

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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June 1966—*Wet, frequent thunderstorms. Warm during second week*

Weather was mainly cyclonic in character except during the first three days of the month when an anticyclone from the Atlantic moved south-eastwards across the country into France, and during the last two days when high pressure off our south-west coasts spread slowly north-eastwards.

The warm sunny weather at the end of May continued over most of England and Wales until June 3rd with more than 13 hours of sunshine daily in many western districts. In Scotland it was rather dull with occasional rain.

The 4th also was a fine day over much of southern England with afternoon temperatures reaching 27°C locally, but a depression from the Atlantic brought rain and cooler weather to northern districts; many places in western Scotland had more than an inch of rain and a fall of 2½ inches was recorded in Westmorland. The rain spread southwards during the night and continued in southern and eastern England for much of the next day. The 6th was mainly dry in the south-east, but fronts associated with a shallow depression approaching Northern Ireland from the Atlantic brought rain to most other districts during the afternoon and by the next morning into eastern England.

The weather pattern changed on the 8th as a ridge of high pressure from a developing Scandinavian anticyclone spread over the British Isles bringing very warm air from the Continent over southern England; at Southend afternoon temperatures rose to 25°C. On the 9th a thundery depression developed over the Bay of Biscay and this maintained a warm easterly airstream over the country for two or three days. Temperatures in the south rose to 28°C at many places and there were good sunny periods broken by scattered thunderstorms nearly everywhere except in the north-east where fog and low cloud were rather persistent. The thundery depression moved slowly northwards on the 12th, bringing rain to most parts of the country, and by the 13th most of the thunderstorms were in northern England. Sunny warm weather returned to south-east England on the 14th and 15th but in the north it was dull and rather wet with heavy thunderstorms on the afternoon of the 15th.

During the next two days a deepening depression became slow-moving to the west of Ireland maintaining a warm southerly airstream over most of England and Wales with outbreaks of thundery rain, thunderstorms being particularly widespread on the 17th. There were long sunny periods and scattered showers on the 18th as the main depression filled and moved northwards, but the showery weather gave place to more continuous rain during the evening of the 19th as a small disturbance moved eastwards along the English Channel.

A week of very unsettled weather followed. On the 20-22nd a complex area of low pressure covering the British Isles maintained generally cool weather with outbreaks of thundery rain or showers, but on the 23rd and 24th the main centre lay off eastern Scotland giving periods of continuous and heavy rain with falls exceeding 2 inches in some eastern coastal areas. Troughs from the Atlantic brought further rain to most districts on the 25th and 26th, and a deepening depression moving eastwards across Scotland brought widespread rain and gales on the 27th.

Behind the depression winds veered to north-west on the 28th and it became fine and sunny in all parts of the country, and this continued until the end of the month with 14-15 hours of sunshine daily in many districts.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was everywhere below the 1931-60 average, the deficit at 9h ranging from 0.5 mb at Lerwick to 2.7 mb at Prestwick. Surface winds, light and variable at first, became south-westerly on the 4th, mainly easterly on the 9th and then southerly on the 14th-17th. They were rather variable on the 18-22nd becoming south-westerly on the 23rd and north-westerly during the last three days

of the month. Gales were widespread on the 27th and wind also reached gale force locally on the 26th and 28th. On the 27th gusts reached 65 and 64 kts at Lowther Hill and Great Dun Fell respectively.

Temperature — Over the month as a whole temperature was above the average, especially at night, although ground frost was fairly widespread on the morning of the 1st. Day temperatures were mainly above average until the 18th, and slightly below thereafter except during the last two days of the month.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 28.9°C at Southampton on the 9th, 0.0°C at Medmenham, Silsoe and Monkswood on the 1st and at Santon Downham on the 30th; (Scotland) 25.6°C at Polloch and Fort William on the 11th, 0.0°C at Carnwath on the 29th; (Northern Ireland) 24.4°C at Lisnaskea on the 11th, 2.2°C at Loughermore Forest on the 6th.

Rainfall — Rainfall was slightly below the average in parts of South Devon, Dorset, Wiltshire, Gloucester and Hereford; elsewhere it was above the average. In England and Wales it was more than twice the average in parts of Somerset, Glamorgan, Shropshire, Lancashire, Cumberland, the North Riding of Yorkshire, Nottingham, from Lincolnshire southwards to Buckinghamshire, along the Sussex coast and in Kent. It was more than 350 per cent near Margate. In Scotland part of Perthshire had four times the average; Perth having its wettest June since 1860.

Thunder was heard on 19 days in England and Wales mainly between the 9th and 24th. At Speke thunder was heard on as many as 8 days during the month. Thunderstorms were widespread on the 9th-11th. In Scotland they occurred over a wide area during the 13th-23rd causing damage in many places.

Sunshine — Sunshine was below average over the whole of Scotland, deficits ranging from 40 hours in the extreme south to over 100 hours in an area extending from Bute to south Perthshire and parts of the Central Lowlands. In England and Wales sunshine was above average at a few places along the south coast, otherwise it was mainly below average, percentages ranging from 48 at Greenwich to 114 at Bognor Regis. At Ross-on-Wye it was the fourth successive June with below average sunshine.

Fog — In Scotland fog was observed at 9h at one place or another on 20 mornings. In England and Wales morning fog occurred mainly during the first two weeks and was very persistent in north-east coastal areas during the second week.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — No reports were received of aurora displays.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES, JUNE, 1966

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUNSHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
Difference from Average							% of Average			
0 SCOTLAND, N.	24.4	4.1	+0.4	+1.4	+0.9	-	-	193	+2	63
1 SCOTLAND, E.	22.8	6.1	-0.1	+1.5	+0.7	+0.9	+0.1	230	+5	56
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	25.4	4.0	+0.5	+1.2	+0.8	+0.8	+0.2	154	+2	73
3 ENGLAND, E.	27.2	1.7	+1.0	+1.1	+1.0	+0.6	+0.1	161	+2	91
4 MIDLANDS	26.7	4.4	+0.5	+1.1	+0.8	+0.8	+0.4	147	+5	86
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	28.9	2.5	+0.9	+1.1	+0.9	+0.5	+0.5	143	+3	98
6 SCOTLAND, W.	22.2	1.7	-0.2	+1.1	+0.5	+0.1	-0.2	115	+2	66
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	24.5	5.0	+0.4	+1.4	+0.9	+0.2	0.0	175	+3	81
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	26.7	4.4	+0.2	+0.9	+0.6	+0.2	+0.3	125	+5	84
N. IRELAND	23.1	3.7	+0.4	+1.3	+0.9	-	-	167	+5	69
SCOTLAND	24.4	1.7	0.0	+1.4	+0.7	-	-	175	+3	62
ENG. and WALES	28.9	1.7	+0.6	+1.1	+0.8	-	-	155	+3	85

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