

# Monthly Weather Report

## OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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### July 1961 — *Cloudy and rather cool, dry in the south*

Apart from an unsettled spell on the 11th — 16th, weather during the month was mainly anticyclonic with high pressure either to the west or south-west of the British Isles.

Throughout the first week an anticyclone was centred to the south-west of the country while to the north disturbances moved south-eastwards towards Scandinavia. The very warm weather at the end of June persisted into July over much of England and Wales; on the 1st afternoon temperatures exceeded  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$  over much of the country and reached  $32^{\circ}\text{C}$  in parts of East Anglia and south-east England. Thunderstorms occurred locally. The 2nd was considerably cooler especially in south-east England where there was widespread thundery rain associated with a small depression over northern France. The next day many northern districts had rain and gales as a vigorous depression moved south-east across Scotland to the North Sea, and winds also reached gale force in places on the 4th in the strong north-westerly air-stream which spread over the whole country behind the depression. There were a few scattered showers on the 4th but the next two days were generally fine with long sunny periods in the ridge of high pressure which had spread from the Atlantic to cover much of the country; over 15hr of sunshine was recorded in South Wales and the Channel Isles on the 6th.

The anticyclone to the south-west of the British Isles moved slowly westwards on the 7th-10th and moderate westerly winds brought cloudy and rather unsettled weather to most parts of the country although rainfall amounts in the south were small.

During the period 11th-16th weather over the country was dominated by a vigorous depression which became a complex system as it moved from south-west England to the North Sea. On the 11th a depression in the South-West Approaches deepened and winds over Cornwall freshened from the south as it approached the mouth of the English Channel. Rain was heavy and prolonged over most of the country on the 12th as the depression moved eastward and filled while another vigorous depression formed over south-east Scotland. Many places recorded more than 1in. of rain in 24 hr and there were floods in north-western and Midland districts; 3.31 in. of rain fell at Bolton in 24hr, the greatest daily rainfall there since records began in 1887. On the 14th and 15th a complex depression persisted over the British Isles and there were thundery outbreaks of rain, heavy at times, in most districts. Thunderstorms were widespread and locally heavy on the 15th, and rain or showers occurred in most districts on the 16th and 17th before the depression finally cleared the country; a fall of 1.14 in. in 12 hr was recorded at Stornoway on the 16th.

Thereafter the weather slowly improved as an anticyclone formed to the west of Ireland. The 18th was the beginning of a dry anticyclonic spell which lasted nearly a week, though with northerly winds, temperatures were somewhat below average. There was a short break in the anticyclonic weather on the 24th-27th. Rain was heavy locally in northern districts on the 25th and 26th as a vigorous eastward moving depression skirted the north coast of Scotland, but most southern districts remained dry. On the 27th, however, a small disturbance moved south-east across Ireland and south-west

England and there was rain in all areas. During the last four days of the month, with a ridge of high pressure extending eastward across the country, weather was mostly fine and sunny.

**Pressure and Wind** — Mean pressure was above average everywhere except in the extreme north, the mean deviation at 9 hr ranging from  $-0.7$  mb at Lerwick to  $+2.2$  mb at Holyhead and Scilly. Surface winds were mainly light and variable until the 3rd, northerly on the 4th and 5th, subsequently becoming westerly until the 10th, variable on the 11th-14th and thereafter, apart from a period of south-westerlies on the 24th-27th, northwesterly winds predominated until the end of the month. Winds reached gale force on 7 days in Scotland and on the 3rd, 4th, 13th-15th and 26th in England and Wales. Gusts of 59 kt and 60 kt were recorded at Tiree and Benbecula respectively on the 3rd; on the 13th a gust of 62 kt was recorded at Jersey which, apart from the gale of July 29th 1959, was the highest gust ever recorded during July in the United Kingdom.

**Temperature** — Mean temperature was  $0.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  below the 1921-50 average in England and Wales and in Scotland and  $1.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  below average in Northern Ireland. The 1st was unusually warm, especially in south-east England where temperature reached  $33.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  at a number of places around the London area. The coldest periods were 3rd-6th, 11th-14th and 26th-28th in England and grass minimum temperatures were  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  or below at one place or another on 13 mornings. In Scotland temperature on the grass fell to  $-3.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Dalwhinnie on the 14th.

Extremes included: (England and Wales)  $33.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  at several places on the 1st,  $-1.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Santon Downham on the 6th; (Scotland)  $24.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Dundee and Montrose on the 11th,  $-0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Tarfside on the 6th and 14th; (Northern Ireland)  $21.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Hillsborough on the 1st and at Armagh on the 17th,  $3.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Ballykelly on the 2nd, Garvagh on the 6th and Loughgall on the 6th and 19th.

**Precipitation** — The general rainfall expressed as a percentage of the 1916-50 average was 86 over England and Wales, 108 over Scotland and 68 over Northern Ireland. In England rainfall was less than half the average in the Scilly Isles and south-east Devon and more than twice the average locally in the north-east. Most of the rainfall of the month was associated with the depressions of the 11th-16th.

Thunder was heard in Scotland on 4 days and in England and Wales on the 1st-2nd, 7th-8th, 10th-15th, 18th-19th and 26th-28th (15 days); it was widespread on the 2nd and 15th.

**Sunshine** — The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921-50 average was 92 in England and Wales, 74 in Scotland and 75 in Northern Ireland. At Tiree it was the dullest July since records began there in 1927.

**Fog** — Early morning fog occurred at one place or another on 14 days in Scotland and on 16 days in England and Wales, it was widespread in north-east England on the 12th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena** — The aurora was seen at Benbecula on the night of the 30th/31st.