

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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## Very cool; much heavy rain in the south of England

During the first 5 days of the month a ridge of high pressure dominated the weather over the British Isles. Thereafter the country was affected frequently by depressions or troughs of low pressure which were especially vigorous in the south.

### Weather

After a generally dry first week the weather became changeable with much heavy rain at times in the southern half of the country. Although the rain relieved an increasing water shortage in south-west England, the heavy falls led to damage to hay crops, and local floods from swollen rivers disrupted road and rail traffic at times. Winds were often between north and east and this resulted in a very cool month; snow or sleet (rain or drizzle and snow) fell on the peaks in the Cairngorms on the 8th and also on high ground elsewhere in Scotland around mid-month.

### Wind

Although winds were occasionally fresh or strong, gales seldom occurred and those that were reported were isolated and of short duration. A notable feature was the high frequency of north to east winds in all areas during the first half of the month.

### Temperature

In general monthly mean temperature was 1-2 degC below average but deficits exceeded 2 degC in many areas, particularly in the Midlands. Ross-on-Wye (Herefordshire) recorded its lowest monthly mean temperature (12.9°C) since 1916, and a number of places had their coolest June since 1927, including Huddersfield (Oakes) and Bradford (both in the West Riding of Yorkshire). In most parts of the country, day-time temperatures were lower, on average, than those in May, and in one or two places, mainly in the northern half of Scotland, monthly mean temperature was also below the May value. In fact it is estimated that this was the coolest June generally since the notably cool months in 1927 and 1928. From the 5th to 22nd temperatures remained persistently below average, particularly during the day, and on the 9th at Watnall (Nottinghamshire), the temperature reached only 8.5°C which is the lowest on a June day here since 1953. Air frost at night was recorded in some upland areas around the 10th and 15th. Exceptions to the generally low temperatures occurred away from the North Sea coast on the first few days and 25.6°C was recorded at Littlehampton (Sussex) on the 3rd.

### Rainfall

There was a marked difference in the amount and type of rainfall in the north and south of

the country. In Scotland most areas were drier than average with some places in the extreme north and near Glasgow recording only about half the average rainfall; Greenock (Renfrewshire) had its driest June since 1953. In common with most other regions, Scotland had a mainly dry first week and subsequent rainfall was predominantly showery in nature. Over the remainder of the United Kingdom rainfall was generally above average and exceptionally so in parts of southern England. More than 4 times the average rainfall occurred along the Sussex coast near Eastbourne and on the Isle of Wight where it was the wettest June in Ryde since at least 1870 (before this records are fragmentary) and at Cowes waterworks since records began in 1910. Over 3 times the average rainfall occurred over large areas of south-east England and near the Severn estuary; Beaminster (Dorset) had its greatest June rainfall since continuous records commenced in 1900 and Batheaston reservoir (Somerset) recorded its wettest June since 1935. The number of days with thunder reported was generally below average, especially in southern England where no severe thunderstorms were reported, and the heavy rainfalls resulted largely from persistent and heavy frontal rain. The 10th, with 53.4 mm of rain during the 24 hours commencing 09 GMT at Mayflower Park in Southampton, is estimated to have been the wettest June 'day' in the area since 1905. Rainfalls in excess of 50 mm which occurred widely in southern England during the same period included 81.5 mm at

Yarford (Somerset) and 78.8 mm at Mottistone (Isle of Wight). This rain belt spread north-westwards and on the 11th 60.7 mm were recorded at Parkmore Forest (Co. Antrim). Further frontal rain occurred on the 14th in the southern half of England and Wales; the heaviest falls were in south-east England where at East Hoathly (Sussex) 54.2 mm of rain fell in 5½ hours. On the 18th and 19th more heavy rain fell in many areas; this time the greatest rainfalls were in Wales and the West Country, for example 90 mm at Cwmystwyth (Cardiganshire) in the 24 hours beginning 09 GMT on the 18th. Scattered thunderstorms occurred in eastern England on the 28th and 29th.

### Sunshine

A few places in the west and north of Scotland were sunnier than average but in most areas of the United Kingdom sunshine amounts were below average. It was the dullest June at Elmdon (Warwickshire) since continuous records began in 1950 and a number of other places in the Midlands, and also in the West Country, recorded their lowest June sunshine total for about 16 years.

### Fog

At times during the first week sea fog affected many coasts bordering the North Sea. Parts of the Cornish coast had sea fog patches on the 29th.

### Miscellaneous phenomena

Observers at Shoeburyness (Essex) saw 2 funnel clouds over the Thames estuary on the 28th.

Table 1 District Values

June 1971

District	air temperature °C					mean 30 cm earth temp °C	rain days	rain- fall	sun- shine
	High Max. *	Lowest Min. *	max.	min.	mean				
			difference from average						
0 Scotland N	23.9	1.2	-1.2	-1.4	-1.3	—	+3	92	98
1 Scotland E	21.5	2.9	-2.4	-1.1	-1.8	-0.9	+3	90	71
2 England N E	23.3	1.6	-3.0	-1.0	-2.0	-0.8	+3	128	73
3 England E	23.9	5.0	-2.7	-0.9	-1.8	-1.3	+3	182	69
4 Midlands	22.9	3.9	-3.3	-1.0	-2.2	-1.2	+4	185	70
5 England S E	23.7	3.2	-2.5	-0.8	-1.6	-1.2	+3	305	75
6 Scotland W	20.7	0.8	-1.8	-1.2	-1.5	-0.8	-1	72	98
7 Eng NW - Wales N	23.5	0.8	-2.3	-1.1	-1.7	-1.4	+2	130	73
8 Eng SW - Wales S	22.4	1.8	-2.1	-1.2	-1.7	-0.8	+4	229	74
N Ireland	20.6	3.3	-1.8	-1.4	-1.6	—	-2	132	89
Scotland	23.9	0.8	-1.8	-1.2	-1.5	—	+1	84	89
Eng - Wales	23.9	0.8	-2.7	-1.0	-1.8	—	+3	190	72

\* Highest max. and lowest min. of the District Value Stations.