

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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Much sunnier than average except in some northern areas

On the first 4 days and again from the 9th to 15th a ridge of high pressure covered the southern half of the British Isles but troughs of low pressure affected northern districts. At other times during the month relatively low pressure predominated in all areas although there were brief anticyclonic interludes.

Weather

It was a sunny month except in parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland. The weather began very warm but later there were cold spells, notably at the start of the second week and at the end of the third week with snow in many areas. On the 22nd, after blizzards in the Cairngorms, 6 members of a school party were found dead in the snow.

Wind

The 7th and 8th were windy everywhere with gales in many places and on the 13th a generally windy spell of 10 days commenced. On the 16th gales occurred widely in the northern half of the British Isles with strong gusts in many areas including 68 kt at Lerwick (Shetland). For a time on the 21st northerly winds over exposed coasts in north-east England reached storm force, that is a mean speed of 48 to 55 kt, and a gust of 69 kt was recorded at Middlesbrough (North Riding of Yorkshire).

Temperature

Over the month as a whole mean temperature was below average in nearly all areas although the deficit was, in general, less than 1 degC. The first 5 days were very warm in many places and on the 1st the air temperature reached 17.5°C at Falmouth (Cornwall) — this is the highest there in November since 1869 when available records began. On the same day 19.7°C was recorded at Hawarden Bridge (Flintshire), the highest November temperature there for 25 years. However, on the 6th it became cold everywhere and air frost occurred widely in England and Wales on the following night. During the remainder of the month temperatures were generally below average, except for a few days towards the end of the second week and around the 26th. From the 18th to 22nd night frost was sometimes widespread and on the 19th the temperature in some areas in Scotland remained below 0°C. During the following night at Carnwath (Lanarkshire) the temperature fell to -11.7°C.

Rainfall

Large regions of England and Scotland, together with smaller areas elsewhere, had below average rainfall (including melted snow); only about half the average occurred locally

in Perthshire, Sussex and the West Riding of Yorkshire. On the other hand, rainfall reached about 175 per cent of average in a few areas in East Anglia, Ross and Cromarty, and Co. Fermanagh. During the first week rainfall was heavy at times in Scotland and in the 24 hours beginning at 09 GMT on the 3rd several 'daily' rainfalls recorded in the north-west exceeded 100 mm including 133.8 mm at Kinlochhourn (Inverness-shire). A rapidly deepening depression crossed the British Isles on the 5th and heavy rain fell in many areas; flooding occurred in parts of Fife while farther south the rain was accompanied by thunder in south-west England. Thunderstorms affected this district again overnight on the 8th/9th and hailstones 2.5 cm in diameter fell at St Mawgan (Cornwall). On the 20th periods of heavy rain occurred in many areas, notably in Northern Ireland, Wales and western England, and overnight on the 29th/30th persistent, often heavy rain fell in south-west England.

Snow

Snow or sleet (rain or drizzle and snow) was reported on more days than average. Wintry showers occurred in Scotland and northern England from the 6th to 10th and snow or sleet fell on the highest ground farther south on the 8th and 9th. The main snowy period in the north was from the 16th to 24th and in the south from the 18th to 24th. Amounts of snow were generally small, but around the 22nd on high ground in the north snow depths varied from 10 cm in northern England to 25–30 cm in Scotland with drifting in places.

Sunshine

It was very dull in most of north Scotland and in parts of east Scotland; Strathclyde (Sutherland) had its dullest November since records began in 1939. In almost all other districts sunshine amounts were substantially above average. By the 11th parts of south-east England had recorded more sunshine than average and further sunny days later in the month led to new high record November totals at many stations in the southern half of England. These included 103.3 hours at Kew (Greater London) and 128.7 hours at Torquay (Devon) where continuous records go back to 1880 and 1891 respectively. It was the sunniest November in Cambridge since at least 1884 when monthly totals for the city were first published.

Fog

Morning fog was confined mainly to the first 3 days and last 2 days of the month and areas most affected were the Midlands, and eastern and southern England. On the 15th hill fog occurred in many areas and on the 26th it returned to some western hills while on the next day sea fog affected the English Channel coast. Freezing temperatures accompanied the fog in places on the last 2 mornings and fog persisted throughout the day on the 29th in a few parts of eastern England.

Miscellaneous phenomena

Observers in Scotland reported the aurora on 11 nights.

Table 1 District Values

November 1971

District	air temperature °C					mean 30 cm earth temp °C	rain days	rain- fall	sun- shine
	High Max. *	Lowest Min. *	max.	min.	mean				
			difference from average						
0 Scotland N	15.0	−5.3	−0.9	−1.0	−1.0	—	+4	129	74
1 Scotland E	17.0	−4.2	−0.4	−0.7	−0.5	+0.5	+1	78	111
2 England N E	17.8	−6.7	−0.4	−1.2	−0.8	+0.2	−1	97	135
3 England E	17.0	−4.3	−0.4	−1.1	−0.8	−0.2	+1	123	157
4 Midlands	17.0	−5.2	−0.1	−1.2	−0.6	−0.1	−4	93	171
5 England S E	17.3	−5.0	−0.3	−1.5	−0.9	−0.6	−4	79	173
6 Scotland W	16.8	−9.1	−0.4	−0.4	−0.4	+0.5	+2	91	109
7 Eng NW - Wales N	17.2	−6.1	−0.3	−0.5	−0.4	+0.8	−2	108	125
8 Eng SW - Wales S	17.5	−6.8	+0.1	−1.8	−0.8	+0.2	−2	96	166
N Ireland	16.6	−4.0	+0.3	0.0	+0.1	—	0	120	85
Scotland	17.0	−9.1	−0.6	−0.7	−0.6	—	+2	99	98
Eng - Wales	17.8	−6.8	−0.2	−1.2	−0.7	—	−2	98	155

* Highest max. and lowest min. of the District Value Stations.