

Monthly Weather Report

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OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS

VOL. 67 No. 11

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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November, 1950 - Notably wet in England and Wales, dry in the north-west.

The weather of the month was remarkable for excessive rainfall in England and Wales and south-east Scotland. It was rather cold and sunny on the whole in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

On the 1st a trough of low pressure extending from the Hebrides to south-east Ireland moved east, while a small secondary disturbance over Brittany moved north-east; rain fell generally and was moderately heavy in the north-west. On the 2nd a secondary depression developed off west Ireland and moved east-south-east; fairly heavy rain occurred in the south and east on the 2nd and there were scattered showers on the 3rd. From the 3rd to the 6th an anti-cyclone to the north of Scotland and an associated ridge extending southward to the west of Ireland moved slowly east giving a spell of mainly fair weather apart from scattered showers, chiefly in eastern districts; in the west there were long, sunny periods. On the 7th and 8th an intense depression south-east of Greenland moved a little south-east and a trough of low pressure moved east-south-east across the British Isles; rain occurred in most parts but the 7th was a sunny day in the south. On the 10th a small disturbance moved north-east from the Bay of Biscay causing heavy rain locally in south and east England. Thereafter, on the 11th a trough west of Ireland moved east and was followed on the 12th by another trough moving south-east; rain fell generally and was heavy locally. In the rear of these disturbances a cold north-westerly air stream covered the British Isles and showery weather, with sunny periods, prevailed. On the 15th and 16th a small depression south-westward of Ireland moved quickly east across southern England giving rain in this area and on the 16th a shallow depression drifted south-east over Scotland.

A very unsettled spell ensued with heavy rain, except in the north-west. On the 18th a deep depression approached north-west Ireland and subsequently moved south-east to Wales and then turned north-east; this was followed on the 20th by another disturbance which moved east along the English Channel and later turned north to the southern North Sea and gradually filled. Widespread heavy rain occurred in southern districts of England and Wales on the 20th, in south-east Scotland on the 21st and in north-east England on the 22nd. Severe gales were registered at times on the south-west coasts of England and Wales from the 18th to 20th.

Subsequently a ridge of high pressure associated with an anti-cyclone south of Greenland moved south over the British Isles and cold mainly fair weather, apart from fog, prevailed until the 27th. On that day a complex Atlantic depression approached our south-west coasts; on the 28th one centre moved rapidly across southern Scotland and on the 28th and 29th a second centre moved from the south-west of Ireland across northern England. Heavy rain occurred in the south-west districts of England and Wales on the 27th and rain fell generally on the 28th. On the 29th and 30th a trough of low pressure moved south-east across the country giving further rain.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average, the deviation at 9h. ranging from -3.1 mb. at Lerwick to -7.6 mb. at Gorleston. The tracks of the main depressions were mostly over our southern districts (see chart 2). Local gales occurred at times, mainly on the 2nd, 3rd, 7th–9th, 12th–14th, 18th–20th and 28th–30th. They were most frequent on the south-west coasts of England and Wales. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 67 at St. Ann's Head on the 13th, 61 at Pendennis Castle and 60 at Plymouth on the 18th and 80 at St. Mary's, Scilly and 62 at Pendennis Castle on the 20th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was not very different from the average in south-east and east England but was below the average elsewhere. The deviation from the average for the period 1906–35 was -0.4°F . in England and Wales, -1.7°F . in Scotland and -2.2°F . in Northern Ireland. It was cold from the 14th to 17th and from the 24th to 27th or 28th. Mild spells occurred in the west and north from the 1st to 4th, more generally from the 8th to 11th and in parts of England and Wales on the 27th and 28th.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 60°F . at Plymouth, Mount Batten, on the 1st, 21°F . at Silloth and Northolt on the 26th; (Scotland) 54°F . at Fort William and Turnberry on the 1st, in parts of Edinburgh on the 1st and 2nd and at Prestwick on the 3rd, 14°F . at Braemar on the 17th; (Northern Ireland) 55°F . at Ballykelly on the 1st, 20°F . at Armagh, Ballykelly and Garvagh on the 27th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 172 over England and Wales, 103 over Scotland and 79 over Northern Ireland. In England and Wales the total rainfall was the highest for any month this year and there have only been seven wetter Novembers since before 1869. In Scotland, broadly speaking, more than the average occurred in the east and less than the average, for the most part, in the west and in central districts. More than 150 per cent. of the average occurred in the south-east and in the neighbourhood of Inverness and Banff, while more than twice the average was registered locally in Berwickshire. In England and Wales an excess was general except locally in the extreme north-west, while more than twice the average occurred over much of southern England, in a belt on the north-east coast from the Tweed to near the Yorkshire border and in an area covering most of Lincolnshire and the neighbouring part of Nottinghamshire and stretching north to include Pontefract. In Northern Ireland a deficiency was general.

Among the heaviest falls in 24 hours were:—

- 21st 2.18 in. at Kingside, Lammermuir Hills and 2.11 in. at Longformacus, north Berwickshire.
- 22nd 2.18 in. at Redewater, Northumberland and 2.09 in. at Weardale Reservoir, County Durham.
- 27th 2.68 in. at Princetown, Devon, 2.35 in. at Brechfa, Carmarthenshire and 2.21 in. at Sheepstor, Devon.
- 29th 2.30 in. at Kinlochquoich, Inverness-shire.

Local thunderstorms were recorded at times, for example, on the 1st, 8th, 9th, 12–14th, 16th, 18th–21st, 29th and 30th.

Snow or sleet showers occurred locally mainly from the 13th to 18th and again towards the end of the month. Snow lay two to three inches deep at Braemar and Glenlivet on the 16th–18th.

Sunshine.—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1906–35 average was 95 in England and Wales, 117 in Scotland and 122 in Northern Ireland. At most places in Scotland (particularly in coastal areas) and in Northern Ireland the excess was considerable. In east England and the Midlands the duration was appreciably below the average.

Fog.—Fog occurred at times, mainly on the 1st, 2nd, 4th–7th, 9th, 10th, 14th–18th and 20th–28th. It was most considerable on the 1st, 7th, 10th, 16th–18th and 24th–28th. Dense fog on the 17th and 27th in several Clyde districts delayed passenger services.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 10 nights. Solar halos were registered at Oxford on 10 days.