

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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Very dry. Sunny in west; dull in east.

An almost stationary high pressure system centred over or to the north of Scotland dominated the weather for most of the month. A trough moved into western areas on the 2nd and another trough moved south across the country from the 10th to 12th. A low pressure area over north France affected the south of England and Wales on the 27th and 28th and a frontal system approached Ireland on the 30th.

Weather

Most of the British Isles had long sunny periods during the first ten days with high temperatures by day and frequent frost at night, but the east coasts were affected by fog and low cloud, which formed overnight and persisted all day in some places. In south-east England there were some isolated showers. It continued dry in north Scotland, but rain was widespread elsewhere for two or three days after which it became mainly dry and sunny again in western areas with some overnight fog. There were showers in the east. Thunderstorms were reported in southern England on a few days during the month.

Wind

Winds were mostly moderate and from an easterly direction throughout the month, but fresh or strong winds were reported mainly in the south and east of England and occasionally in other areas. The high level station at Snaefell (Isle of Man) had a gust of 58 knots on 1st. Northern Ireland had strong winds on 11th and on the north and east coasts of Scotland near gale force winds occurred on the last few days of the month.

Temperature

Mean temperatures over nearly the whole country were within 1.0 degC of average, Northern Ireland, western districts and the south coasts of Great Britain being above average and the other areas below average. North-west Scotland, however, had values of about 1.5 to 2.0 degC above average and the north-east coast of England had values about 2.0 degC below average. During the first two weeks the days were generally very mild especially in west Scotland and at Achnashellach (Ross and Cromarty) a maximum of 22.0°C on the 7th and again on the 8th was the highest temperature recorded there since 1952. However, eastern coasts of Great Britain remained cool. Another mild spell occurred near the end of the month. Frosts occurred frequently at night in Scotland and eastern England throughout the month and in other areas on a few occasions.

Rainfall (including melted snow)

Monthly totals of rainfall were below 50 per cent of average over the whole country except for eastern parts of Northern Ireland and the extreme east of Scotland and northern England where rainfall was between 50 and 85 per cent of average. Parts of north-west England and west Scotland had less than 5 per cent of average rainfall and many places in Scotland, north-west England and East Anglia had the driest April since their records began: Gisle Power Station (Ross and Cromarty) recorded no rainfall. The first three weeks were dry in most areas except during the 11th and 12th when rain was widespread over England and Wales, south Scotland and Northern Ireland. Towards the end of the month there were showers in many areas with hail at times in the east and isolated reports of snow and sleet (snow mixed with rain or drizzle) in the north. Thunder was reported in East Anglia on the 2nd and in southern England on the 12th and on a few days near the end of the month.

Snow

Isolated reports of snow and sleet were made in Northern Ireland and Scotland on the 11th, 28th and 29th and over the Pennines on the 27th. Snow did not lie except on the highest hills.

Sunshine

Considerable variation in sunshine durations for the month occurred over the country. Monthly totals of sunshine hours were less than average

in east England, the Midlands, east Wales and the extreme south-east of Scotland and above average elsewhere, many places achieving a record amount. Values exceeded 150 per cent of average in parts of west Scotland. Prabost (Inverness-shire) recorded 257.5 hours of sunshine, and Fort Augustus (Inverness-shire) with 203.7 hours had the sunniest April since 1886. Along the coast of north-east England, however, values were only 50 per cent of average: Tynemouth (Tyne and Wear) 76.8 hours and Scarborough (North Yorkshire) 94.3 hours had their dullest April since 1937. During the first ten days of the month there were long sunny periods in all areas except along the north-east coasts and most districts had some sunny intervals throughout the rest of the month, especially in the west.

Fog

During the first ten days of the month fog affected the east coasts of Scotland and England and persisted all day in many places. It spread to the Midlands occasionally. Overnight fog formed occasionally in central and western districts during the second part of the month, and patchy fog occurred along the coasts of south west Scotland during the third week. On the 29th fog was widespread over southern England.

Miscellaneous phenomena

The aurora was observed in Scotland on 3 nights

Table 1 District values

District	air temperature °C					mean 30-cm earth temp °C	rain- days	rainfall	sun- shine
	Highest Max.*	Lowest Min.*	max.	min.	mean				
	difference from average						% of average		
0 Scotland N	21.5	-1.5	+1.2	-0.1	+0.6	+1.3	-14	15	123
1 Scotland E	19.4	-1.8	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	+1.5	-7	43	99
2 England E & NE	16.9	-3.9	-2.5	-0.8	-1.7	+0.5	-8	37	67
3 East Anglia	19.5	-2.1	-0.9	-0.3	-0.7	+0.4	-7	28	96
4 Midland Counties	18.6	-1.5	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	+0.3	-10	21	87
5 England SE & Central S	20.5	-1.1	+0.2	-0.2	0.0	+0.4	-9	31	104
6 Scotland W	20.5	-5.6	+1.8	-1.1	+0.3	+1.1	-13	13	140
7 England NW & Wales N	20.1	-3.6	+1.4	-0.7	+0.4	+0.6	-11	16	129
8 England SW & Wales S	18.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	+0.4	-7	25	96
N Ireland	20.1	-3.2	+1.5	-1.3	+0.1	+0.7	-13	43	138
Scotland	21.5	-5.6	+0.8	-0.6	+0.1	+1.3	-11	24	121
England & Wales	20.5	-3.9	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	+0.4	-9	26	97

*Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations.