

September 2013

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1981-2010.

UK overview

The month opened with some fine, warm, sunny weather, but the second week was unsettled and cooler. After a brief stormy period mid-month, the second half was quieter and more typical of autumn.

The UK mean temperature was 12.8 °C, which is 0.1 °C above the 1981-2010 average. The rainfall pattern was variable, though with many parts of the UK rather dry for the month overall - most notably Lincolnshire and parts of eastern Scotland. The UK overall received 74% of the average rainfall amount for the month. There was 92% of the long-term average hours of bright sunshine, with eastern and north-eastern areas generally brightest and southern and western areas duller.

A maximum temperature of 30.2 °C was recorded at Writtle (Essex) and Frittenden (Kent) on the 5th. A minimum temperature of -2.4 °C was recorded at Kinbrace (Sutherland) on the 6th and at Braemar (Aberdeenshire) on the 26th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 GMT on the 7th, 87.2 mm of rain fell at Scaling Reservoir (North York Moors). A wind gust of 75 mph was recorded at Needles Old Battery (Isle of Wight) on the 15th.

Weather impacts

This was generally a rather quiet month, with a few brief exceptions. Heavy rain affected localised parts of south-east Scotland on the 6th. More widespread heavy rain and strong winds affected some areas around the 14th to 16th, although any impacts were generally limited. Slack pressure gradients and light winds allowed fog to form in some parts of the south-east on the final few nights and mornings of the month.

England diary of highlights

The month opened with a few days of summery weather, temperatures reaching 30 °C in parts of Essex and Kent on 5th, but it became more unsettled and much cooler during the second week. An active autumn depression brought wind and rain around 15th, but conditions thereafter became quieter and more typical for the time of year, leading to a near-average month overall in many respects.

Temperatures for the month overall were close to normal, with the mean temperature for England equal to the 1981-2010 average. Some parts of north-east England had slightly above-average rainfall, but for many areas it was a rather dry month, most especially so from Leicestershire to Humberside. England overall had 76% of the long-term average rainfall. Sunshine totals were mostly below average, especially on the western side, but above average in some eastern counties, with 92% of average for England overall.

1st to 5th:

High pressure dominated through this period, giving mainly dry, sunny and sometimes hot days after some early-morning mist and fog. Northern areas had some showers on 1st with a fresh westerly wind. Temperatures in southern areas reached the mid to high 20s during this period, with Frittenden (Kent) and Writtle (Essex) reaching 30.2 °C on 5th.

6th to 14th:

Becoming unsettled by 6th, with rain in the east gradually spreading north during the day, heaviest in northern areas in the afternoon with Durham recording 46 mm. Temperatures returned to nearer normal for the time of year. It was generally drier and brighter on 7th, but with heavy rain for Cumbria and scattered showers in southern areas. The 8th was a day of sunshine and showers, the latter heaviest and most frequent in western and southern areas. The 9th brought scattered showers for northern areas but more persistent rain for the south-east. Mainly dry and bright on 10th, although an area of rain moved down the east coast during the day. Rain spread from the west during 11th, with heavy spells in the north-west. A dry and bright start on 12th, then a band of rain edged into western areas in late afternoon and spread east during the evening. It remained unsettled on 13th with more rain spreading from the west during the afternoon, reaching eastern areas in the evening with Hampstead (Greater London) recording 41 mm. The 14th was drier and brighter for most, with only scattered light showers in the south.

15th to 19th:

A stormy day on 15th with rain and strong winds for much of the country, Shap (Cumbria) recording 39 mm of rainfall and Needles (Isle of Wight) measuring a gust of 75 mph. The 16th brought sunshine and showers, the heaviest and most frequent showers in the west driven in by a fresh north-westerly wind. Rain spread rapidly east again on 17th with keen westerly winds. Winds had dropped by 18th, with scattered showers for northern areas. A wet start on 19th with rain spreading across the country, clearing from the east by mid-afternoon.

20th to 30th:

A ridge of high pressure resulted in mainly fine, sunny days from 20th to 23rd, although patchy mist and fog affected central and southern areas. It remained benign for many on 24th, but patchy rain spread into northern and south-western areas by dusk. It was mainly dry and bright on 25th, although rain spread from the west into southern areas in the afternoon. The 26th was overcast, but dry for most, only the south-west and Welsh border areas having patchy rain and drizzle. Mainly dry and settled on 27th until patchy drizzle edged into the south-west during the evening. There were a few heavy showers for parts of the south-west on 28th, otherwise mainly dry and bright. The morning of 29th saw showers for Dorset and Hampshire but most other places were mainly dry with sunny spells. A brisk south-easterly wind picked up on 30th with scattered showers in southern areas.

Wales diary of highlights

The month opened with a few days of summery weather, but it became more unsettled and much cooler during the second week. An active autumn depression brought wind and rain around 15th, but the latter part of the month was more typical for early autumn.

Temperatures for the month were slightly above average, with the mean temperature for Wales 0.3 °C above the 1981-2010 average. It was a rather dry month, especially in the northern half of Wales, with an overall figure of 64% of the long-term average rainfall. Sunshine totals were mostly below normal, with 81% of average overall, the dullest September in Wales since 1994.

1st to 5th:

The 1st was dry and fine, with sunshine in the south but more overcast in the north. Warm and dry on 2nd and 3rd with variable cloud and sunny spells. The 4th was dry, sunny and very warm, with 25.3 °C recorded at Trawsgoed (Dyfed). There was more cloud on 5th, although this broke up in the south to give more sunshine.

6th to 19th:

Cloudy with some rain on 6th, particularly in the north, with 41.0 mm measured at Rhyl (Clywd). The 7th and 8th had showers, some heavy, but also some sunshine. The 9th was mainly dry and sunny but with isolated showers in the north. It was mainly cloudy with light showers on 10th. The 11th was cloudy with patchy rain in

the morning, becoming heavier in the afternoon. Mainly cloudy on 12th, with patchy rain and showers from mid-afternoon. The 13th was cloudy and windy, with rain from midday. Dry and mostly sunny on 14th, but cloudy with some patchy rain on 15th. There was a mix of sunshine and showers on 16th. It was overcast on 17th with a band of heavy rain crossing the area from mid-morning; 40.0 mm of rain fell at Sennybridge (Powys). Some sunshine but also light showers on 18th. Cloudy at first on 19th, with rain and drizzle, clearing by the afternoon to allow some sunshine.

20th to 23rd:

Mainly dry through this period; cloudy on 20th but brighter on 21st. The 22nd gave sunshine in the north but was cloudy in the south. Fine and sunny on 23rd, and warm, with 24.9 °C at Trawsgoed (Dyfed).

24th to 30th:

Cloud and fog around coasts on 24th, and a band of showery rain spread from the west in the evening. Cloudy again on 25th, with rain in the north. Dull with periods of rain and drizzle, particularly in the south and east, on 26th. Dry with some sunshine on 27th. Some cloud and spells of rain in the south on 28th, but sunnier and drier further north. Some sunshine on 29th, but also some showers, mainly near western coasts. The 30th was cloudy with some localised rain and showers from late morning.

Scotland diary of highlights

The month contained a few short warm spells, but the middle part of the month was cooler and unsettled before high pressure brought the return of more benign and settled conditions, so overall the month was marginally warmer than average and on the dry side.

Temperatures for the month were slightly above average towards the north-east, with the overall mean temperature 0.3 °C above the 1981-2010 average. Rainfall was mostly below average, especially over Aberdeenshire, but the Northern Isles were rather wet. Scotland overall had 75% of the long-term average rainfall. Sunshine totals were below average in the Northern Isles and the south-west, but above average in between, giving 75% of the long-term average for Scotland overall.

1st to 5th:

The far north and north-east saw rain or showers on 1st, which cleared away to the east by afternoon, but western areas remained overcast with patchy rain. The west again fared worst with patchy rain on 2nd, while eastern areas were dry with sunny spells. A similar day on 3rd with light rain in western areas, but the east was fine and warm with 24.7 °C recorded at Fyvie Castle (Aberdeenshire). Many areas were dry and warm on 4th although a band of rain edged into the Outer Hebrides during the afternoon. Mainly dry and bright on 5th but less warm, with isolated showers in north-western areas.

6th to 21st:

The 6th began with scattered showers in the north, then an area of persistent and heavy rain spread from the south-east during the afternoon with Nunraw Abbey (East Lothian) recording 71 mm. The 7th was a day of sunshine and scattered showers. Mainly dry and bright on 8th with only the far south-west seeing any showers. The 9th was mainly dry and bright too, although a band of showers moved through the central belt later in the day. It was generally dry but cloudy on 10th. A band of rain spread from the north-west during the morning of 11th, clearing south-eastwards later. On 12th, after a dry start, rain again spread from the west during the afternoon. The 13th was generally brighter and drier, but with patchy rain for central areas and scattered showers in the north. Only a few scattered showers on 14th, otherwise dry. Most areas were wet and windy on 15th, with a gust of 69 mph at Edinburgh, Blackford Hill (Mid Lothian). Northern and western areas had showers or longer spells of rain on 16th and 17th but it was drier in the east. Scattered showers for most of the country on 18th, but some areas remained dry and bright. Rain spread across the country from the west on

19th, clearing to the east in the afternoon. Mostly dry on 20th apart from a few showers in the north and west, and dry again for most on the 21st but with rain in the north later.

22nd to 30th:

Most areas were dry and warm on 22nd as high pressure built across the country. It was bright or sunny in the east, with a maximum temperature of 22.9 °C at Dyce (Aberdeenshire), but cloudier in the west with some scattered showers. It was dry again on 23rd, but mostly cloudy except in the north-east. Some rain in the far south and some showers in the north on 24th, otherwise dry again. Mostly fine on 25th, but some mist or fog present in some areas at first. Mainly dry again on 26th but some rain in the south-west later. Some rain or drizzle at first on 27th, especially in the east, otherwise mainly dry until rain reached the north-west in the late afternoon. It was dry, bright and warm for most areas on 28th and 29th, but also breezier on 29th. Dry again on 30th with high pressure still hanging on, a bright day for most but cloudier in the east.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

The month opened with a few days of warm, summery conditions, but it became more unsettled and much cooler by the second week. An active autumn depression brought wind and rain on 14th to 15th, but thereafter it began to turn gradually more settled, with some further warm days for a time.

Temperatures for the month were slightly above average, with the mean temperature 0.4 °C above the 1981-2010 average. Rainfall was below average except in a few coastal locations, with an overall figure of 75% of the long-term average. Sunshine was also rather below average, with an overall figure of 85%.

1st to 5th:

It was dry on 1st, but cloudy, with fresh to strong westerly winds. The 2nd was brighter, winds had eased, and it was warm with temperatures reaching 25.5 °C at Murlough (County Down). Continuing dry, warm and settled on 3rd, and similar on 4th but clouding over later with some rain overnight, which cleared by the morning of 5th to leave a cooler day, sunny but with some showers later.

6th to 19th:

Sunshine and showers for most on 6th, with Ballywatticock (County Down) recording 35 mm of rain. Showers became more widespread and heavier in the evening, continuing and merging to give periods of rain on 7th. After a dry start on 8th, showers quickly developed, heavy in the north. A brighter day on 9th with scattered showers, then 10th was largely dry but cloudy. Light rain on the morning of 11th cleared, but there were scattered showers in the afternoon. Cloudy on 12th, with rain spreading from the north. It was largely dry and settled on 13th and 14th, with more in the way of sunshine on 14th. Strong to gale-force westerly winds overnight, together with rain, some heavy, continued into 15th, clearing to more showery weather as winds turned north-westerly. The 16th was chilly but bright, with scattered showers and a brisk wind. Rain spread to all areas on 17th but by afternoon it became largely dry. There were frequent showers on 18th, dying out later. Rain, heavy at times, spread in from the west early on 19th, then quickly cleared to leave a bright day with scattered showers.

20th to 30th:

The 20th and 21st were largely dry and bright. It was cloudy but mainly dry and warm on 22nd and 23rd, with temperatures reaching 23.8 °C at Derrylin (County Fermanagh) on 23rd. The next three days were generally overcast and cooler, with showers which were fairly well scattered on 24th and 25th but more widespread on 26th. The 27th and 28th were largely dry, but cloudy on 27th then more in the way of sunshine on 28th, albeit with a few light showers in the south. The 29th was again largely fine, dry and bright. After a fine start on 30th, heavy rain moved into eastern counties later as the high pressure began to slip away north-eastwards; 25.2 mm of rain was recorded at Ballywatticock.

