

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

Summary of observations compiled from returns of official stations and voluntary observers.

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October 1964 — *Dry and rather cold.*

Weather was predominantly anticyclonic in character with pressure high mostly to the south or east of the country except from the 5th to the 15th and the 22nd-23rd when troughs or small depressions moved over or near the British Isles.

The dry sunny weather at the end of September continued during the first four days of October. Afternoon temperatures were above average nearly everywhere and nights were clear with ground frost. On the 4th an anticyclone, which had been centred over the North Sea, moved away south-eastwards and fog became widespread that night in a moister southerly airstream.

A rather unsettled period began on the 5th as a slow moving trough brought rain from the Atlantic, the first in many places for over two weeks. The rain was prolonged and locally heavy in the west, but did not reach eastern districts until the late evening. Most of England and Wales was dry and sunny again on the 6th, but a rapidly deepening depression brought renewed rain to Scotland which spread southwards to most districts during the night. By the 7th a slow-moving depression was centred to the north of Scotland and the rain gave place to thundery showers as winds veered towards the north west. The showers continued throughout the 8th but there were long sunny periods in the south.

On the 9th a small depression from the Atlantic deepened very rapidly off south-west England, pressure falling up to 18 mb in 3 hours on its forward side, as it moved eastwards along the north coast of France. Winds increased to storm force in the English Channel; mean wind speed at Jersey Airport between 1300 and 1400 GMT that day was 68 kt, a gust of 94 kt at about 1325 GMT being the highest gust ever recorded in the British Isles during October. Rain associated with the depression was mainly confined to southern England.

A complex area of low pressure covered the British Isles for most of the next week, a feature of the situation being the persistence of a north-westerly airstream off our western seaboard. Weather remained generally cold with outbreaks of rain and occasional thunderstorms but with good sunny periods especially in the south. On the 13th many parts of southern and central England had 8-10 hours of sunshine, but the next day rain was heavy at times along the south coast as a depression from the Atlantic moved across northern France. Some coastal areas of east Kent had more than 2 inches of rain on the 14th. There were scattered showers in a north-westerly airstream on the 15th as the depression moved away north-eastwards over the Low Countries.

Weather became more settled and milder on the 16th as pressure rose generally over the country. Most of England was sunny and dry during the next four days, but slow moving fronts from the Atlantic gave rather cloudy weather with occasional slight rain in north-west England, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Cold fronts, associated with depressions in high latitudes, brought rain southwards over the country early on the 21st and on the 22nd; northern districts were mainly fine on the 21st between the rain-belt. On the 23rd a northerly airstream from Arctic regions brought wintry showers of rain, hail or light snow and occasional thunderstorms to all areas. The showers continued on the 24th but there were long sunny periods in south-

east England; light frontal rain from the Atlantic spread south-east across the country that evening.

Winds backed to south-west on the 25th and 26th and temperature returned to normal as an anticyclone over the Bay of Biscay spread over southern England. Most of England was dry with broken sunshine on the 25th-27th but Scotland and Northern Ireland were dull with occasional drizzle. During the last four days of the month a ridge of high pressure extended over the British Isles from an anticyclone near the southern Baltic, and weather was generally dull and cooler with occasional drizzle chiefly in Coastal districts.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure at 9h was everywhere above the average, the excess ranging from 3.1 mb at Lerwick to +0.3 mb at Shoeburyness. Surface winds were east to south-east at first becoming mainly south-westerly on the 6th, north-westerly on the 7th-8th and then rather variable until the 14th. During the latter half of the month, apart from spells of north-westerlies on the 15th-17th and 22nd-24th, winds were mainly between south-west and south. It was a quiet month generally but winds reached gale force on 9 days in Scotland and on the 6th, 7th, 9th and 23rd in England and Wales. A gust of 94 kt was recorded at Jersey on the 9th.

Temperature — Day temperatures were above the average during the first week and around the 19th and 26th. The second week was cold both day and night and there was another cold spell around the 23rd.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 23.3°C at Eastwick Lodge on the 5th, -7.2°C at Lincoln on the 13th; (Scotland) 20.6°C at Kinlochewe on the 4th, -7.0°C at Lowther Hill on the 24th; (Northern Ireland) 17.2°C at Larne on the 1st and at Roscor on the 3rd, -2.5°C at Carrigan on the 13th.

Rainfall — In Scotland rainfall totals were less than half the average over most of Inverness-shire and over most central and eastern districts north of the Firth of Forth. Further south rainfall was less than half the average over counties east of the Pennines, the east Midlands and the Thames Valley. Rainfall totals exceeded 125 per cent of the average around Gorleston and in coastal areas of east Kent and east Sussex, mainly owing to heavy rain on the 14th.

Thunder was heard on 8 days in Scotland and on the 7th-16th, 22nd and 23rd in England and Wales.

Snow or sleet was reported on 9 days in Scotland and ground was snow-covered on 4 days (22nd-25th). In England and Wales it was reported on the 8th-11th and 22nd-24th.

Sunshine — Sunshine was below average over most of Scotland and Northern Ireland but above average over most of England and Wales; it exceeded 140 per cent of the average in parts of the Midlands.

Fog — Fog was observed at 9h at one place or another on 20 days in Scotland and daily except the 7th-9th, 23rd and 24th in England and Wales.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was observed in Scotland on 8 nights.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES— OCTOBER,

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUNSHINE
	Highest Max.	Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
	Difference from Average					% of Average				
0 SCOTLAND, N.	20.6	-6.1	-0.3	-0.8	-0.6	-	-	-2	72	102
1 SCOTLAND, E.	19.4	-6.1	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7	-	-	-4	67	82
2 ENGLAND, N. E.	19.4	-7.2	-1.0	-1.2	-1.1	-0.4	0.0	-5	48	106
3 ENGLAND, E.	23.3	-5.0	-1.4	-2.0	-1.7	-1.0	-0.5	-2	76	112
4 MIDLANDS	21.1	-6.1	-1.0	-1.6	-1.3	-0.8	-0.2	-2	52	125
5 ENGLAND, S. E.	22.2	-3.9	-1.0	-1.9	-1.5	-1.2	-0.6	-3	78	125
6 SCOTLAND, W.	17.8	-7.0	-0.6	-0.9	-0.8	-0.1	-0.1	-4	81	96

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(1908, revised 1928, 1941, 1956 and 1964)

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	Highest Max.	Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
	Difference from Average					% of Average				
7 ENGLAND, N. W. and N. Wales	20.6	-5.6	-0.7	-1.0	-1.1	-0.5	+0.1	-4	92	117
8 ENGLAND, S. W. and S. Wales	21.1	-3.9	-1.3	-1.7	-1.5	-0.5	-0.2	-2	82	103
N. IRELAND	17.2	-2.5	-0.6	-1.4	-1.0	-	-	-2	126	78
SCOTLAND	20.6	-7.0	-0.5	-0.8	-0.7	-	-	-3	69	93
ENG. and WALES	23.3	-7.2	-1.1	-1.6	-1.6	-	-	-3	66	115