

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

JANUARY 1992

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Changeable; wet and windy at first, becoming dry and more settled later

As a cold front cleared south-east England early on the 1st, another front trailed back across Scotland, before moving south-eastwards during the 2nd and 3rd to clear southern England by midday on the 4th. Later that day the front began to return northwards as a warm front; by late on the 5th it became slow moving across northern England and continued to affect much of Scotland during the next two days. A complex low-pressure area and its associated fronts moved across into western areas on the 7th and spread to most parts of Great Britain on the 8th and 9th, before giving way southwards on the 10th to a general rise of pressure over most of the United Kingdom. High pressure persisted over the next few days, although northernmost parts of Scotland were affected by the proximity of a trailing front to the north. During the 12th the trailing front moved southwards over the North Sea and the Low Countries and northern Germany, to affect the eastern coastal areas of England on the 13th and cross southern England early on the 14th. By the 15th an anticyclone was well established over the United Kingdom. A weak trailing front to the north of Scotland moved slowly southwards down the North Sea to eastern England early on the 17th, rapidly dissipating as it came up against the high pressure. Pressure remained high on the 18th and 19th but, late on the 19th, a cold front moved south-westwards across Great Britain. Behind the front high pressure intensified over the Continent; the blocking anticyclone over the continent dominated the weather over much of the rest of the month. Trailing fronts to the west of the British Isles were generally forced to follow a north to north-eastward track, missing most of Great Britain, although affecting parts of western Scotland. Over England and Wales the high pressure persisted until the 31st, although northern Scotland was temporarily affected by frontal activity on the 28th.

Weather

The month started unsettled, with strong winds, heavy rain and hail, mainly in northern and western areas of Scotland, the rain turning to sleet in many places and to snow over high ground. The weather over Northern Ireland was wet until the 8th and then mostly dry. England and Wales remained generally cloudy, but dry, with some lengthy bright periods; however, rain came to many places in southern England overnight on the 7th/8th. On the 19th and 25th small amounts of rain fell in all areas overnight. On the 26th, the pressure rose, reaching 1049 mb in North Wales, to give the highest January pressure for 30 years over England and Wales. On the 28th northern Scotland had very small amounts of rain.

Wind

Gales, locally severe, came to northern and western areas between the 1st and 3rd. A number of stations measured gusts in excess of 70 kn on the 1st, including Kirkwall, Orkney with a gust of 93 kn, and Lynemouth, Northumberland with two of 78 kn. Strong winds in western areas on the 9th gave gusts of 66 kn at Camborne, Cornwall and 60 kn at Cudrose, Cornwall. Wind directions were mainly south-westerly or southerly or variable.

Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were generally above normal in northern Scotland and about normal over much of England and Wales, but below normal over south-west England, ranging from 2.3 °C above normal at Baltasound, Shetland and Kinlochewe, Highland Region to 1.2 °C below normal at Chivenor, Devon.

After a very mild start to the month in most areas, it gradually became cooler from the 9th with temperatures generally about normal. Night frosts were frequent in many areas from about the 11th onwards; the period from the 21st to 24th was particularly cold, with persistent frost in parts of the Midlands and northern England. The highest temperature was 15.1 °C at Dyce, Grampian Region on the 2nd and the lowest was -12.3 °C at Barbourne, Hereford & Worcester on the 23rd.

Rainfall

Monthly rainfall totals were below normal everywhere, except central Scotland and an area of the Midlands from Hereford & Worcester to Cambridgeshire, where rainfall was above normal, and ranged from more than 222% at Fort Augustus, Highland Region to 16% at Bexhill, East Sussex.

Outbreaks of very heavy rain in places on the 1st resulted in extensive flooding and disruption to traffic, especially in western Scotland. Rain was heavy on the 8th in the Midlands and South Wales, where a number of stations measured between 40 mm and 60 mm. Among heavy falls during the month were 136 mm at South Laggan, Highland Region on the 1st, 120 mm at Tyndrum, Central Region on the 2nd, 67 mm at Holme Moss, West Yorkshire and Crossway, Gwent on the 6th and 65 mm at Llanishen, Gwent and Ledbury, Hereford and Worcester on the 8th.

Snow

Sleet was reported at Kirkwall and in the Glasgow area on the 5th. On the 8th rain turned to snow on high ground in western areas as far south as Cornwall, although it fell as sleet in central and

eastern areas of England and Scotland. On the 9th, 8 cm of lying snow was measured at Cwmbargoed, Mid Glamorgan (372 m) while further falls of sleet occurred over Lincolnshire and East Anglia. Snow fell at Eskdalemuir, Dumfries & Galloway on the 9th and 11th. Snow and sleet was reported over places in the Midlands on the 23rd and over high ground in eastern England on the 24th, although not amounting to much more than a few flakes on either day. On the 25th some sleet was reported in northern Scotland.

Sunshine

Monthly sunshine amounts were above average over much of eastern Scotland and north-east England, the east Midlands, East Anglia and south-east England, western Wales and southern coastal counties of England and below average elsewhere, ranging from 228% at Cwmystwyth, Dyfed to 43% at Stornoway, Western Isles.

On the 11th, many places in Wales and much of England had about 6 hours of sunshine and on the 22nd most places south of a line from The Wash to the Bristol Channel had about 7 hours. The highest monthly sunshine total was 95 hours at Gawlish, Devon and the most in a day was 8.3 hours at Moel-y-Crio, Clwyd on the 31st.

Fog

Fog, sometimes persistent, caused disruption to road and air traffic during the days following the 10th, notably in central Scotland on the 12th. In some northern areas fog formed overnight by the 15th. Later on the 16th fog became widespread over most central parts of England. During the last week or so, fog formed frequently overnight and was dense in places and sometimes persistent. On the 28th dozens of vehicles on the M8 motorway in Scotland were involved in multiple collisions in fog during the morning rush-hour. Over England and Wales fog remained widespread until the 31st.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

Table 1 District values

District	Air temperature					Mean 30 cm soil temp °C	Rain- days	Rainfall	Sun- shine
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	Max.	Min.	Mean				
	Difference from average					% of average			
0 Scotland N	13.4	-5.5	+1.9	+1.5	+1.7	+1.6	-5	116	80
1 Scotland E	14.6	-9.6	+1.6	+0.3	+0.9	+1.0	-8	76	135
2 England E & NE	12.8	-11.6	+1.0	+0.3	+0.6	+1.0	-9	57	117
3 East Anglia	12.7	-7.6	+0.5	+0.9	+0.7	+1.2	-8	78	107
4 Midland Counties	13.3	-9.3	0.0	+0.1	0.0	+1.2	-9	86	78
5 England SE & Central S	13.6	-7.7	+0.2	+0.4	+0.3	+1.1	-9	28	102
6 Scotland W	13.6	-11.2	+1.2	+0.8	+1.0	+1.3	-5	94	99
7 England NW & Wales N	13.5	-6.8	+0.4	+0.1	+0.3	+1.3	-10	53	107
8 England SW & Wales S	12.6	-7.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.5	+0.5	-12	45	131
N Ireland	14.0	-5.1	+0.8	+1.5	+1.2	+1.8	-9	76	63
Scotland	14.6	-11.2	+1.6	+0.9	+1.2	+1.3	-6	99	105
England & Wales	13.6	-11.6	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+1.1	-9	57	107

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations