

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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Unsettled, becoming mainly dry later, except in far north.

For much of the first three weeks pressure was low to the north-west and high to the south of the British Isles while a series of frontal systems crossed all districts. On the 4th a depression deepened rapidly as it moved north-eastwards over the far north of Scotland while particularly intense lows passed northwards off the Western Isles during the night of the 12th/13th, north-eastwards over northern Scotland on the 15th/16th and eastwards just to the north of Shetland late on the 18th.

On the 19th pressure began to rise and although a small depression approached south-western areas on the 20th an intensifying anticyclone came slowly south-eastwards across central districts on the 21st to be over central Europe by the 23rd. Further anticyclones followed over southern parts on the 25th and approached south-west England on the 29th. Meanwhile, fronts, associated with deep depressions near Iceland, continued to affect northern districts at times with weakening cold fronts coming south-eastwards to reach the south on a few occasions.

Weather

All districts had unsettled, windy weather during the first two and a half weeks of the month with some heavy rainfall, mainly in the west. Subsequently, it was mainly dry with overnight frost and fog patches at times, but after a few days respite the unsettled weather returned to the north of Scotland. After a warm start temperatures were mostly rather below normal. Scattered thunderstorms occurred at times, mainly between the 3rd and 16th.

Wind

Until the 18th winds were frequently fresh or strong with gales in exposed places, especially in the north and west. Thereafter, winds were lighter generally over central and southern districts, but in the north it continued mostly windy. The gales were severe at times, particularly around mid-month and over northern Scotland during the last week. On the 15th ferries from Ramsgate, Kent, and Douglas, Isle of Man, were cancelled and fishing boats were unable to enter Bridlington harbour, Humberside, because of high seas, while trains between Waterloo and Guildford were delayed by fallen trees. On the 16th a lady was killed at Alnwick, Northumberland, when a tree fell on her car while roofs were ripped off a hotel at Blackpool and the village hall at Mickleby, near Whitby, North Yorkshire. Among the highest gusts reported were 80 kn at The Needles, Isle of Wight, on the 15th, 78 kn and 83 kn at Fair Isle, Shetland, on the 18th and 30th respectively, and 95 kn on Lowther Hill, Strathclyde Region, on the 16th and at Cairngorm Chairlift, Highland Region, on the 25th. For much of the month wind directions were from between south and west. In the south, however, they were mainly easterly between the 20th and 24th.

Temperature

Mean temperatures were mostly within 1 °C of but mainly below the monthly average. At isolated locations in north and east Scotland they were more than 1 °C below average, but at a few places in the Midlands, East Anglia and south-east England, and here and there in east Scotland, north-east England

and North Wales they were slightly above normal.

After a warm start to the month, much of East Anglia and south-east England being very warm with temperatures exceeding 24 °C in places on the 4th, temperatures were mostly rather below normal. Frost, moderate or severe in places, occurred on several occasions, mainly late in the month, with temperatures falling to -7.5 °C at Balmoral, Grampian Region, on the 21st, -9.0 °C at St Harmon, Powys, on the 29th and -7.3 °C at Grendon Underwood, Buckinghamshire, on the 30th. Minima on the 30th were the lowest in October in Bournemouth, excluding Hurn Airport, since 1895 and at Penzance, Cornwall, since records began in 1894.

Rainfall

Monthly rainfall totals were above average in Scotland, except in sheltered eastern areas from the Moray Firth to the east of Borders Region, much of Northern Ireland and north-west England, Wales, except parts of the west and east, the higher, western part of north-east England, scattered parts of the Midlands and south-west England, and at isolated places elsewhere in England, the Isle of Man and Jersey. More than twice the average fell in parts of north and west Scotland and locally in Borders Region. In remaining areas totals were below normal with about half the average being recorded at a few places in the eastern half of England and in Guernsey.

All districts had frequent periods of rain or showers until the 18th, although amounts of rainfall were small at times in central and eastern areas, particularly during the first week in south-east and parts of north-east England. In the west, however, the rainfall was often heavy, especially over western Scotland between the 9th and 18th, while the 15th was wet in most parts of the United Kingdom. Among a number of large daily totals were 82.6 mm at Kingairloch House, just to the west of Loch Linnhe in Highland Region, on the 4th, 90.1 and 96.5 mm at Blaenau Ffestiniog (Doppog), Gwynedd, on the 6th and 9th, and 93.0 mm at Manod, near Llangurig, Powys, on the 8th. Trains were delayed by flooding in South Wales on the

15th. The remainder of the month was mainly dry except in the north-west and far north of Scotland where there was further heavy rainfall at times during the last eight days.

Snow

Wintry showers occurred at times, mainly during the last two weeks of the month in the north of Scotland where fresh falls of snow were reported over the mountains. Snowfall was also observed on High Peak, Derbyshire, on the 17th and on peaks in Gwynedd and Cumbria on the 28th.

Sunshine

Sunshine totals were below average over Scotland, except in parts of the east, the western half of Northern Ireland, much of north-west England and Wales, parts of the Isle of Man and in places in the south from West Sussex to Cornwall. Less than half the average sunshine occurred along part of the Great Glen, Highland Region, with Fort Augustus having its second lowest total in nearly 100 years of somewhat broken records. Elsewhere, sunshine was above normal with more than 125 per cent of average being recorded in parts of the Midlands, east and north-east England, Greater London and Grampian Region.

In general the sunniest part of the month was from the 19th to the 24th with much of the dullest weather occurring prior to this. In the far north of Scotland, however, the best of the month's sunshine occurred between the 7th and 11th.

Fog

Occurrences of overnight fog were almost entirely confined to the last 11 days of the month. It was mostly very patchy except on the mornings of the 23rd, 26th and 27th when it was rather widespread over southern England. Hill fog patches formed at times throughout the month, being widespread over south-western areas during the first four days. Fog patches also affected coastal regions from time to time, especially early in the month in the north-west and south-west of Great Britain.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

Table 1 District values

District	air temperature °C					mean 30-cm soil temp °C	rain-days	rainfall	sun-shine
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	max.	min.	mean				
	difference from average						% of average		
0 Scotland N	18.3	-2.8	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.2	+7	180	85
1 Scotland E	19.5	-7.3	-0.4	-0.2	-0.3	+0.1	+4	117	105
2 England E & NE	22.0	-2.5	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	+2	100	124
3 East Anglia	24.9	-3.5	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	+0.5	0	74	120
4 Midland Counties	22.0	-4.9	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	+0.4	+1	89	120
5 England SE & Central S	23.8	-4.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	+0.1	0	81	109
6 Scotland W	18.6	-7.3	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5	+0.1	+7	178	77
7 England NW & Wales N	20.5	-4.3	-0.5	0.0	-0.3	+0.7	+3	136	95
8 England SE & Wales S	20.2	-3.4	-0.5	-0.4	-0.5	+0.6	+2	103	103
N Ireland	20.0	-3.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	+0.6	+3	127	104
Scotland	19.5	-7.3	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5	0.0	+6	158	89
England & Wales	24.9	-4.9	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	+0.4	+1	97	112

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations