

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

## NOVEMBER 1973

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WEATHER CENTRE

### Cold and windy but often sunny

Depressions and fronts frequently affected the United Kingdom during the first half of the month but were less in evidence later. High-pressure systems dominated the weather in many districts for most of the third week.

#### Weather

It was windy on the whole and in northern and western districts rather wet but elsewhere rainfall was lighter and less frequent. Hail occurred at times and there were scattered thunderstorms. Snow or sleet (snow mixed with rain or drizzle) fell mainly in Scotland and northern England but during the last week districts farther south also had some snow. Fog occurred most frequently from the 1st to 4th and during the last 10 days.

#### Wind

In many districts winds were often fresh or strong with gales at times especially in the north and west. Gales were widespread on the 12th and 13th and severe in exposed places in Northern Ireland and Scotland where gusts of 60kt or more were recorded. Similar gust speeds also occurred during strong gales which swept northern and eastern Scotland on the 19th. A few days later gusts exceeding 70 kt were measured during severe gales in Scotland and northern England, and at Sheffield University a gust of 76 kt was recorded on the 24th. According to the Press two men were killed in Edinburgh during the gales and there was widespread property damage on the 24th and 25th.

#### Temperature

In Wales and in most of the western half of England monthly mean temperatures were near average but in a few places in northern and western Scotland they were as much as 2 to 2.5 degC below average. Elsewhere it was also colder than average, by about 1 to 2 degC in remaining districts of Scotland and England and by 0.5 to 1 degC in Northern Ireland. During the first few days and again on the 8th and 9th it was generally mild but the rest of the month was mostly colder than average. Night frosts were frequent in many areas especially after mid month and they became widespread during the last week. The frost was particularly severe in southern Scotland and north-western England and in these districts minimum temperatures of -10°C and below were recorded at a number of stations. At Carnwath (Lanarkshire) the temperature fell to -14.6°C during the night of the 28th/29 the lowest November temperature there since records began in 1952.

#### Rainfall (including melted snow).

Monthly rainfall exceeded average in most of Northern Ireland, in North Wales and in small areas of south-western England. The north-western half of Scotland was much

wetter than normal with some places reporting more than twice their average rainfall for November. At Lerwick (Shetland) which had 236 mm of rain, it was the wettest November since records began in 1921. By contrast, in south-eastern Scotland and north-eastern England rainfall was less than a quarter of average and at St Andrews (Fife) where a total of only 11 mm of rain fell during the month, it was the driest November since 1937. Showers of rain or hail or longer periods of rain often affected northern and western districts but were less frequent elsewhere. There were scattered thunderstorms and snow fell at times mostly on high ground in Scotland and northern England although there was some snowfall farther south during the last week. Occasionally rainfall was very heavy and 24-hour falls exceeding 50 mm occurred at stations in Northern Ireland, Scotland, northern England and North Wales. Press reports spoke of floods 5 feet deep in Caernarvon when the River Cadnant overflowed its banks on the 10th following prolonged heavy rain in the vicinity. Between 0900 on the 9th and 0900 on the 10th Blaenau Ffestiniog (Merioneth) had 147.0 mm, a 'very rare' fall, Minafon (Merioneth) had 126.3 mm and Nant Peris (Caernarvonshire) had 106.5 mm, both 'remarkable' falls. During the 24 hours from 0900 on the 17th a 'remarkable' fall of 102.8 mm was recorded at Glenfinnan (Inverness-shire).

#### Snow

Snow or sleet showers were confined mainly to the high ground of Scotland and northern England and there was some drifting at times. However, from the 25th to 30th snow showers occurred more generally in Great Britain and were also more prolonged especially in the north. Snow lay for several days in

parts of Scotland and undrifted depths of 10 to 20 cm were measured both on high ground and at lower levels while farther south undrifted depths of 5 to 10 cm of snow accumulated in places in Yorkshire and East Anglia, in parts of Wales and on Dartmoor (Devon).

#### Sunshine

Northern Ireland, northern and north-western Scotland and parts of North Wales and south-western England were all rather dull but elsewhere it was mostly a very sunny month although there were no prolonged spells of sunny days. At Arbroath (Angus) with 104.2 hours of sunshine it was the sunniest November since records began in 1923 and at Folkestone (Kent) where 113.5 hours of sunshine were recorded, it was the brightest November since sunshine measurements recommenced in 1946.

#### Fog

From the 1st to 4th and again during the last 10 days fog occurred frequently at night in eastern and southern England and the Midlands and it was occasionally more widespread with central and southern districts of Scotland being affected at times. Patches of hill fog and coastal fog were also reported from southern England and South Wales. Towards the end of the month patches of dense freezing fog persisted in southern Scotland and north-western England and disrupted road, rail and air traffic for a time. There were few occurrences of fog in other districts.

#### Miscellaneous Phenomena

Nil

Table 1 District values

November 1973

District	air temperature °C					mean 30-cm earth temp °C	rain-days	rainfall	sun-shine
	Highest	Lowest	max.	min.	mean				
	Max †	Min. †	difference from average						
0 Scotland N	15.7	-6.0	-1.5	-1.9	-1.7	-	-3	165	79
1 Scotland E	15.8	-4.8	-0.7	-1.4	-1.1	+0.1	-3	61	137
2 England N E	15.0	-10.1	-0.8	-1.9	-1.2	-0.4	-8	35	159
3 England E	16.0	-8.5	-0.7	-1.6	1.3	+0.4	-6	47	167
4 Midland Counties	16.3	-7.4	-0.3	-1.2	-0.7	-0.3	-6	53	180
5 England S E	18.1	-6.5	-0.3	-1.2	-0.8	-0.7	-4	35	151
6 Scotland W	14.4	-11.3	-1.1	-1.3	-1.2	0.0	0	98	127
7 Eng N W & Wales N	16.5	-12.6	-0.5	-0.8	-0.6	+0.5	-2	77	137
8 Eng S W & Wales S	16.4	-6.0	+0.2	-0.4	-0.1	+0.8	-2	63	133
N Ireland	14.7	-3.5	-0.4	-0.7	-0.6	-	+1	108	69
Scotland	15.8	-11.3	-1.1	-1.5	-1.3	-	-2	110	114
England & Wales	18.1	-12.6	-0.4	-1.2	-0.8	-	-5	53	155

† Highest max. and lowest min. of the District Value Stations