

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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Very cold; mainly dry and sunny in the south, dull and wintry in the north

On the 1st a cold front moved southwards across the United Kingdom followed by a north-westerly airstream. A temporary ridge of high pressure on the 3rd gave way on the following day to a complex low-pressure area, which crossed Northern Ireland and Scotland bringing a north-westerly airstream to all parts of the United Kingdom on the 5th. On the 6th a depression moved eastwards across Scotland. A weak transient ridge of high pressure on the 7th gave way to a deep complex area of low pressure which moved slowly north-eastwards across Northern Ireland and Scotland during the next two days. As this low moved away over Norway on the 9th a northerly airstream became established. On the 11th a ridge of high pressure built over the British Isles. A small depression crossed central England slowly on the 14th and 15th, and on the 16th a further ridge of high pressure developed and lasted until the 28th. During the evening of the 28th a depression formed to the south-west of the British Isles and encroached slowly eastwards to affect all parts of the United Kingdom by the end of the month.

Weather

The month began cold and unsettled with showers or longer periods of rain, sleet or snow. On the 5th, with strong northerly winds, snow fell as far south as South Wales. It remained unsettled until on the 12th and 13th there was severe night frost and some fog patches. After further rain on the 14th and 15th a period of cold, dry weather followed until the 28th, when further rain spread to all parts from the south-west. Showers of hail were frequent on the 1st and 2nd in northern and western Scotland and Northern Ireland. Further showers of hail occurred in many parts of Great Britain up until the 11th. Hailstones of diameter 10 mm to 20 mm were reported at Lerwick, Shetland on the 27th and Kirkwall, Orkney on the 10th. Thunder was heard in northern Scotland and Northern Ireland on the 27th, north-west England on the 28th and over a large part of southern England on the 9th.

Wind

Wind speeds were mainly light to moderate, fresh at times, but with strong to gale force winds in western areas during the first half of the month. During the second half of the month winds were mainly light or moderate, although freshening in western areas later on the 30th. Anemograph stations in the north and east of Scotland recorded gusts of over 60 kn between the 5th and 10th; the highest gust at a low-level station was 68 kn at Sumburgh, Shetland on the 5th. The highest low-level gusts recorded in England were 65 kn at Fleetwood, Lancashire on the 6th and 64 kn at Gwennap Head, Cornwall on the 8th, the latter associated with a mean hourly wind of 41 kn. Wind directions were generally westerly until mid-month, then mainly easterly or northerly for the rest of the month.

Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were below average everywhere in the United Kingdom. Differences ranged from about 1.5 °C below normal in one or two places in the far west to nearly 3.5 °C below normal in parts of central Scotland.

November was a very cold month, the mean central England temperature being the lowest for November since 1965. The warmest day of the month was the 8th with afternoon temperatures of 16 °C or 17 °C over a large part of England and Wales. The highest monthly temperatures, recorded on the 8th, were 17.7 °C at Elmstone, Kent, 17.5 °C at Brymore, Somerset and 17.0 °C at Cambridge (Botanic Garden) and St Helier, Jersey. On the 19th temperatures in the south-east of England and in parts of the south-west remained near or below 0 °C all day. During the 28th it became milder in the south-west and this change reached all parts of the United Kingdom by the end of the month. The lowest minimum temperature during the month was -20.9 °C at Kinbrace, Highland Region on the 30th. The lowest temperature in England, -12.2 °C at Shawbury, Shropshire on the 29th was the lowest November temperature at the station since records began there in 1945.

Rainfall

Most of the United Kingdom had below average rainfall totals, with less than half the normal rainfall in parts of South Wales and southern England. However, the north-west Midlands and coastal areas of eastern England, eastern and northern Scotland and North Wales had above average rainfall, with over 150 per cent of normal in north-east Scotland.

Most of the rain fell in the first half of the month and all areas had rain around mid-month. From the 17th to 25th Wales and north-west and south-west England had an almost completely dry period, and some places stayed dry until the 29th. Heavy rain came to Cornwall on the 28th, spreading to other southern areas on the 29th and to northern areas on the 30th. Daily totals of over 50 mm were recorded by 66 rain-gauges in northern England, Scotland and Northern Ireland on the 30th. The greatest amount, 86 mm, was recorded at Forrest Lodge, Dumfries and Galloway on the 30th.

Snow

After the passage of a cold front on the 1st a cold north-westerly airstream brought sleet and snow showers on the 2nd. It was cold and showery again on the 5th, with strong northerly winds and snow

as far south as South Wales giving a light snow cover over many hills in the north. On the evening of the 9th a very cold, strong northerly airstream became established over the United Kingdom. Many places had sleet or snow showers between the 9th and 12th. They were especially frequent and heavy in eastern coastal areas. Whitby, North Yorkshire reported 10 cm of level snow on the morning of the 12th. On the 23rd winds again became northerly and during the final week of the month northern Scotland had frequent snow showers. On the morning of the 29th Glenlivet, Grampian Region had 19 cm of level snow, Lerwick 15 cm and Aberdeen/Dyce 14 cm. On the 30th snow preceding the onset of mild southerly winds fell over the Pennines and over Scotland.

Sunshine

November was a very sunny month over England and Wales. East Anglia and the east Midlands generally had 150 per cent of average with Wattisham, Suffolk having the sunniest November for 24 years. In Scotland sunshine amounts were generally below normal apart from south-western Scotland and Shetland, where amounts were above normal. The brightest place was Watnall, Nottinghamshire with nearly 180 per cent of its monthly average sunshine. The highest monthly sunshine duration was 108 hours at Skegness, Lincolnshire. In southern England the 6th was the sunniest day with many places reporting nearly 9 hours of sunshine.

Fog

Occurrences of overnight fog were few, apart from five days around mid-month. On the 13th/14th there was freezing fog, dense in places, mainly in southern and eastern England. There were further patches on the 16th and 17th, and freezing fog on the 29th gave way to advection fog on the 30th as the warmer air moved in over the very cold ground. There was hill fog on one or two occasions but coastal fog was negligible.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

An aircraft reported a waterspout, approximately 150 m from top to bottom, about 3 km east by north of Spurn Point, Humberside on the 12th shortly after midday.

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	12.4	-16.4	-2.1	-2.8	-2.5	-1.5	-2	90	89
1 Scotland E	13.6	-17.7	-2.6	-2.3	-2.5	-1.1	0	108	81
2 England E & NE	15.7	-7.5	-2.3	-2.5	-2.4	-1.1	+3	99	149
3 East Anglia	17.0	-8.6	-2.4	-2.6	-2.5	-0.8	+1	83	138
4 Midland Counties	16.3	-12.2	-2.3	-2.4	-2.4	-0.8	+1	89	120
5 England SE & Central S	16.5	-7.0	-2.2	-2.5	-2.4	-1.2	-3	68	131
6 Scotland W	13.1	-13.0	-2.1	-3.5	-2.8	-1.2	-4	79	116
7 England NW & Wales N	15.4	-8.0	-2.0	-2.3	-2.4	-0.9	-1	88	119
8 England SW & Wales S	16.9	-6.7	-1.7	-2.2	-2.2	-0.9	-2	64	111
N Ireland	14.5	-6.9	-1.6	-2.7	-2.1	-0.9	-2	81	102
Scotland	13.6	-17.7	-2.3	-2.9	-2.6	-1.3	-2	91	95
England & Wales	17.0	-12.2	-2.1	-2.4	-2.4	-0.9	0	80	128

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations