

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

Summary of observations compiled from returns of official stations and voluntary observers

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July 1966 — *Dry in much of Scotland; wet in south-east England*

Weather was predominantly anticyclonic in character except on the 12th-16th when pressure was low over Scandinavia and the Norwegian Sea, and on the 19th and 20th when a depression moved westwards from Germany into France.

The warm sunny weather at the end of June continued over most of England and Wales until July 4th with afternoon temperatures reaching 26°C in places; on the 3rd many districts recorded 15 hours or more of sunshine after the dispersal of early morning fog patches. In Scotland, however, weather was rather dull with rain at times.

Meanwhile, a large anticyclone had become established in the region of the Azores and depressions moving round its north-eastern flank brought changeable weather with occasional rain or showers to most districts of the British Isles from the 5th until the 16th. Day temperatures fell sharply on the 5th as thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rain, which exceeded 1 inch in places, became widespread in south-east England, but returned to normal for a few days from the 8th as a ridge of high pressure extended across southern England to Germany. Widespread and locally heavy rain on the 10th continued well into the night as a small depression moved from Northern Ireland to the Thames Estuary, and the 15th was also a very wet day due to another depression moving south-eastwards across the country on a somewhat similar track. There were, however, good sunny spells especially on the 11th and 14th.

On the 17th a ridge of high pressure extended from the anticyclone near the Azores, across the British Isles to Scandinavia, and weather in most districts became sunny and dry for about a week, except in south-east England. With north to north-east winds it was rather cool in eastern and central England, but in Scotland it was warm and sunny; Prestwick recorded 14 hours of sunshine daily on the 18th-21st and in Glasgow, with temperature rising to 28°C, the 21st was the warmest July day for seven years. In south-east England, however, weather was particularly dull and cold on the 19th-21st with strong north-easterly winds, as a depression over Germany moved westwards into France.

Weather became warm and sunny in the south on the 22nd with temperatures exceeding 27°C on the 22nd and 23rd, but on the latter date the ridge of high pressure over the country retreated south-westwards and a cold front, associated with a complex low pressure area in the Norwegian Sea, brought freshening westerly winds and occasional rain to most northern districts. A wave developing on this front gave periods of heavy rain on the 24th, first in the north, moving to the southern part of the country during the afternoon. The 25th was sunny with scattered showers, but a small depression centred over northern England brought renewed rain on the 26th as it moved with its associated trough across central and southern districts.

Most of the remainder of the month was dominated by a depression moving south-eastwards from Iceland, which, after a showery day on the 27th, brought widespread rain on the 28th. The depression became slow-moving in the northern North Sea, and northerly winds from high latitudes on its western side gave frequent thundery showers and thunderstorms on the 29th and 30th. Another depression forming in our South-West Approaches brought stormy weather with widespread gales and thunderstorms to southern England during the last day of the month.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was mainly above the 1931-60 average except in some eastern districts, the deviation from average at 9h ranging from +2.9 mb at Scilly to -1.0 mb at Gorleston. Surface winds were light and variable until the 4th and then mainly between west and north-west during the remainder of the month apart from north to north-easterly winds on the 17th-21st. Winds reached gale force on

the 10th, 19th-21st and 31st mainly in south-west England; no gales were reported in Scotland.

Temperature — Mean maximum temperatures did not reach the July average except in Devon. Day temperatures were below the average throughout the month except during the first four days and around the 23rd in south-east England, and during the third week in Scotland. The coldest night was that of the 26th/27th when screen temperature at Glenmore Lodge fell to -0.3°C.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 27.8°C at Moreton Morrell on the 23rd, 0.6°C at Caldecott on the 15th and at Moore House and Kielder Castle on the 18th and 19th; (Scotland) 28.9°C at Perth and Crossmyloof on 21st, -0.3°C at Glenmore Lodge on 27th; (Northern Ireland) 25.6°C at Newton Abbey on the 21st, 2.8°C at several places on the 27th.

Rainfall — Rainfall was below the 1916-50 average over the whole of Scotland except for parts of the north and west. Dumfries had its driest July since 1935. In England and Wales rainfall was mainly above average east and south of a line from Swanage to Llandudno to Scarborough except for Shropshire and a belt extending from Oxfordshire through Nottinghamshire to Derbyshire and northwards. It was more than twice the average locally in Lincolnshire and over most of Kent. Elsewhere it was below the average.

Thunder was heard on 12 days in Scotland and on the 4th, 5th, 11th, 14th, 17th, 19th, 20th, 24th, 26th and 28th-30th (13 days) in England and Wales. Thunderstorms were widespread on the 29th and 30th, and also on the 5th and 19th over south-east England.

Sunshine — Sunshine was below the average generally except in some western districts in Great Britain, but it was above the average in Northern Ireland. Many places in south and east Scotland had their dullest July for more than 20 years. In England and Wales percentages ranged from 129 at Newton Rigg to 68 at Wye.

Fog — Reports of fog were fewer than average even for July. In Scotland early fog was observed on only one morning. In England and Wales it occurred at a few places during the first few days of the month and also during the period 8th-12th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was visible on one night in Scotland.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES, JULY, 1966

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUNSHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
	Difference from Average							% of Average		
0 SCOTLAND, N.	25.0	3.6	-1.3	-1.3	-0.8	-	-	+2	88	114
1 SCOTLAND, E.	26.1	3.9	-0.8	-1.3	-1.1	0.0	+0.2	-1	57	111
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	25.6	5.6	-1.6	-1.1	-1.3	-0.5	-0.1	+4	101	98
3 ENGLAND, E.	25.2	6.1	-2.0	-1.0	-1.5	-0.9	-0.1	+4	147	80
4 MIDLANDS	26.3	6.1	-1.7	-0.9	-1.3	-0.7	+0.1	+1	89	84
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	26.4	3.1	-1.4	-0.8	-1.1	-1.2	-0.2	+2	123	83
6 SCOTLAND, W.	27.1	2.9	-0.7	-1.2	-1.0	+0.1	-0.3	-2	49	133
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	23.9	3.9	-1.2	-0.7	-0.9	-0.4	0.0	0	104	109
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	26.7	3.3	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.6	+0.1	-1	60	97
N. IRELAND	25.0	3.3	-0.7	-0.8	-0.7	-	-	-1	53	115
SCOTLAND	27.1	2.9	-0.6	-1.3	-1.0	-	-	0	65	119
ENG. and WALES	26.7	3.1	-1.4	-0.9	-1.1	-	-	+2	99	92

*Highest Max. and Lowest Min. of the District Value Stations.