area on the 9th. Widespread reports of desert sand being deposited in precipitation during the night of the 16th/17th were received from as far apart as the Isle of Wight and north-west England.

Table 1 District values

District	Air temperature °C					Mean 30 cm soil temp° C	Rain- days	Rainfall	Sun- shine
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	Max.	Min.	Mean				
						Difference from average			
0 Scotland N	24.4	−0.3	−0.4	0.0	−0.1	+0.2	+1	81	83
1 Scotland E	25.7	2.5	−0.1	+0.3	+0.1	+0.6	+1	92	99
2 England E & NE	27.8	1.5	−0.6	+0.7	0.0	+0.2	+1	103	79
3 East Anglia	28.9	4.0	−0.3	+0.2	−0.1	0.0	0	148	81
4 Midland Counties	29.8	3.6	−0.1	+0.4	+0.2	0.0	−1	77	91
5 England SE & Central S	29.2	5.9	+0.5	0.0	+0.3	+0.3	−3	68	99
6 Scotland W	21.9	0.1	−0.4	−0.4	−0.4	+0.4	−1	127	93
7 England NW & Wales N	26.4	4.1	−0.7	+0.8	−0.1	+0.4	+2	91	90
8 England SW & Wales S	27.8	2.2	+0.3	+0.1	+0.2	+0.7	−4	36	106
N Ireland	24.2	2.4	0.0	+0.5	+0.3	+0.6	+3	129	84
Scotland	25.7	−0.3	−0.3	0.0	−0.1	+0.4	0	98	92
England & Wales	29.8	1.5	−0.1	+0.4	+0.1	+0.3	−1	80	91

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations