

August 2007

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1961-1990.

UK overview

Mean temperatures generally close to average with most areas having their coldest August for over 10 years, with England having its coldest August since 1993. Rainfall ranging from over 150% of average across parts of NW Scotland to around 50% of average across some central and northern areas of England. Sunshine generally below average across Northern Ireland and Scotland with some areas having less than 80% of their average. Sunshine levels mostly close to or above average across England and Wales, with some areas having over 120% of their average.

England diary of highlights

Largely settled at first and for the last week, but more unsettled around mid-month. Temperatures close to average, but still the coldest August since 1993.

1st to 5th: It was a dry, bright start to the month, but rain pushed southwards across England on the 2nd with some heavy downpours in the west. A ridge brought fine, warm weather for most on the 3rd and in the south and east on the 4th, with temperatures up to 27 °C in London. However, the 4th was wet across the north-west. It was hot, dry and sunny on the 5th with the temperature reaching 30.1 °C at Terrington St Clement (Norfolk).

6th to 13th: The fine weather gave way to thundery showers on the 6th and 7th with some torrential downpours, up to 75 mm in places, and even some funnel clouds. Then it became largely dry and warm with sunny spells and temperatures into the mid 20s Celsius, until it turned more showery again over the weekend of the 11th and 12th and for the 13th too.

14th to 17th: Wet and windy conditions spread up from the south-west across all parts on the 14th with 40 mm of rain in parts of southern England. Showers followed north-eastwards on the 15th, with plenty of heavy, thundery downpours, but locally warm conditions. Alvechurch (Worcestershire) recorded 41 mm in 7 hours. Then a cooler north-westerly flow brought showers on the 16th and a few showers on the 17th, most frequent in the north and west.

18th to 23rd: The 18th saw moderate rain push eastwards across all parts, as another Atlantic depression moved across the UK, with showers following on the 19th. Further widespread rain fell on the 20th in cool conditions, with thundery showers following overnight and parts of Kent reported over 60 mm of rain. Cool conditions and cloud and rain then persisted over the south-east from the 21st to the 23rd, with largely fine, sunny and warm weather elsewhere, reaching 25 °C in places.

24th to 31st: A settled period with high pressure in control. Overnight low cloud and fog patches developed in places, but by day it was mostly fine and warm with sunny spells. Temperatures were in the mid 20s Celsius at the start of this spell, but more generally in the low 20s thereafter.

Wales diary of highlights

Unsettled for the first three weeks, but becoming more settled from the 21st. Temperatures and sunshine close to average, but rainfall below average.

1st to 13th: The very unsettled weather of July continued for the first three weeks of August with widespread showers and some longer spells of rain. On the 2nd a relatively weak cold front reactivated over the south with 18 mm falling at Mumbles in just over an hour. Two days later a front became slow moving over the North with Capel Curig recording 55 mm. The following day was generally fine and very warm but another 33 mm fell at Capel Curig in just 6 hours on the 6th. A brief respite on the 8th and 9th as a temporary ridge moved east giving a drier interlude, though with chilly nights before showers returned. Sennybridge recording a minimum temperature of 2.4 °C on the morning of the 8th.

14th to 20th: Rather cool and quite wet with heavy rain moving north on the 14th returning southwards on the following day. A showery interlude followed before further bands of rain spread across the country from the 18th-20th

21st to 31st: A marked change took place on the 21st as a ridge of high pressure extending north-east from the Azores High across Scotland toppled slowly south across the UK with a large area of high pressure becoming established to the west of Ireland. This gave a generally dry end to the month though it was often cloudy especially over the north and west. This cloud producing some light rain over the western and northern hills where it became quite misty at times. Patchy fog and low cloud also developed in places at night.

Scotland diary of highlights

Temperatures close to average, with below average sunshine and above average rainfall.

On the 1st a band of rain moved steadily south-east followed from the north-west by sunshine and scattered showers. More sunshine and scattered showers on the 2nd with a funnel cloud being observed near Aberdeen. On the 3rd the west Highlands were very wet but further south and east there were some drier and brighter spells with temperatures on the east coast locally reaching 20 °C. Bright or sunny spells on the 4th, but thickening cloud brought rain into the south-west during the evening. The temperature ranged from 17 °C in Shetland, Islay and Tiree to 22 °C in Dyce and Charterhall. The 5th was mostly cloudy. Rain in south and west extended to most places during the day. Heaviest rain over Dumfries and Galloway, West Freugh had 23 mm in period 0600-1800.

The 6th was again mostly cloudy with further rain. Heavy thundery rain affected Aberdeenshire late in night, 24 mm in 2 hours at Dyce up to 0600, triggering mudslides in the village of Pennan. On the 7th the heavy rain lingered over the North-west Highlands with Kinlochewe recording 70 mm in the 24 hours to 2200. Elsewhere, it was brighter with scattered showers, with Loch Glascarnoch reaching just 10 °C. The 8th was a mainly sunny day. Tulloch Bridge fell to 3 °C around dawn while Eskdalemuir, unusually, tied for warmest at 21 °C. Similar on the 9th, with Kinbrace (Sutherland) dipping to 1 °C overnight and Prestwick reaching 22 °C in the afternoon. The far west becoming cloudier with some showers. A band of showers moved north-east across Scotland on the 10th, this clearing away during the evening as outbreaks of rain spread into the south-west of the country. A bright start to the 11th in the north, but rain spread from the south through the day. This turned heavy over western Scotland during the evening, with 9.6 mm recorded in 1 hour at Dundrennan. Rain or showers during the 12th, with flooding reported at Elgin in Moray.

The 13th saw persistent rain across north-west Scotland, 27 mm at Kinlochewe, but with scattered showers elsewhere. Patchy overnight rain largely cleared on the morning of the 14th to leave a rather cloudy day, although some sunshine developed across the north-west and the Isles. More persistent and locally heavy rain affected southern and eastern parts through the afternoon and evening. The rain cleared east overnight into the 15th to leave sunny spells but showers affecting the north-west through the morning spread south-east through the day. A cool, showery day on the 16th, with fresh to strong north-westerly winds.

Scattered showers died out by mid-afternoon on the 17th, with outbreaks of rain then spreading from the south-west during the late afternoon and evening. The rain turned more persistent and heavier in the south-west on the morning of the 18th and then spread north to affect most of Scotland. This rain cleared in the

west during the late afternoon and evening with nearly 33 mm being recorded at Glasgow Bishopton. This rain finally cleared the North Sea coast during the afternoon of the 19th with nearly 24 mm being recorded at Edinburgh Gogarbank with bright spells following across the north and west.

A chilly start away from the coast on the 20th with a frost being recorded at Tulloch Bridge and some early mist across the Central Belt. Heavy rain across Shetland with over 39 mm being recorded at Lerwick weakened as it pushed southwards into the mainland. On the 21st north-easterly breezes brought hill and coastal fog to windward coasts and hills. Good sunny spells developed across the west and south-west with Dunstaffnage, Glasgow Bishopton and Tyndrum recording 21 °C.

A fine sunny day for many on the 22nd, temperatures reaching 25.5 °C at Glasgow Bishopton and 25.8 °C at Tyndrum. Low cloud affected some coasts and islands. Mist, fog and patchy rain affected the north-west and the Isles on the 23rd with some good sunny spells across the rest of the country, temperatures reached 25.1 °C at Strathallan. A cloudy day across the west on the 24th with patchy rain at times for the north-west Highlands and the Isles, while eastern parts were warm, Aberdeen reached 25.8 °C with long sunny spells. It became windy around the north-west and the Isles with south-westerly gales in Shetland. The 25th was mostly cloudy in the west with some drizzly rain but with a few bright or sunny intervals in the east. The 26th and 27th were mainly dry with some sunshine at times and just the odd light shower, mainly in the north-west. Rain pushed south on the 28th but turned showery with some sunshine ahead and behind. The air to the north of the rain was cool and Lerwick reached just 11 °C, compared to 21 °C at Strathallan. The 29th saw sunny spells over central and southern parts, thickening cloud and outbreaks of rain pushing in from the north-west. The 30th and 31st were rather cloudy at first with the odd patch of light rain. Many places became dry with sunny spells, especially in East, Strathallan reached 22 °C.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

A dull month, with a wet start but a dry finish.

A band of rain covered most areas in the morning of the 1st before gradually clearing from the north-west to sunshine and scattered showers. The 2nd was mainly sunny with a scattering of light showers. Portglenone reached 21 °C. On the 3rd a fresh south-westerly breeze was in evidence and some patchy light rain too, mainly in the north-west. However, temperatures reached 21 °C in many places. Bright with sunny spells on the 4th, but thickening cloud brought rain during the evening. The 5th was dull and wet during morning but drier, brighter weather edged across from west later in the day. 15 mm of rain fell widely. Showers developed in most places on the 6th and some were heavy with isolated thunderstorms. Temperature only reached 13 °C at Ballypatrick Forest due to fresh north-westerly winds. Showers became isolated on the 7th with many places staying dry and sunny. Temperatures recovered to normal with Killowen reaching 19 °C.

The 8th was mainly dry and bright but with more cloud and the odd light shower. The 9th started sunny then clouded over from the west with a few showers. Early showers on the 10th moved away north-east, before rain spread in from the south-west during the afternoon. The 11th was a cloudy day with rain. This turned heavy in the afternoon with 14.8 mm recorded in 1 hour at Glenanne (42.6 mm in the day). The rain then tended to peter out towards midnight. The rain cleared east by the morning of the 12th to leave sunny spells and showers. These showers became more frequent and heavier during the afternoon and evening. The 13th was another showery day with some on the heavy side, but dying out during the afternoon. Rather cloudy on the 14th with patchy light rain through the morning, the rain becoming more persistent and locally heavy during the afternoon before clearing south-east during the evening.

The 15th saw sunny spells and scattered mainly light showers. The 16th was a rather cloudy day with further showers, most frequent in the north. Cool with moderate or fresh north-westerly winds. Scattered showers at first on the 17th, before bands of rain spread in from the south-west during the afternoon. Rain turned more persistent on the morning of the 18th, with some locally heavier bursts, before clearing away east by mid-evening to leave isolated light showers.

Dry and bright for much of the 19th, but showery rain developed across the west later in the day. Thundery rain pushed south-eastwards through the morning of the 20th with 22 mm of rain falling at St Angelo and Lough Fea and 23 mm being recorded at Glenanne. Bright or sunny skies did, however, follow from the north-west. A cloudy start to the 21st with a few spots of rain, but it did brighten up with good sunny spells and the temperature reached 21 °C in Ballykelly and Portglenone.

The 22nd was another bright or sunny day for most parts, but low cloud plagued the North Coast, Ballypatrick Forest reaching only 14 °C. A rather cloudy day on the 23rd with the best of any brighter spells in the south-east and low cloud continued to affect the north coast at times. A cloudy morning on the 24th but it remained dry with long spells of sunshine developing in the afternoon with Helens Bay and Portglenone recording the highest temperature of the month with 23.3 °C.

The 25th was cloudier though sunshine in the south-east allowed temperatures to reach 22 °C at Killowen. Patchy rain spread in later. Mainly dry and bright on the 26th and 27th, although there was the odd light shower. A fairly cloudy start on the 28th with some light showers but sunny intervals broke though in most places. Sunny spells on the morning of the 29th, but it became cloudy from the north-west, patchy light rain during the evening. A cloudy end to the month with occasional light rain and drizzle on the 30th and 31st.

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