

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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Very wet and unsettled

An unusually deep depression for July moved slowly eastwards and then northwards over the British Isles during the first week of the month. The central pressure over south-west England dropped to 983 mb on the 3rd, the lowest for July in southern England since 1956. Fronts associated with another depression in the eastern Atlantic Ocean affected western coastal areas on the 9th, crossing all areas of the United Kingdom during the next two days. A temporary ridge of high pressure on the 11th, covering southern areas, gave way to a further Atlantic depression that finally moved away over the North Sea on the 14th. A further ridge of high pressure affected northern and western parts of the United Kingdom on the 14th and 15th but declined in the face of fronts associated with yet another Atlantic depression. Southern areas of the United Kingdom again came under the influence of a ridge of high pressure between the 17th and 20th. The development of a complex low pressure area off western Ireland on the 21st again brought a change to a much more unsettled regime. The associated frontal systems affected all areas over the next few days. On the 25th a very deep depression moved quickly north-eastwards past Northern Ireland and western Scotland, affecting most areas of the United Kingdom. On the 26th southern areas once more came under the influence of a transient ridge of high pressure. A further depression developing to the south-west of the British Isles on the 27th deepened and crossed the British Isles from south-west to north-east on the 28th. While southern areas of England and Wales were influenced by a continuing ridge of high pressure to the south of the British Isles, remaining parts stayed unsettled for the rest of the month.

Weather

July was a particularly wet month in many areas; rain or showers, the rain heavy at times and sometimes accompanied by thunderstorms, occurred over some parts of Great Britain on nearly every day. Between the 18th and 20th it was generally dry, but with some rain in western parts of Wales. The weather continued unsettled for the rest of the month with some particularly heavy rainfall in a few western areas. Most of the month's major events were disrupted including the Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, which were virtually washed out on the 3rd, and the Royal Agricultural Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, where the show ring became waterlogged after heavy rain on the 4th. Thunderstorms occurred widely between the 1st and 8th, mainly over England. There were further thundery outbreaks from time to time, mostly scattered, but widespread over southern England on the 26th.

Wind

Northern areas of the United Kingdom had a stormy day on the 25th with the strongest July winds for 50 years recorded in Scotland, with gusts of 50 kn to 60 kn over much of central and southern Scotland, bringing down trees and blocking roads; gusts of 68 kn were reported at Invergordon Harbour, Highland Region and Leuchars, Fife and 67 kn at Lossiemouth, Grampian Region. During the month as a whole wind directions were predominantly south-westerly.

Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were below normal nearly everywhere, the exceptions being northern and eastern Scotland where they were above normal; the differences lay between 1.0 °C above normal at Lerwick, Shetland and 1.9 °C below normal at Lyneham, Wiltshire.

Sheffield, Weston Park, South Yorkshire reported the lowest July maximum temperature since 1965, 21.5 °C and Halesowen, West Midlands the coolest July since 1965 with a maximum of 21.0 °C. The highest maximum of 20.5 °C at Ashover, Derbyshire was the lowest July maximum since records began there in 1967. Hampstead, Greater London reported that although it was only the coldest July since 1980, the highest maximum, 21.4 °C, was the lowest since records began at the station in 1909. Highest temperature during the month was 24.7 °C at Margate, Kent on the 21st and 23rd. The lowest temperature was -0.3 °C at Alwen, Clwyd on the 6th.

Rainfall

Rainfall amounts were well above average in most places, reaching more than three times the normal at Carlisle, Cumbria; however, in the extreme south-east of England amounts were near or below normal in some places, and at Manston, Kent amounts only reached 83 per cent of normal.

Some long-standing records were broken: it was the wettest July over England since 1936, over Wales since 1939, and the wettest July in Scotland since records began there in 1869. Watnall, Nottinghamshire had the wettest July for 15 years and Widdybank Fell, Cumbria the wettest July since records began there in 1968. Coventry School (Bablake), Warwickshire reported the wettest July since 1958 and Bidston, Merseyside the wettest since 1957. Morecambe, Lancashire reported the wettest July since 1909. At Halesowen, West Midlands July was the second wettest in almost 50 years, only 1957 being wetter. Sheffield, Weston Park, South Yorkshire reported the wettest July since 1973, and the highest number of July raindays in a record reaching back to 1882.

Hampstead, Greater London reported the total number of 25 raindays, the highest since 1909, although the total rainfall was less than in July 1987. Aspatria, Cumbria with 30 raindays equalled the record, held by Stornoway, of the greatest number of raindays in a month. Among heavy falls in 24 hours were 62 mm at Onich and 59 mm at Fort William, both Highland Region on the 25th, Skegness 55 mm on the 4th, Grizedale, Cumbria 54 mm on the 28th, and Milford Haven, Dyfed 53 mm on the 12th.

Sunshine

Sunshine totals were generally below the average nearly everywhere, although some places in eastern Scotland and in the Western Isles were near or just above average, ranging from 115 per cent of average at Tiree, Strathclyde Region to 64 per cent at Exeter, Devon.

Sheffield, Weston Park, South Yorkshire reported the lowest July sunshine total since 1980. At Halesowen, West Midlands July sunshine was only 75 per cent of normal, although only one day was completely without sun. It was the third dullest July at North Wyke, Devon since 1959, and Oxford reported the least sunny July since 1981. The highest daily sunshine total was 15.3 hours at Guernsey Airport on the 11th and the highest monthly amount was 234.4 hours at Folkestone, Kent.

Fog

A few short-lived patches of overnight fog formed around dawn on the 5th in southern England. Further fog formed over East Anglia and the East Midlands on the 21st. Hill and coastal fog occurred in northern and eastern Scotland and north-east England early in the month. Coastal fog affected south-western areas of Great Britain on the 10th, 16th and 21st, and during the 22nd and 23rd there was widespread fog over hills and coasts in many western and northern areas.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

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	22.5	1.5	−0.1	+0.4	+0.2	+0.5	+6	158	86
1 Scotland E	22.8	4.1	−1.0	+0.3	−0.3	+0.5	+8	177	87
2 England E & NE	23.3	4.0	−1.2	+0.3	−0.5	+0.1	+9	218	89
3 East Anglia	23.1	6.1	−1.1	+0.1	−0.5	−0.9	+10	181	84
4 Midland Counties	23.5	6.0	−1.9	−0.1	−1.0	−0.4	+10	189	83
5 England SE & Central S	23.0	7.1	−2.2	−0.3	−1.2	−1.1	+11	162	88
6 Scotland W	20.5	3.5	−1.5	+0.2	−0.6	+0.2	+11	201	78
7 England NW & Wales N	22.6	5.5	−1.7	+0.4	−0.7	−0.3	+9	177	80
8 England SW & Wales S	22.6	7.5	−2.1	−0.2	−1.2	−0.2	+11	196	75
N Ireland	20.5	6.5	−1.2	0.0	−0.6	−0.2	+9	156	90
Scotland	22.8	1.5	−0.9	+0.3	−0.2	+0.4	+8	143	84
England & Wales	23.5	4.0	−1.7	0.0	−0.9	−0.5	+10	189	83

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations