

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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Cold and wet in the north; warm and dry in the south

The month began with low pressure over Scotland and the associated frontal systems crossing all areas. On the 4th a depression crossed northern England, and as it moved away eastwards a ridge of high pressure built across England and Wales. From the 5th the main low-pressure area was to the north-west of the British Isles and fronts continued to affect northern and western areas. On the 10th the area of high pressure in the south extended northwards to cover most of Scotland, but declined as fronts associated with an Atlantic depression moved across Scotland on the 12th. A temporary ridge of high pressure then declined as further fronts crossed Scotland into northern England on the 13th, the cold front clearing remaining areas on the 14th. A depression moved quickly from the west on the 15th to cross northern areas during the following day, while southern areas again came under the influence of a weak ridge of high pressure. Further fronts crossed northern areas from the 17th, a cold front clearing all areas by the 19th, while the southern ridge of high pressure declined. While a depression to the west of the British Isles continued to affect northern areas for the next few days, high pressure rebuilt across southern areas on the 23rd. On the 25th a cold front moved south-eastwards across Scotland, returning northwards as a warm front during the 26th and 27th. On the 29th, fronts associated with a depression to the west of Scotland moved into western areas. On the 30th the depression moved quickly north-eastwards with cold fronts crossing Scotland while the ridge of high pressure in the south declined slowly as the centre moved away south-eastwards.

Weather

The generally cool, unsettled weather continued at the beginning of the month, with heavy rain in northern and western areas. This unsettled weather continued for much of the month in Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England, although by the 4th a ridge of high pressure brought dry, settled weather to southern areas and this type of weather predominated in the south apart from the 21st/22nd when rain crossed all parts of the United Kingdom. During the last week more settled weather spread to all areas. The most widespread thundery activity occurred on the 3rd with outbreaks in eastern areas from Edinburgh in the north to Hastings on the south coast. Isolated thunderstorms occurred over Scotland on the 1st, 5th and 6th, over North Wales on the 12th and over Northern Ireland on the 30th. Hailstones were reported on the 5th, 6th, 19th and 20th in Scotland and at various places in East Anglia and Lincolnshire on the 3rd.

Wind

Wind speeds during the month were predominantly light or moderate, but fresh to strong in exposed coastal areas in the west. Gale force winds were reported mainly in northern or western areas on three days: the 1st, 14th and 30th. Mean hourly wind speeds greater than 34 kn on the 14th included Duirinish, Highland Region and Leith Harbour, Lothian, both with 37 kn, and Forth Road Bridge with 35 kn. On Irish Sea coasts Valley, Gwynedd recorded 34 kn and Killough, Co. Down 35 kn. Gusts of over 50 kn were recorded at

Fleetwood, Lancashire on the 1st and at Blyth, Northumberland, Leith Harbour and Forth Road Bridge on the 14th. The highest gust at a low-level station was 61 kn on the 30th at Duirinish. Wind directions were mainly southerly or westerly.

Temperature

Mean temperatures were generally above the monthly average in England and Wales, but below average in Scotland. Differences ranged from nearly 1.5 °C below normal at Baltasound, Shetland to nearly 2 °C above normal in parts of North Wales.

After a cool start to the month it began to warm up on the 9th, becoming very warm on the 11th and 12th in England and Wales, whilst in parts of eastern England it was hot, with temperatures about 27 °C from Cambridgeshire to Kent. After a further cooler spell it became rather warm or warm for the rest of the month, apart from a colder spell on the 20th; in the last week it became hot in one or two places in East Anglia. Figures for central England give a mean temperature of 14.7 °C, equal to September 1980, the warmest September since 1961. Also, the second half of the month, with a mean temperature of 15.5 °C was the warmest second half of September for over 200 years. The highest temperature during the month was 27.4 °C on the 12th at March, Cambridgeshire and Aldenham School, Hertfordshire. The lowest temperature during the month was -1.6 °C at Santon Downham, Norfolk on the 7th.

Rainfall

Most of England and Wales had amounts below the monthly average; it was particularly dry in the south-east and parts of central England. North of a line from Cumbria to Tyne and Wear, however, rainfall was mostly above average with more than 150 per cent of average near to the Border. Apart from Stornoway and Shetland which had less than the monthly average, the whole of Scotland had above normal rainfall and in central areas of Scotland amounts were more than two and a half times the normal monthly rainfall. On the 18th

rainfall was very heavy in Dumfries and Galloway, where Eskdalemuir reported 61 mm. This was exceeded by the torrential rain which fell in the Glasgow area, particularly on the south-western side of the city, where Uplawmoor recorded 75 mm in a day, Paisley 74 mm and Glasgow Airport 70 mm. Rainfall was particularly heavy in the Fort William area on the 30th, with a total of 76 mm measured at Ardgour, on Loch Linnhe, and a landslip affected the railway line between Fort William and Mallaig. At the Coats Observatory in Paisley where there have been observations since 1885 the total of 288 mm in September 1985 is considerably greater than the previous highest of 209 mm in September 1950. For England and Wales as a whole, and for England, it was the driest September since 1979, for Wales the driest since 1972.

Sunshine

On the whole amounts were just below average, with the wettest areas also the dullest, ranging from 138 per cent of average in Shetland to less than half the monthly normal at Onich, Highland Region. The 2nd was a particularly dull day with only Fair Isle having more than 4 hours of sunshine. The 16th and 18th were also particularly dull days. The most sunshine in a day was 12.3 hours at Camborne, Cornwall on the 1st. The brightest day generally was the 6th when everywhere south of a line from Lancashire to Cleveland reported 11 or 12 hours of sunshine.

Fog

Fog patches formed overnight between the 9th and 12th and 18th and 19th, mainly in southern areas. From the 25th to the end of the month overnight fog was widespread in all areas. Hill fog occurred from time to time throughout the month, mainly in central and western areas. Sea fog affected coasts very frequently from the 8th onwards.

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			
0 Scotland N	23.4	0.7	-0.9	-0.4	-0.6	-0.6	+4	127	88
1 Scotland E	24.0	1.1	-0.8	+0.1	-0.4	-0.2	+4	167	87
2 England E & NE	25.5	1.3	+1.2	+0.9	+1.0	+0.2	-1	89	99
3 East Anglia	27.1	1.5	+1.1	+0.4	+0.8	0.0	-5	26	93
4 Midland Counties	26.0	1.5	+1.5	+0.9	+1.2	+0.3	-6	34	103
5 England SE & Central S	26.9	2.7	+1.0	+0.7	+0.8	+0.4	-7	24	102
6 Scotland W	21.4	-0.7	-0.5	+0.5	+0.1	-0.3	+4	177	74
7 England NW & Wales N	24.2	4.2	+0.5	+1.6	+0.9	+0.5	+1	89	89
8 England SW & Wales S	24.7	3.3	+0.9	+0.8	+0.8	+0.6	-5	53	96
N Ireland	22.3	1.9	+0.7	+1.3	+1.0	+0.3	+4	161	78
Scotland	24.0	-0.7	-0.7	+0.1	-0.3	-0.4	+4	153	83
England & Wales	27.1	1.3	+1.0	+0.9	+0.9	+0.3	-4	56	97

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations