

Monthly Weather Report

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SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS

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November 1953—Unusually mild; mainly dull; rainfall below average in the south and east, above average in the west.

A changeable westerly type of weather prevailed generally until the 9th and changeable weather predominated throughout the month in the north. From the 10th onwards the weather in the south was mostly anticyclonic, with the highest pressure mainly on the Continent. The outstanding feature of the month was its mildness and the normal seasonal fall of temperature was suspended.

A changeable westerly type of weather prevailed until the 9th, with depressions passing near our north-west coasts giving frequent rain or showers, with local thunderstorms at times; there were, however, long sunny periods on some days. A rather widespread gale occurred on the 1st-2nd and wind reached gale force locally in the north on most days. Between the 2nd and 10th wedges of high pressure following troughs of low pressure were accompanied by occasional ground frost and slight local air frost. A dry spell began in the south on the 10th with a belt of high pressure to southward of the British Isles. In the north and west it was still changeable with heavy rain at times notably on the 11th, 13th and 14th. By the 17th the ridge had spread north over England and most of the south and Midlands had persistent fog on that day and to a less extent on the 18th and again on the 20th. By the 20th almost the whole country was under the influence of the ridge and rain was confined to the extreme north of Scotland on that day and practically no rain fell anywhere in the country on the 21st. Subsequently a trough of low pressure spreading slowly east brought rain to Ireland on the night of the 22nd and to all districts during the following days; the rain reached south-east England by the 24th ending the dry spell there. An unsettled south-westerly type of weather persisted until the 28th; frontal troughs associated with a deep depression near Iceland gave widespread heavy rain in western districts on the 26th-27th. On the 28th a ridge of high pressure built up over southern districts of the British Isles, while depressions moving east across Iceland brought further rain and strong winds to northern districts.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure exceeded the average for the period 1901-30 except in the north of Scotland, the deviation from the average at 9h. ranging from -1.5 mb. at Lerwick to +7.8 mb. at Lympne. The pressure gradient was thus considerably increased and gales occurred rather frequently at exposed stations, particularly in the north and north-west; for example, on 17 days at Lerwick, 11 at Duntulm, 9 at Tiree and 8 at Stornoway. Widespread gales occurred on the 1st-2nd and 7th. The prevailing wind was between south and south-west; at Southport south-westerly winds were more frequent than in any other November since anemograph records began in 1898. Among the highest speeds registered, in knots, were 74 at the Lizard, 65 at Scilly and 61 at Milford Haven and Holyhead on the 1st, 60 at Bidston Observatory on the 2nd, 62 at Millport on the 7th and 68 at Lerwick, 63 at Bell Rock and 60 at Stornoway on the 30th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average for the period 1921-50 by 3.3°F. both in England and Wales and Scotland and 2.5°F. in Northern Ireland. Mean temperature was notably high; in England and Wales the mean was appreciably lower than in 1938 and almost the same as in 1939, otherwise it was higher than in any other November since before 1901; in Scotland apart from November 1920, when the mean value equalled that for 1953, it was higher than for any November since before 1901. In most areas mean temperature was somewhat below the average during the first week but the remainder of the month was mainly very mild. During the long mild spell there were numerous high maximum temperatures but few outstanding values, though 60°F. was slightly exceeded locally at times in Great Britain. Minimum temperatures were also high on the whole; at Oxford the extreme minimum, 35°F., was the highest for November in a record going back to 1881.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 61°F. at Hawarden Bridge and Wrexham on the 15th, Aber on the 23rd and Bromley on the 29th, 24°F. at Droitwich on the 6th; (Scotland) 62°F. at North Berwick on the 15th, 25°F. at Huntly on the 22nd; (Northern Ireland) 58°F. at Armagh, Castle Archdale and Garvagh on the 15th, 31°F. at Aldergrove and Nutt's Corner on the 28th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 81 over England and Wales, 138 over Scotland and 96 over Northern Ireland. Broadly it exceeded the average over most of Wales, north-west England, the western half of Scotland, the Shetland Islands and part of Northern Ireland; it was more than 175 per cent. of average over most of west Scotland and parts of Cumberland and Westmorland and more than twice the average locally in western Inverness-shire and Argyllshire. At Fort William there has only been one wetter November, namely 1938, for 79 years. Rainfall was less than average at most places elsewhere and less than 50 per cent. of average over much of Durham, in a narrow belt extending from Gorleston and Felixstowe across the London area to east Surrey and west Kent and locally in west Dorset and extreme south-west Cornwall.

Among the heaviest falls in 24 hours were:—

6th	3.75 in. at Inversanda House, Loch Linnhe, 3.48 in. at Ardgour, Argyllshire.
8th	2.44 in. at Llyn Fawr Reservoir, Glamorgan.
11th	3.25 in. at Watendlath Farm, Cumberland.
13th	3.61 in. at Llechwedd Quarries and 3.50 in. at Oakley Slate Quarries, both in Merionethshire.
14th	2.20 in. at Oakley Slate Quarries and 2.19 in. at Dunoon.
26th	4.86 in. at Patterdale, Westmorland, 4.60 in. at Ulpha, Cumberland, 4.26 in. at The Nook, Thirlmere, Cumberland.

Thunderstorms occurred rather widely in southern England on the 1st and more generally on the 2nd and were recorded locally in Scotland (chiefly in the west and north) also on the 4th, 7th-9th, 24th, 29th and 30th.

Snow.—There was little snow during this very mild November, but sleet or snow showers occurred at times at a few places, mainly during the first week and on the 30th. Snow lay on the mountains in central and west Scotland on some mornings; at Ben Nevis snow lay at 9h. on each day of the month.

Sunshine.—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1921-50 was 84 over England and Wales, 79 over Scotland and 85 over Northern Ireland. On the whole the month was dull but there was a considerable excess in some parts, notably on the north-east coast of Scotland from about Fortrose to Craibstone, locally on the west and north coasts of Wales and in Cheshire. Inverness had its sunniest November since 1926 while at Helensburgh and Glasgow it was the dullest November since 1911 and 1915 respectively. At some places on the south coast of England compared with the average it was very dull but in the London area it was a little sunnier than usual.

Fog.—Fog occurred less frequently than usual in Scotland, but it was rather frequent in England and Wales; it was recorded at 9h. on 10 days at Manchester and 9 at Eastwick Lodge, Maldon, Wealdstone, Hurley and Rochdale. Fog was rather persistent in parts of England on the 17th, 18th, 24th and 29th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 14 nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 7 days.