

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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August 1965 — Changeable and rather cool

Weather during the month was predominantly cyclonic in character except from the 7th-17th, and on the 25th and 27th.

The cool showery weather at the end of July continued on the 1st, but rain became more continuous in western districts during the evening, as a depression approached western Ireland, and was widespread and locally heavy the next day as the disturbance moved eastwards across the British Isles. Many places in the south had more than an inch of rain.

The 3rd was a generally sunny day with normal temperature but on the 4th-6th a complex depression moved slowly north-eastwards from the west of Ireland to northern Scotland bringing periods of heavy rain to western Scotland where some places recorded as much as two inches. In south-east England weather remained mainly fair or fine.

Pressure rose rapidly on the 7th and, as a ridge of high pressure moved slowly eastwards across the country during the next two days, weather became sunny and dry nearly everywhere apart from a few light showers and also some scattered thunderstorms in eastern England on the 9th. By the 10th an anticyclone was centred over the southern North Sea and this anticyclone later became established over Scandinavia. An associated warm southerly airstream spread over the British Isles and afternoon temperatures rose above 24°C, in many places they reached 28°C locally on the 13th. The fine weather continued until the 17th, many places in southern England by then having been without measurable rain for two weeks.

Fronts associated with a disturbance approaching Iceland brought occasional slight rain to many northern and western districts of the British Isles on the 18th, and rain became persistent and locally heavy in the south-east on the night of the 19th/20th as a wave on the trailing cold front slowly cleared the country. Further rain from the Atlantic reached western districts the next evening and became widespread and locally heavy that night and the following morning as a complex depression moved eastwards across Scotland. Parts of north-west England and western Scotland had more than one inch of rain, and there were gales in exposed western coastal areas. Thunderstorms were widespread on the 22nd in the cold northerly airstream in the wake of the depression — in Lincolnshire, during a storm, soft hail accumulated to a depth of 4 inches — and after a generally sunny day on the 23rd wind again reached gale force in many districts on the 24th as a belt of heavy rain from the Atlantic swept across the country.

During the last week of the month there were long sunny periods on most days and any rain was mainly light, except on the 26th, when a shallow depression moved eastwards across southern England, and on the 29th and 31st in isolated thunderstorms in southern and eastern England.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was below the 1921-50 average everywhere, the deficit ranging from -2.0 mb at Wick and Lerwick to

-0.2 mb at South Farnborough and Scilly. Surface winds were mainly between west and south-west until the 7th, then light and variable until the 17th apart from a period of light southerly winds on the 10th-13th. Westerly winds predominated during the remainder of the month except for northerlies on the 22nd and 31st. Winds reached gale force in Scotland on 12 days, and in England and Wales on the 5th, 12th, 20th-22nd, 24th, 25th and 31st (8 days). A gust of 65 kt was recorded at Blackford Hill, Edinburgh, on the 5th.

Temperature — Day temperatures were mainly below the average, the coldest days being at the beginning and end of the month, but were above the average for about a week from the 10th. The warmest days were on the 12th and 13th when temperatures exceeded 26°C in many southern districts and 24°C in parts of the north.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 27.8°C at Valley on the 13th, 0.0°C at Alwen on the 9th and at Kielder Castle and Moor House on the 27th; (Scotland) 25.0°C at Poolewe on the 12th and 13th, -1.1°C at several places on the 2nd, 10th and 27th; (Northern Ireland) 23.9°C at Roscor on the 12th, 0.6°C at Lisnaffillan on the 8th and at Garvagh on the 9th.

Precipitation — In Scotland rainfall was below the average in most eastern districts being less than half the average on the Deeside and Glenesk (Angus) areas. In the west the largest excesses were in the Kinlochleven and Lochaber areas where amounts exceeded the average by 50 per cent. In England and Wales rainfall was mainly below the average in western and central districts, except in parts of Lancashire and Anglesey; it was more than 50 per cent below average locally in Herefordshire and Monmouth. In parts of Northamptonshire and locally on the Sussex coast rainfall was more than 150 per cent of the average.

Thunder was heard on 5 days in Scotland and on the 1st, 2nd, 9th, 10th, 13th, 21st-25th, 28th, 29th and 31st in England and Wales. Thunderstorms were widespread on the 22nd.

Sunshine — In Scotland sunshine was above the average in all eastern districts from the Moray Firth southwards, and in most of the south-west where excesses of more than 20 hours were recorded. In north-east England percentages ranged from 81 to 121 and most places in England, Wales and Northern Ireland were also within this range, sunshine being mainly above average in north-west England and below average in Northern Ireland.

Fog — In Scotland fog at 9h was reported at one place or another on 16 days (on 18 days at stations above 2,300 ft.) and in England and Wales on 15 days but on 18 days at Great Dun Fell, 2,780 ft.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was seen in Scotland on 7 nights.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES— AUGUST, 1965

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									
0 SCOTLAND, N.	23.3	2.4	-0.8	-1.0	-0.9	-	-	0	112	102
1 SCOTLAND, E.	23.9	3.3	-1.0	-1.2	-1.1	-	-	0	76	114
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	24.0	3.9	-1.4	-1.4	-1.3	-1.3	-1.1	+2	96	96
3 ENGLAND, E.	26.1	5.0	-1.1	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-0.6	+1	110	101
4 MIDLANDS	25.6	4.4	-1.0	-1.1	-1.0	-0.7	-0.4	0	78	104
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	25.8	4.7	-1.0	-0.7	-0.8	-1.1	-0.9	0	100	95

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

1965 (1908, revised 1928, 1941, 1956 and 1964)

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									
6 SCOTLAND, W.	24.8	-0.1	-1.2	-1.1	-1.1	-0.8	-0.9	0	108	104
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	25.6	3.3	-1.1	-0.6	-0.9	-1.0	-0.8	-1	83	111
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	25.6	3.3	-1.1	-0.6	-0.9	-0.2	+0.1	+2	81	100
N. IRELAND	23.3	0.9	-1.2	-0.7	-1.0	-	-	+2	100	90
SCOTLAND	24.8	-0.1	-1.0	-1.1	-1.0	-	-	0	95	107
ENG. and WALES	26.1	3.3	-1.1	-0.9	-1.0	-	-	+1	89	101