

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

JUNE

1978

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

VOLUME 95

NUMBER 6

Mostly cool and changeable: thundery in central England.

High pressure to the east maintained a light south to south-easterly airstream over Britain during the first few days, with thundery troughs moving northwards on the 1st and 4th. The anticyclone over the North Sea then declined and fronts from the Atlantic crossed all areas between the 5th and the 8th. With a rise of pressure to the west of Ireland the westerly airstream became north-westerly, but a cold front moved south on the 11th and 12th, bringing arctic air to all districts. This was followed by a ridge of high pressure, which covered the British Isles on the 13th and 14th. Fronts from the west crossed all areas between the 15th and the 17th, their associated depressions mostly affecting central and southern districts. A ridge of high pressure moved south-east over Britain on the 18th and 19th, but further frontal systems then crossed the British Isles, mostly from the north-west, until the end of the month.

Weather

Although the warm sunny weather at the end of May continued into early June, thunderstorms broke out in many areas, but particularly over central England, on the 1st and the 4th. The rest of the month was mainly cool and changeable, although rainfall amounts were mostly small during the second week. Heavy rain fell in parts of England and Wales early in the third week, but a brief warm dry spell followed. The unsettled weather returned after the 19th, however, with heavy rain in places. Thunderstorms occurred most frequently in southern England and East Anglia. Overnight fog patches, which occasionally developed in inland areas during the month, cleared quickly, but coastal fog persisted at times. Unusually large and deep snowfields were observed on the higher Scottish mountains at the beginning of June.

Wind

Winds were fresh or strong from time to time in exposed places on northern and western coasts with speeds reaching gale force in the north on a few occasions. It was windy, with local gales, around the coasts of England and Wales on the 17th, and along the south coast at the beginning of the last week. Directions were rather variable, but were mainly south to south-east during the first few days, with on-shore breezes in some areas. After the 5th, directions became south-west, then west to north-west, and on the 12th and 13th winds were north to north-east. Directions were variable on the 14th and 15th, but north-easterlies then returned for a few days. Winds were light and variable again on the 18th and 19th and there were sea-breezes on the 20th. From the 21st until the end of the month directions were mostly south-westerly at first, but were later mainly between west and north.

Temperature

Monthly mean temperatures were mostly below average and were generally within 1 °C of the normal. However, temperatures were between 1.0 and 1.5 °C below average at one or two places in the Midlands, Wales and the south-west. Temperatures were nearest to the normal in Scotland, and were even slightly above average at a few places. Although the month as a whole was cool, it started warm and many

places recorded their maxima during the first four days. Temperatures reached at least 28 °C at several places in north-west England and North Wales on the 1st, and on the 4th Poolewe and Onich, both in the Scottish Highlands, recorded 28.8 °C and 28.5 °C respectively. It then became cooler and ground frost occurred in central southern England on the night of the 15th/16th. A brief warm spell followed, but most areas were cool again after the 20th and ground frost occurred in parts of England on the night of the 26th/27th.

Rainfall

Rainfall distribution was variable, because of the thundery nature of the precipitation, but, very broadly, monthly totals were below average in northern and western areas (excepting districts bordering on Liverpool Bay), and over much of southern England. Some places in the north and west had only about half their normal rainfall, although values often contrasted sharply with above-average rainfall measured not far away. The wettest parts, where rainfall exceeded 150 per cent of the average, were in a broad belt extending from North Wales and the Cheshire Plain to Lincolnshire and Norfolk. Over 200 per cent of the normal fell in places in the east of this area. Severe thunderstorms occurred in central England on the 1st: flood-water caused considerable damage locally, lightning disrupted power supplies, and hailstones measuring about 3 cm were reported in places. Very heavy falls of rain included 82.4 mm in 2 hours at Heythrop College, near Chipping Norton (Oxfordshire), and 2.5 mm in 25 seconds in Bradford (West Yorkshire). There were further thunderstorms on the 4th. A spell of changeable weather followed, with occasional rain and scattered showers. Outbreaks of heavier rain and isolated thunderstorms occurred over England and Wales between the 15th and the 17th, but the 18th was dry. Rain reached north-western areas on the 19th and the rest of the month was mostly unsettled, with scattered thunderstorms at times.

Sunshine

Only in parts of eastern, central and southern Scotland was sunshine above average. Monthly totals elsewhere were mostly between 80 and 100 per cent of the normal, although Wales and parts of central England recorded only about 65 to 80 per cent. Northern Ireland, with 70 to 80 per cent of the average sunshine there, had its dullest June since 1958. Many places had long sunny periods during the first few days, however, but sunshine then became variable, although it was sunny over much of England and Wales on the 11th and in many northern parts of the United Kingdom on the 13th and 17th. Most places, except the extreme north of Scotland, had a very sunny day on the 18th and many southern districts were sunny again on the 19th. The rest of the month was generally rather dull, with occasional sunny intervals.

Fog

Overnight fog patches occurred in many inland areas at the beginning of the month, but soon cleared after sunrise. Coastal fog was more persistent, however, and continued to occur in south-west England until the 9th. Hill fog also formed extensively in south-western districts early in the second week. Patches of fog which developed in some southern areas on the night of the 15th/16th and, more widely, on the 18th/19th, soon cleared in the morning. Coastal fog occurred again from time to time during the latter part of the month. It persisted in the far north of Scotland on the 27th and 28th, and around the coasts of south-west England and the Channel Islands on the 28th and 29th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

Small tornadoes, which caused damage to property, were reported in Macclesfield (Cheshire) and Walsall (Staffordshire) on the 1st.

Table 1 District values

District	air temperature °C					mean 30-cm earth temp °C	rain-days	rainfall	sunshine
	Highest Max.*	Lowest Min.*	max	min	mean				
			difference from average						
0 Scotland N	28.5	2.0	-0.4	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	0	67	86
1 Scotland E	26.7	-1.0	-0.3	0.0	-0.2	+0.8	-2	79	103
2 England E & NE	26.9	2.3	-0.9	-0.2	-0.5	+0.5	0	119	81
3 East Anglia	27.5	2.4	-0.9	-0.3	-0.6	-0.2	+1	137	79
4 Midland Counties	27.0	2.2	-1.4	-0.4	-0.9	-0.2	+1	121	79
5 England SE & Central S	27.5	1.3	-0.9	-0.3	-0.6	-0.4	+1	84	87
6 Scotland W	28.5	-1.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.3	+0.3	-2	72	94
7 England NW & Wales N	27.8	2.0	-1.2	-0.2	-0.7	-0.5	+2	118	76
8 England SW & Wales S	25.9	2.6	-1.0	-0.4	-0.7	+0.2	+2	83	87
N Ireland	24.6	3.5	-1.2	-0.3	-0.8	-0.1	-1	66	75
Scotland	28.5	-1.0	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	+0.3	-1	73	94
England & Wales	27.8	1.3	-1.1	-0.3	-0.7	-0.1	+1	110	81

*Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations.