

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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Unsettled at first; becoming settled and very dry

At the beginning of the month pressure was low to the west of the British Isles and an anticyclone to the east was moving away south-eastwards. On the 1st fronts moved into western districts, crossing remaining areas on the 2nd. A cold front moved across Great Britain on the 3rd, followed by a further series of fronts on the 5th and 6th. Another cold front moved quickly from the west on the 8th, crossing all parts of the United Kingdom, followed on the 9th by a warm front that cleared all areas by the 10th as the associated depression moved north-eastwards across Shetland while a cold front moved southwards across Scotland. Pressure then began to rise from the 11th onwards and high pressure persisted until the end of the month. However, Scotland was affected by weak fronts on the 23rd and 27th. On the 28th and 29th weak frontal activity occurred over the eastern half of Scotland and England. On the 30th the remains of the ridge of high pressure over the United Kingdom collapsed. A shallow trough of low pressure affected Cornwall on the 29th and 30th and other southern coastal areas on the 31st. Meanwhile, a cold front moved southwards across Scotland and northern England on the 30th and the rest of England and Wales on the 31st.

Weather

Unsettled showery weather affected all parts of the United Kingdom until the 10th. From the 11th until the end of the month it was very dry and sunny but with frequent fog formation. In many parts of eastern, central and south-eastern England the 1st was a very hot day. Thunder occurred on six days between the 2nd and 9th, being more widespread in western districts of England and Wales on the 4th. Hail was reported at a number of places between the 3rd and 7th, and again on the 31st. Stainburn, Cumbria reported hailstones of more than 20 mm diameter on the 4th.

Winds

Wind speeds were light to moderate in eastern areas and fresh to strong at times in some western areas between the 1st and 11th, becoming mainly light for the rest of the month. On the 3rd and 4th it was windy with gales in exposed places in western areas. Winds reached gale force at Gwennap Head, Cornwall on the 3rd, Valley, Gwynedd on the 4th and Killough, Co. Down on the 6th. Some places in northern and eastern Scotland reported winds reaching gale force on the 10th and 11th and Lynemouth, Northumberland also reported gales on the 11th. The highest gust at a low-level station, 87 kn on the 11th at Kirkwall, Orkney was the highest October gust there since records began in 1929; the highest mean speed of 59 kn was also a record for October at the station. Wind directions were southerly or westerly from the 1st to 11th, easterly from the 20th to 25th and otherwise mostly variable.

Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were about 0.5 °C above normal over the United Kingdom as a whole. Differences ranged from 1.2 °C above average in eastern England to 0.7 °C below average in central Wales and Cornwall.

The 1st was a warm day in most areas, but in many parts of eastern, central and south-eastern

England it was a hot day with temperatures generally about 10 °C above normal. Waddon, Greater London recorded 29.5 °C, over half a degree higher than the previous highest October temperature in the United Kingdom, and March, Cambridgeshire recorded 29.4 °C, both values within 0.3 °C of the highest temperature in the United Kingdom in the previous July. Eleven other stations in eastern England recorded over 28 °C. On the next two days the highest temperature was only about 23 °C and for the rest of the month it became gradually cooler. Jersey Airport had its coldest night on the 30th with a minimum temperature of 1.9 °C; at St Helier, Jersey the maximum on the next afternoon reached only 5.8 °C, these being new all-time October records for Jersey.

Rainfall

Over England and Wales October was the second consecutive dry month. Rainfall totals were about half the normal over the United Kingdom as a whole. Scotland and Northern Ireland had a dry month with north-east Scotland having less than a quarter of average rainfall; in Northern Ireland with only 45 per cent of normal it was the driest October since 1951. North-west Scotland and the Midlands were the wettest areas with about 65 per cent of average.

The month started wet in Scotland with some heavy rain; in the south of the country a number of places had over 50 mm on the 1st, including 71 mm at Inchnagellan, Highland Region and 53 mm at Garshake Filters, Strathclyde. Another frontal system gave a wet day on the 6th over western areas of England and Wales, with Trecastle, Powys recording 64 mm in 12 hours. The 6th was the wettest day of the month and over 70 rain-gauges recorded daily falls of over 50 mm, the greatest amount being 114 mm at Waen Sychlwch, Mid Glamorgan at an elevation of 500 m; Gaverton Sewage Works, in the same county, but only 8 m above sea level, measured 72 mm. A cold front gave some rain on the 30th and 31st with a fall of 42.5 mm in about two and a half hours at St Helier, Jersey and there were reports of flooding on the island. There were some very low monthly rainfall

totals in the Aberdeen area, Grampian Region including 6 mm at Inverurie, 8 mm at Dyce and 9 mm at Craibstone. It was the driest October at Dyce and at Craibstone since records began in 1942 and 1929 respectively.

Snow

Fresh falls of snow were observed, mainly above 1000 m in the Highlands and Cairngorms on the 8th and 9th. None of this snow persisted and the higher ground generally remained clear until the 31st, when there was fairly widespread snowfall, with snow reported lying on higher ground down to 600 m in the northern hills and the Cairngorms.

Sunshine

Monthly sunshine totals were above normal nearly everywhere with more than 120 per cent of average in northern and eastern Scotland and in parts of eastern England. The sunniest area was Wick, Highland Region with 170 per cent of normal.

The brightest days over a large area were the 13th, when most of England and Wales had 8 or 9 hours sunshine, and the 14th, when southern parts of England and Wales, together with parts of northern England and southern Scotland had between 6 and 9 hours of sunshine. The longest daily duration during the month was 10.2 hours at Guernsey Airport on the 14th. The last week was generally rather dull. With 141 hours total sunshine in the month Dyce had the sunniest October since records began in 1942.

Fog

Fog formed frequently overnight in many areas from the 12th to 30th. It was dense at times especially on the 14th, when about 20 people were injured in a multi-vehicle crash on the M1 in Northamptonshire, and on the 21st. There was fairly frequent hill fog in central and western areas throughout the month. Coastal fog patches occurred on about five days during the month.

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					% of average	
0 Scotland N	19.9	−7.2	+0.8	+0.4	+0.6	+0.5	−5	65	123
1 Scotland E	21.2	−4.8	+0.9	+0.3	+0.6	+1.0	−6	43	132
2 England E & NE	27.5	−1.5	+0.9	+1.2	+1.0	+1.2	−7	53	116
3 East Anglia	28.3	−0.8	+0.8	+0.8	+0.8	+1.0	−7	29	105
4 Midland Counties	28.0	0.2	+0.5	+0.9	+0.7	+1.2	−7	72	88
5 England SE & Central S	27.0	−1.2	+0.3	+0.7	+0.5	+0.9	−6	41	114
6 Scotland W	20.5	−2.6	+0.4	+0.3	+0.3	+0.9	−8	58	106
7 England NW & Wales N	25.6	−2.1	+0.3	+0.7	+0.3	+1.0	−7	63	98
8 England SW & Wales S	24.6	−2.5	0.0	+0.2	−0.1	+1.0	−7	71	101
N Ireland	20.6	−1.0	+0.3	+0.6	+0.4	+1.2	−8	48	103
Scotland	21.2	−7.2	+0.7	+0.3	+0.5	+0.8	−6	59	120
England & Wales	28.3	−2.5	+0.5	+0.7	+0.5	+1.1	−7	60	104

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations