

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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Unsettled; very cold during the first half; wet and windy later

The month began with low pressure to the west of the United Kingdom and high pressure to the east, and a shallow depression over north-west England. A cold front to the west of the British Isles gradually divided and dissipated on the 5th as the Scandinavian anticyclone intensified. An occluded front moved over East Anglia and south-east England on the 7th. During the two days following the 8th low pressure over France spread northwards to include all areas, although a ridge of high pressure edged into western areas later on the 10th. While pressure declined to the east, a shallow depression moved southwards across all areas on the 12th, continuing over France. A ridge of high pressure then extended northwards from an anticyclone centred to the west of Finisterre, and still covered most of the United Kingdom early on the 14th, although fronts were encroaching on westernmost areas. These fronts moved south-westwards across all areas during the next day or two, clearing Cornwall later on the 16th as pressure rose again. During the 17th, a shallow depression edged into western areas, but decayed early on the 18th. High pressure once more became dominant over most parts. On the 19th and 20th a trailing, south-eastward moving front became slow moving over northern England and western Wales. Over the next day or so a series of fronts slowly crossed all areas. A new centre formed on the fronts over Wales on the 21st and moved north-eastwards over the North Sea by early on the 22nd, while the fronts moved away eastwards and pressure rose temporarily behind them. Later in the day further fronts crossed western areas. On the 24th a front still lay across southern England, while elsewhere pressure rose once more, temporarily blocking the advance of Atlantic fronts. However, on the 26th pressure began to fall and during the rest of the day fronts crossed all parts, clearing the south-east early on the 27th; a further trailing front crossed most of England and Wales during the night of the 27th/28th.

Weather

February was unsettled throughout, with cold weather and frequent falls of snow during the first half. Between the 6th and 14th snowfall was heavy in many places and it became very cold for a few days. After mid month it became somewhat milder, although remaining generally wet and at times windy. On the 8th there was some thundery activity over eastern parts of England. A thunderstorm was reported to the west of London during the 27th.

Wind

February was a generally quiet month. Winds reached gale force over Shetland on the 3rd and 26th, and over exposed places in western areas of Great Britain on the 21st and 22nd. The highest mean wind at a low-level station was 41 kn at Gwennap Head, Cornwall on the 22nd. Gusts reached 57 kn at Gwennap Head on the 21st and Aberporth, Dyfed on the 23rd. Wind directions were mainly easterly or variable during the first nine days, then northerly, before becoming mainly southerly by the 19th.

Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were below normal nearly everywhere and ranged from 0.1 °C above normal at Lerwick, Shetland to 3.1 °C below normal at Greenwich, Greater London. Temperatures over a wide area did not rise above freezing between the 5th and 10th. In Scotland the temperature fell to -12 °C at Lairg, Highland Region and Glasgow on the 10th and 11th respectively, to -15 °C at Carnwath, Strathclyde Region on the 13th and -14 °C at Braemar, Grampian Region on the 14th; however, the lowest temperature reached during the month was -16.0 °C at Cawood, North Yorkshire on the 14th. The highest temperature was 14.8 °C at Sutton Bonington, Nottinghamshire and Rodney Stoke, Somerset on the 23rd and Halstead, Essex on the 24th.

Rainfall

Monthly rainfall totals were above normal in most parts of eastern Scotland and eastern England and generally below normal elsewhere, ranging from 187% at Durham to as little as 36% at Fort William, Highland Region.

During the first five days between 5 mm and 15 mm of rain was measured in many places, especially in northern England, but some places in south-west England had little or none. Rain fell on the 12th, giving between 5 mm and 10 mm in many places, except for the most eastern counties. On the 22nd some places in the west and south, especially the Welsh hills, had considerable amounts of rain. Many parts of England and Wales had rain during the night of the 27th/28th, heavy in the north and turning to snow or sleet in places in north-east England and eastern Scotland. Among heavy falls were: 133 mm at Llanymawddwy, Gwynedd, 125 mm at Moel Cynnedd and 101 mm at Lake Vyrnwy, both Powys, all on the 22nd.

Snow

Some sleet or snow showers fell during the first five days of the month. On the 6th many parts had snow showers during the day, especially in the east: Anvil Green, Kent reported 6 cm of snow

lying. Snow showers over the North Downs overnight gave a cover in most areas by the morning of the 7th; later that day up to 14 cm of level snow lay in some places. During the following night falls of snow over England and Wales, heavy at times, gave up to 20 cm in places as far apart as Essex, mid Wales and Yorkshire. Depths were very variable, however, with 47 cm at Wilsden, West Yorkshire, 35 cm at Pencelli, Powys and 20 cm at St. James's Park, central London, probably the greatest depth in London since the end of December 1962. On the 9th some areas had heavy snowfall; some notable depths included 51 cm at Wilsden, 35 cm at Pencelli and 30 cm at Honington Suffolk; over the next few days snow depths included 45 cm at Fylingdales, North Yorkshire on the 12th, 46 cm at Long Framlington, Northumberland on the 13th, and 15 cm at East Hoathly, East Sussex on the 14th.

Sunshine

Monthly sunshine amounts were generally above average in western areas and below average on eastern coasts, ranging from 142% at Tiree, Strathclyde to 62% at Boulmer, Northumberland.

Most sunshine in a day was 9.4 hours at Brawdy, Dyfed on the 17th, and the most sunshine during the month was 117 hours at Bude, Cornwall.

Fog

Some overnight fog formed on the 1st over southern England. On the 2nd it remained foggy for much of the day over north-east England and fog formed over other parts of England and Wales during the evening. On the 3rd England and Wales had fog patches, some dense and freezing. Overnight fog formed early on the 18th, clearing around midday in most places, to give a sunny afternoon generally, although persisting in some places until mid afternoon. On the 19th and 20th the south and east remained foggy. Early on the 25th there was widespread fog in central and southern areas.

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	11.4	−12.1	−0.5	−0.5	−0.5	−0.9	−1	62	89
1 Scotland E	12.6	−13.8	−0.9	−0.3	−0.6	−0.3	0	126	85
2 England E & NE	14.5	−10.6	−1.3	−0.9	−1.1	−0.4	+1	154	77
3 East Anglia	14.7	−12.6	−2.1	−2.5	−2.2	−0.8	−1	94	73
4 Midland Counties	14.8	−11.7	−1.4	−2.3	−1.9	−0.8	−1	79	97
5 England SE & Central S	13.5	−10.3	−2.1	−2.6	−2.4	−1.2	−1	72	91
6 Scotland W	12.5	−14.8	−0.8	−1.5	−1.1	−0.7	−2	89	107
7 England NW & Wales N	14.2	−7.5	−1.1	−1.8	−1.5	−1.0	−1	110	103
8 England SW & Wales S	13.6	−13.5	−1.5	−2.3	−2.1	−1.7	−2	86	121
N Ireland	14.1	−7.0	−0.8	−1.3	−1.0	−1.0	−1	73	85
Scotland	12.6	−14.8	−0.7	−0.8	−0.7	−0.6	−1	86	94
England & Wales	14.8	−13.5	−1.6	−2.1	−1.9	−1.0	−1	98	94

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations