

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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Generally cold and wet

An anticyclone covered the British Isles in the first three days and, after it began to decline, fronts moved across the whole area. By the 5th a slack area of low pressure was situated over the United Kingdom. A temporary ridge of high pressure developed on the 7th to be replaced later on the 8th by a series of frontal systems moving south-eastwards across Great Britain until pressure began to rise generally on the 13th. From the 14th to 17th a weak ridge of high pressure covered most of the United Kingdom. The ridge of high pressure declined on the 17th giving way slowly once more to frontal activity from the west on the 18th, associated with a depression to the south-west of the British Isles. The area of low pressure gradually transferred north-eastwards, became slow moving near northern Scotland and persisted until the 25th, while a further series of fronts crossed all areas from the south-west. A depression tracked across Scotland on the 27th and 28th and a further series of fronts crossed all areas during the last three days of the month.

Weather

Three dry and sunny days began the month, followed by three days of thundery activity and two days of cold northerly winds. From the 9th to 11th unsettled rainy weather prevailed until colder air returned on the 12th. Unsettled weather continued from the 16th until the 26th when it became a little drier, and became much warmer by the end of the month.

On the 5th a Wellingtonia tree, about 25 m high, in the grounds of Aldenham School, Hertfordshire was struck by lightning and exploded, hurling spear-like splinters for hundreds of metres and causing some structural damage to nearby buildings. Violent thunderstorms and heavy rain on the 5th left many houses and roads flooded in the Thames Valley, caused a night of chaos and disrupted traffic on the following morning. On the 7th, after a midday hailstorm, water flooded the centre of Bournemouth. On the 8th during a thunderstorm at Margate, Kent lightning struck a house, bringing down walls and ceilings. Nearby houses and a hotel were damaged as was property in Broadstairs, Kent. On the 9th isolated thunderstorms occurred in eastern England; Manston, Kent reported hailstones with a diameter of 16 mm. Further thundery outbreaks occurred between the 10th and 17th; between the 19th and 26th they were widespread over southern England. On the 24th, at the start of the tennis championships, the centre court complex at Wimbledon was hit by lightning, sending masonry crashing down which narrowly missed the spectators below.

Wind

It was a generally quiet month with winds mostly light or light to moderate. However, there were strong winds on the 9th, 12th and 17th, mainly in the west, on the 20th and 21st more generally, and on the 22nd in southern and western areas. Of the low-level stations in Scotland only Bell Rock had a mean hourly wind over gale force with 34 kn on the 12th. In the south Shoreham-by-Sea, East Sussex had a mean hourly wind of 36 kn on the 12th; the highest low-level gust was 50 kn also at Shoreham-

by-Sea on the 12th. Directions were mainly easterly for the first week and westerly or southerly for the rest of the month.

Temperature

The mean temperature for the month was about 1.5 °C below normal over England and Wales, making it the coldest June since 1977. Over Scotland it was slightly less cold with temperatures about 1 °C below normal.

The month started very warm over much of the United Kingdom and was hot in places in Scotland on the 1st. During the next two days parts of central Scotland and southern England were hot while other areas remained warm. By the 5th much of the United Kingdom had become cool, although South Wales and southern England remained mostly warm or very warm. The 7th was a cold day for June in many places; the highest temperature at London Weather Centre during the afternoon only reached 12.5 °C, thus making it the coldest June day since 1964, the next coldest being 12.6 °C in 1977. For most of the rest of the month it was generally rather cool or cool; during the last few days temperature rose to nearer the seasonal normal. The highest recorded temperature was 26.9 °C at Southampton on the 3rd and the lowest -4.0 °C at St Harmon, Powys on the 8th.

Rainfall

It was a very wet month generally with most of the United Kingdom having amounts above the monthly average except parts of northern England and western Scotland where they were below. Totals ranged from about 300 per cent of average in East Anglia to about 30 per cent in the Western Isles and as low as 23 per cent in Shetland which was notably dry. The wettest part of Scotland was the north-east with about 200 per cent of average; some places had their wettest June since 1966.

The wettest area in the United Kingdom was East Anglia with nearly three times the monthly normal. Lowestoft, Suffolk had 123 mm of rain, the highest total since 1892. Rayleigh, Essex reported the wettest June since records began there in 1944. By

the end of the first week many places in southern and eastern England had already exceeded their monthly average. Over Wales it was the fourth wettest June since 1910 and the wettest for three years. On the 11th, 17 places in Wales had over 50 mm of rain in 24 hours. The month's highest daily rainfall was 97.4 mm at Spelga Dam, Co. Down on the 20th.

Sunshine

Amounts were below the monthly normal everywhere except in some parts of Northern Ireland and western and north-eastern Scotland, where sunshine was near normal. It was the sunniest June in Northern Ireland since 1977. The first three days were very sunny nearly everywhere and there was a sunny period at mid month, but otherwise amounts during the first three weeks were variable. From the 21st to 27th most places had very little sunshine, although the 25th was very sunny in the south. In north-west Scotland and the Western Isles many places had less than 7 hours sunshine in a week. The rest of the month was fairly dull, but with sunny spells. The dullest place was Lowestoft, Suffolk with only just over 140 hours for the whole month, or 65 per cent of the normal.

Fog

Fog formed overnight during the first five days, mainly in central and eastern areas of England and in north-east Scotland. Further overnight fog formed between the 15th and 22nd in all areas except south-west England. Sea fog affected English Channel and North Sea coasts between the 4th and 6th; northern coasts were affected between the 22nd and 25th and Wales and southern England between the 28th and 30th. Hill fog occurred mainly in central and southern areas on several occasions.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

Funnel clouds were reported on the 14th at Leeming, North Yorkshire and on the 15th at the Isles of Scilly, Gwennap Head and St Mawgan, all in Cornwall.

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	25.2	−1.5	−0.9	−1.1	−1.0	−0.1	+2	79	100
1 Scotland E	23.7	0.0	−1.7	−1.4	−1.5	0.0	+4	132	90
2 England E & NE	21.0	−0.4	−2.1	−1.2	−1.7	−0.5	+5	106	85
3 East Anglia	24.6	1.1	−2.1	−0.7	−1.4	−1.0	+10	216	77
4 Midland Counties	23.7	1.1	−2.1	−1.3	−1.7	−0.7	+6	174	86
5 England SE & Central S	25.1	2.8	−1.5	−0.7	−1.1	−0.6	+7	152	82
6 Scotland W	23.5	−2.3	−1.5	−1.3	−1.4	−0.1	+2	81	99
7 England NW & Wales N	25.0	0.4	−1.7	−0.9	−1.3	−0.4	+2	121	93
8 England SW & Wales S	25.7	−1.4	−1.3	−0.7	−1.0	−0.2	+3	157	89
N Ireland	23.5	0.1	−1.1	−1.2	−1.1	−0.1	+2	98	99
Scotland	25.2	−2.3	−1.4	−1.3	−1.3	−0.1	+3	95	96
England & Wales	25.7	−1.4	−1.8	−0.9	−1.4	−0.6	+5	149	85

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations