

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

SEPTEMBER 1992

VOLUME 109

NUMBER 9

Mostly cool and wet, but finishing much warmer

A depression approaching the south-west pushed fronts into southern areas by midnight on the 1st. A trough moved south-eastwards, clearing the country early on the 3rd. High pressure built from the south-west on the 4th, moving steadily into the continent on the 5th allowing fronts to approach from the south-west and affect all areas on the 6th, with a deep low becoming virtually stationary over Scotland. These fronts cleared early on the 7th. A secondary system moved across all parts on the 8th. A complex low off Ireland on the 10th moved quickly northwards during the 11th as its cold front crossed the country. This low became stationary to the north of Scotland on the 12th allowing a secondary depression to cross southern parts of Ireland and Scotland. The cold front cleared Kent late on the 13th, but another system was into western Ireland by midnight. This cleared, being replaced by a further depression on the 14th. The cold front cleared the south-east by midnight on the 15th, weakening as pressure rose. On the 16th, the high moved away eastwards, and a shallow depression followed it to become almost stationary over all areas for the next three days. A weak front moved across all areas on the 19th and 20th. The pattern over the next few days was complex, as a large low moved from Biscay during the 21st and 22nd, finally positioning off north-eastern Scotland by midnight on the 23rd. Meanwhile, another system was affecting south-west England. By midnight on the 24th, the situation simplified to a single low centre covering most parts. A warm front associated with a large low over the continent moved slowly westwards over the country during the 25th and 26th. By midday on the 27th, the low had moved northwards and was close to southern counties. A shallow low covered most parts during the 28th, but a cold front associated with a fresh Atlantic low crossed much of the country by noon on the 30th.

Weather

August's unsettled theme continued for much of September. Showers or rain, often heavy and with hail and thunder, affected all areas. Widespread thunderstorms occurred on the 18th, especially affecting East Anglia and the south-east. Numerous properties were struck by lightning, including Norwich Cathedral. A man was struck by lightning at Basildon, Essex, and trains from Liverpool Street station were disrupted by power cuts and landslides. Later that day, there were power cuts in Shropshire, and a severe local thunderstorm occurred on the western edge of Salisbury Plain.

Wind

It was windy in many places on the 2nd, approaching gale force along the south coast. There were gales in exposed parts of the north and west on the 6th and 7th. Gusts of over 60 kn were reported, including one of 66 kn at Sumburgh, Shetland. Many western districts had another windy day on the 10th, with Culdrose, Cornwall, having a gust of 65 kn. North-western Scotland was very windy on the 11th and 12th. The 15th was a generally windy day, again especially in the north and west.

Directions were westerly for the first half of the month, became variable from the 16th, and finished southerly.

Temperature

September was disappointingly cool until the 26th, after which temperatures were well above average in many places. Mean monthly temperatures ranged from 0.8 °C above average at Poole, Dorset, to 1.4 °C below average at Scilly (St. Mary's). The highest temperature was 25.0 °C at Marham, Norfolk, on the 28th, whilst the lowest was -1.2 °C at Aviemore, Highland Region, on the 13th.

Rainfall

It was the third successive month with above average rainfall, and the wettest September since 1984. The lowest monthly percentage was 58% of average at Manston, Kent, whilst the highest percentage was 281% of average at Bedford. Several stations in central and eastern areas of England received 200% or more. The 22nd was the wettest day in England and Wales since 29 April 1991, the highest daily total being 89 mm at Bedford. Several rain-gauges in that area received well over 90 mm. The rainfall of that day led to serious flooding in Bedfordshire (apparently the worst for 40 years), North London (where several Underground stations were closed and a flooded substation meant no electricity for 50 000 customers), East Anglia and Berkshire. Other totals on the 22nd were 79 mm at Wittering, Cambridgeshire; 76 mm at Reading; and 75 mm at Northwood, Greater London. Many other days in September were wet, and there was a confirmed daily total of 97.8 mm at Upton Scudamore, Wiltshire, on the 18th. The 6th was wet in Scotland, Greenock, Strathclyde reporting a daily total of 70 mm. Roads in Dumfries and Galloway were flooded on the 13th following heavy rain.

Sunshine

Daily mean sunshine for England and Wales was 3.89 hours, representing 85% of average, making it

the dullest September since 1984. Baltasound, Shetland, had its second lowest total since records began in 1906 (41 hours, or 46% of average — the lowest percentage in the country), whilst Blyth Bridge, Lothian Region, had the highest percentage (113). The highest monthly total was 171.7 hours at Herne Bay, Kent, whilst the most in a day was 12.1 hours at Cleethorpes, Humberside on the 1st, and at Twist, Devon on the 4th.

Fog

Hill and coastal fog affected south-west areas on the 6th. Patches formed over much of central and eastern England on the night of the 13th/14th, and coastal fog occurred over Cornwall on the 15th. Further patches formed over south-eastern England on the 16th. Much of the country was misty or foggy on the 18th, lingering into the 19th. Fog occurred in the Northern Isles on the 20th, and much of East Anglia and south-east England was also affected. It persisted overnight before dispersing. Early on the 22nd, many parts of England and east Wales were foggy. Mist and fog cleared slowly from southern and south-eastern counties on the 26th, reforming extensively that evening. On the 27th, eastern areas of Scotland and England had dense patches, and in the Tayside and Grampian regions many road accidents occurred with at least one fatality. Aberdeen Airport was badly affected, and fog stayed for most of the day in Lincolnshire and the Vale of York. Virtually everywhere had a foggy night on the 27th/28th, dense in places. One person died in an accident in South Yorkshire, and dense fog reformed widely the following night, persisting into the 29th in many places, but was less widespread on the 30th, dispersing completely by midnight.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

Table 1 District values

District	Air temperature °C					Mean 30 cm soil temp °C	Rain-days	Rainfall	Sunshine
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	Max.	Min.	Mean				
	Difference from average					% of average			
0 Scotland N	21.0	0.0	-0.5	-0.3	-0.4	-0.2	+3	137	83
1 Scotland E	21.5	0.6	-1.0	0.0	-0.5	-0.2	+5	144	94
2 England E & NE	22.3	1.1	-0.9	+0.2	-0.3	-0.3	+7	144	85
3 East Anglia	23.6	3.1	-0.3	+0.2	-0.1	0.0	+2	156	92
4 Midland Counties	23.8	3.6	-0.6	+0.3	-0.1	-0.1	+6	122	86
5 England SE & Central S	23.9	4.4	-0.5	+0.4	-0.1	+0.1	+5	103	90
6 Scotland W	22.3	-0.1	-0.9	-0.3	-0.6	-0.3	+5	127	89
7 England NW & Wales N	24.5	1.5	-0.6	+0.1	-0.3	-0.1	+5	96	85
8 England SW & Wales S	22.0	4.2	-0.9	+0.5	-0.3	0.0	+6	97	75
N Ireland	20.0	0.0	-1.2	-0.9	-1.0	-0.6	+1	91	90
Scotland	22.3	-0.1	-0.8	-0.2	-0.5	-0.2	+4	135	89
England & Wales	24.5	1.1	-0.6	+0.3	-0.2	-0.1	+5	113	85

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations