

Monthly Weather Report

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November 1959 — *Changeable and rather mild*

Weather types over or near the British Isles were mostly cyclonic in character. Depressions passed to the north of the country during the first and last ten days but some moved overland during the middle part. There were a few rather cold foggy spells, but it was mild on the whole with heavy rain at times especially in the second half of the month.

During the first week of the month the British Isles was alternately affected by troughs and ridges between anticyclones centred over Russia and the eastern Atlantic. Rainfall over the British Isles was mainly slight during this first week, although a cold front gave some moderate to heavy rain on the 2nd as it moved eastwards across the country. After two mild days with afternoon temperatures reaching 60°F. in many places, northerly winds on the 3rd brought a general fall of temperature. An upper trough developed over the country and showers became widespread with some sleet or snow locally in Scotland. On the 5th winds over the British Isles became light and variable for about three days. Fog and frost were widespread at night during this period, the fog being dense in places and persisting throughout the day on the 6th and 7th in some areas.

A vigorous depression moving slowly eastwards near Iceland brought strong winds or gales to most districts on the 8th and 9th and there was heavy rain in places; more than 1 in. was recorded in 24 hr. over large areas of north and west Scotland. On the 10th the depression filled considerably and weather became showery; hail and thunder occurred locally and there was some snow in the north. By the evening of the 11th pressure was almost uniform over the British Isles and frost and fog again became widespread. That night screen temperature fell to 19°F. at Gatwick, Birmingham and Aberdeen, and the fog persisted throughout the 12th in many parts of eastern England with temperatures below freezing all day.

A vigorous depression moved eastwards across Ireland on the 13th reaching the Midlands of England later the same day and then becoming nearly stationary for about 48 hours but filling up steadily. Heavy rain and severe gales occurred in many districts; the Lizard recorded a gust of 91 kt. on the 13th, there was snow in many central and northern districts and on two successive days, the 14th and 15th, 3 in. of rain fell in Pembrokeshire. As the depression filled up, winds became light, and on the 16th fog returned to much of England becoming even thicker and more persistent the following day.

On the 17th a depression moved northward from the Bay of Biscay, rain associated with it reaching southern England before dawn. The rain was heavy locally in southern England, and it was preceded by snow in parts of Scotland where high winds caused considerable drifting, blocking many roads. Further frontal rain occurred on the 19th, but during the next five days an anticyclone moved from central Russia to the Balkans and winds over the British Isles on its western flank were southerly and weather dull and mild with temperatures between 50°F. and 60°F. over practically the whole country.

On the 25th and 26th a cold front gave considerable rain as it crossed the country; in both South Wales and Devon more than 3 in. fell locally in 24 hr. Bright showery weather followed and there was a return of fog to many eastern districts on the 27th. Fronts, associated with a complex depression near Iceland, gave occasional rain or showers over the British Isles during the next two days, and on the last day of the month there were heavy outbreaks of thundery rain in central and eastern England as a pronounced upper trough over Ireland moved east and a small depression moved from north-east France to the Wash.

Pressure and Wind. Mean pressure was everywhere below the average, the deficit at 9 h. ranging from 6.0 mb. at Tiree to 1.9 mb. at Lerwick. Winds were mainly south-westerly on the 1st and 2nd, north-westerly on the 3rd and 4th, and light and variable on the 5th—7th and also on the 12th

after four days of south-westerlies. A closed cyclonic circulation persisted over the country on 13th—16th after which winds became mainly south-easterly on the 17th—19th and southerly on the 20th—23rd later becoming predominantly south-westerly until the 29th and south-easterly on the 30th. Wind reached gale force in Scotland on the 2nd, 4th, 8th, 9th, 12th—15th, 17th—20th and 22nd—25th. Gales were recorded on the 29th and on all the above dates in England and Wales except the 23rd and 24th. They were widespread on the 13th and 19th. Gusts of 72 kt. were reported from Aldergrove on the 19th and from Tiree on the 20th and 71 kt. from Stornoway on the 2nd and Plymouth on the 13th. Stornoway recorded 91 hours during the month with mean hourly wind speed above 33 kt.

Temperature. Mean temperature exceeded the 1921–50 average by 1.0°F. in England and Wales, 1.9°F. in Scotland and 0.5°F. in Northern Ireland. The second half of the month was generally warmer than the first half, but temperature exceeded 60°F. at several places on the 1st and 2nd. The coldest night was the 11th/12th when screen temperatures in all districts except the south-west fell below 20°F. Ground frost was widespread in Scotland on the 1st–5th, 7th–13th and 18th–30th and in England and Wales on the 3rd, 5th–7th, 9th–12th and 16th.

Extreme temperatures included (England and Wales) 65°F. at Usk on the 1st, 14°F. at Alwen on the 12th; (Scotland) 62°F. at Inverness, Nairn and Elgin on the 2nd, 12°F. at Glenlivet and Cannich on the 12th; (Northern Ireland) 58°F. at Belfast (Stormont Castle) on the 2nd, Kilkeel on the 2nd and 5th and Ballykelly on the 23rd, 25°F. at Loughgall on the 12th.

Precipitation. The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the 1916–50 average was 127 over England and Wales, 141 over Scotland and 108 over Northern Ireland. Less than the average occurred over the greater part of the Thames Valley, East Anglia, the east Midlands and locally in Lancashire, Northern Ireland and the extreme north-west of Scotland. Twice the average was exceeded in parts of Devon, south-west Wales and Northumberland. It was the wettest November since 1954 over the United Kingdom as a whole but for England and Wales the total rainfall for the year up to the end of November was the lowest for any such period since 1921. More than 1 inch of rain fell in 24 hr. over much of eastern Scotland and north-east England on the 13th, over much of western Scotland on the 23rd and over much of southern and central England on the 25th.

Thunder was heard on 11 days in Scotland and on the 10th–20th, 22nd, 26th, 27th, 29th and 30th (16 days) in England and Wales. Thunderstorms were widespread on the 9th and 13th in Scotland and on the 13th in England and Wales.

Snow and sleet fell widely in Scotland on the 9th–13th and some places reported a covering on the ground on these days. It fell widely in central and northern England on the 13th.

Sunshine. The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921–50 average was 98 over England and Wales, 90 over Scotland and 115 over Northern Ireland. By the 16th of the month, the total sunshine recorded at Kew since the beginning of the year exceeded the amount recorded during the whole of any previous year since observations began there in 1881.

Fog. In Scotland it was fairly widespread on the 6th, 12th and 21st and occurred locally on 10 other days. In England and Wales fog persisted through the day in many areas on the 6th, 7th, 12th and 16th; it was widespread at night on the 17th, 22nd and 27th and was reported from one place or another on 24 days during the month.

Miscellaneous Phenomena. The aurora was seen in Scotland on 21 nights.