

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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November 1965 — Bright and cold; much snow in the north

Weather was mainly cyclonic in character except on the 4th-6th, when an anticyclone moved slowly eastwards across the country, and on the 10th-15th, when a ridge extending from a Scandinavian anticyclone covered most of the British Isles.

The month began stormy, an intense depression moving eastwards across Scotland during the early hours of the 1st. Mean wind speeds exceeded 65 kt in many northern districts and rain was heavy at times. In the wake of the depression a strong northerly airstream brought a sharp fall in temperature and frequent snow showers to Scotland and northern England on the 2nd and 3rd. Three quiet, sunny days followed, with widespread early morning frost, as an anticyclone drifted slowly eastward from the west of Ireland to the North Sea.

The only really mild spell of the month was on the 7th-10th. It was also rather wet, a depression to the west of Ireland bringing rain to all districts on the 7th as it moved rapidly north, (falls exceeded 1 inch in parts of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight), and a small disturbance moving eastwards along the English Channel bringing renewed heavy rain to parts of southern England on the 9th.

Easterly winds, associated with a developing anticyclone in the region of northern Scandinavia, spread over the British Isles on the 11th, and this proved to be the beginning of an exceptionally cold spell which lasted in many areas until the 16th. Temperature both day and night fell progressively until by the 15th it failed to rise above freezing point in many parts of southern England, having been as low as -8°C the previous night. Though there was a good deal of sunshine eastern districts had frequent snow showers and during the period snow accumulated to a level depth of 5 inches on the moors and higher ground of north-east England.

Troughs associated with a large depression to the south-west of Ireland brought strong to gale force south-easterly winds and periods of snow to most districts on the 16th, but the next day the snow turned to rain in the south as an airstream from the Atlantic reached the region. By the 18th a complex area of low pressure covered southern England and this general pattern was maintained for a day or two but with the low pressure moving slowly southwards into France. Weather was unsettled and dull with periods of rain, heavy locally, in southern England, but in Scotland it remained cold with snow at times.

An airstream of arctic origin between high pressure over Greenland and low pressure over Scandinavia spread over the British Isles on the 22nd bringing a return of the wintry weather to the southern half of the country. Ground became snow-covered even at some south-coast resorts whilst at Scarborough snow lay 6 inches deep for a time. The next day a depression from the Atlantic deepened as it moved south-east across Scotland, and as winds backed towards south-west the snow in many places gave place to rain or sleet.

The last week of the month was stormy, a series of vigorous and often complex depressions from the Atlantic bringing heavy falls of snow to many northern districts. Gale force winds caused considerable drifting. In southern districts rain was heavy at times. Severe blizzards swept across northern England during the nights of the 26th/27th and 28th/29th, and many roads were blocked by snowdrifts; in the Durham area they were reported to be 15 feet deep. The month ended bright and cold with wintry showers in a north-westerly airstream but the previous heavy rain led to floods in parts of the south-west.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was generally below the 1921-50 average except in parts of northern Scotland, the deviation at 9 hr

ranging from -6.0 mb at Shoeburyness to $+3.2$ mb at Stornoway. Surface winds, westerly at first and northerly on the 2nd and 3rd were then rather variable until the 10th after which they were mainly between south-east and east on the 11th-20th, between north-east and north on the 21st-22nd and predominantly northerly for the rest of the month. Winds reached gale force in Scotland on 20 days and in England and Wales on the 1st-2nd, 5th-7th, 9th, 14th-17th, and 20th-30th (21 days). Gales were widespread and severe on the 1st, 27th and 29th; a gust of 102 kt was recorded at Lowther Hill (2412 ft) on the 1st and one of 75 kt occurred at Ronaldsway on the 29th.

Temperature — In England and Wales it was the coldest November since 1952, and in Scotland the coldest since 1925. Mean temperature was exceptionally low in southern England on the 14th and 15th; at Kew it was the coldest consecutive pair of days so early in the winter season since 1887.

Extremes included (England and Wales) 18.3°C at Newport on the 1st and 8th, -11.1°C at Santon Downham on the 15th; (Scotland) 15.0°C at Haddington and Kilmarnock on the 9th, -13.9°C at Braemar on the 15th; (Northern Ireland) 13.8°C at Balleykelly on the 8th, -7.2°C at Knockmany Forest on the 15th.

Precipitation — One of the most noteworthy features of the month was the heavy snowfall in northern England during the last week. In England and Wales rainfall, and the rainfall equivalent of snowfall, was more than twice the average in eastern coastal areas north of the Wash and more than three times the average locally in Northumberland and Durham. It was below the average over most of Wales, over the southern parts of the Midlands and East Anglia and over the eastern parts of Kent and Sussex. In Scotland rainfall was above the average over most of the south-east, the north-east, Ross and Cromarty and over Sutherland, elsewhere, apart from Arran, it was below the average.

Snow or sleet fell in Scotland on 24 days and in England and Wales on 18 days. It was reported at a few places in Scotland during the first week and in England and Wales towards the end of the second week but during the second half of the month it was widespread and heavy at times both in Scotland and over the northern half of England. Towards the end of the month ground was covered to a depth of 3-6 inches over much of the north Midlands, 12 inches in Co. Durham and Northumberland and up to 22 inches in the Durham area.

Thunder was heard on 11 days in Scotland and on the 7th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 20th, 22nd-24th and 26th-30th (13 days) in England and Wales. Thunderstorms were fairly widespread in western districts on the 27th.

Sunshine — It was a sunny month with sunshine above the average nearly everywhere; there were, however, local deficits in the extreme north and north-east of Scotland, in the coastal areas of north-east England and the extreme south-west of Cornwall. Glasgow and central London had more than twice their average amount of sunshine, and both London (Kew) and Manchester had their sunniest November since their records began in the early 1880's.

Fog — Fog was observed at 9 hr at one place or another in Scotland on 23 days and in England and Wales on the 1st, 3rd, 5th-15th, 17th-21st, 23rd and 25th-29th (24 days). However, it was less widespread and less persistent than is usual during November.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was visible in Scotland on 7 nights.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES—

NOVEMBER,

1965

(1908, revised 1928, 1941, 1956 and 1964)

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUN-SHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
			Difference from Average							
0 SCOTLAND, N.	12.8	-7.8	-2.7	-2.7	-2.7	-	-	-2	82	109
1 SCOTLAND, E.	13.3	-5.6	-2.8	-2.1	-2.4	-	-	+3	112	113
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	13.2	-5.6	-2.7	-2.5	-2.5	-0.1	+ 0.3	+6	265	98
3 ENGLAND, E.	15.4	-6.7	-1.9	-1.9	-1.9	-0.6	-0.2	+3	87	148
4 MIDLANDS	14.3	-5.6	-2.3	-2.2	-2.2	-0.8	0.0	+2	107	137
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	15.6	-8.3	-1.6	-1.8	-1.7	-1.3	-0.7	+3	101	150

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

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUN-SHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
Difference from Average								% of Average		
6 SCOTLAND, W.	13.5	-5.6	-2.6	-2.3	-2.5	-0.4	+0.2	-4	54	161
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	14.4	-5.6	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-0.9	+0.5	-3	87	141
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	15.0	-7.2	-1.9	-1.8	-1.9	-0.5	0.0	+3	112	126
N. IRELAND	13.8	-6.9	-2.4	-2.2	-2.3	-	-	+1	115	118
SCOTLAND	13.5	-7.8	-2.7	-2.4	-2.5	-	-	-1	79	128
ENG. and WALES	15.6	-8.3	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1	-	-	+2	114	160