

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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February 1967 — *Dry at first; unsettled and stormy after mid-month*

The first half of the month was mainly anticyclonic, pressure being high to the south of the British Isles on the 1st-6th, to the west on the 7th-10th and to the east on the 11th-15th. Weather during the second half of the month was mainly cyclonic in character.

The month began with two mild, rather wet days as troughs from the Atlantic crossed the country in a westerly airstream. Gales in many northern districts on the 3rd were associated with a small but deepening depression moving eastwards near the Shetlands. Pressure rose rapidly behind the depression and during the next two days an anticyclone from the Azores became quasi-stationary off south-west England and weather became generally sunny and dry though somewhat cooler in the north-westerly airstream. Overnight fog, locally thick, persisted in parts of south-east England throughout the 6th, but a trough of low pressure moving southwards over the country brought cloudier weather with occasional slight rain to the north and Midlands. Behind the trough an anticyclone became established over western districts until the 10th, maintaining generally dry weather apart from some slight rain in Scotland.

The anticyclone moved to southern Scandinavia on the 11th, and from then until the 14th a south-easterly airstream originating in central Russia brought colder weather to all districts. Fog and air frost were fairly widespread around dawn each morning, but the fog soon cleared giving generally sunny days; there were, however, snow showers on the 14th which persisted throughout the night in northern districts.

The weather pattern changed on the 15th as the Scandinavian anticyclone moved away eastwards allowing troughs and depressions to bring rain to south-west England; this rain was more or less continuous throughout the 17th being maintained by a small depression which formed off Cornwall and then moved south-eastwards into France. There were also snow showers in parts of the Midlands and southern England; snow lay locally 6 cm deep on Salisbury Plain.

During the remainder of the month a succession of depressions from the Atlantic brought generally mild, unsettled and often stormy weather to the British Isles accompanied by heavy rain at times and occasional thunder. Widespread gales and thundery showers on the 19th were associated with a deep but slow-moving depression off the west of Scotland. The latter part of the 22nd and the 23rd were particularly stormy with heavy rain at times; many places had more than 25 mm of rain during this period as a deepening depression moved eastward across northern England. On the 23rd sunny periods in parts of the Midlands and north-west England were broken by squally snow showers.

On the 24th and 25th a large and deepening depression slowly approached north-west Scotland and weather became cloudy but somewhat milder; scattered showers on the 25th were associated with a trough of low pressure moving slowly eastwards across the country. The depression moved northwards towards Iceland the next day but was quickly replaced by another which brought widespread rain and gales on the 27th as it approached northern Scotland; about 70 mm of rain were recorded in parts of the Lake District that day and wind reached 73 kt in gusts at places as far apart as the Lizard and Benbecula. Behind the depression weather on the last day of the month was cooler with thundery showers, which were of snow in Scotland, and good sunny periods.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was below the 1931-60 average everywhere, the deficit at 09 hr ranging from -6.2 mb at Benbecula and Stornoway to -0.3 mb at Thorney Island. Surface winds were mainly south-westerly during the first week and the last ten days. After a few days of northerly winds beginning on the 7th, a period of south-easterlies was preceded on the 11th and followed on the 17th by light variable winds. Gusts of 79 kt and 77 kt were recorded at Scilly and Portland Bill respectively on the 19th.

Temperature — Temperature was slightly below the average in northern and western Scotland but above average in all parts of England and Wales being as much as 1.8°C above normal in east and south-east

England. Day temperatures were mainly above average during the first week and last 10 days of the month. The coldest days were around mid-month.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 15.2°C at Yeovilton on the 20th, -6.7°C at Lacock on the 5th; (Scotland) 13.3°C at Mertoun on the 2nd, -7.8°C at Balmoral on the 13th; (Northern Ireland) 13.3°C at Tollymore Park and Reagh Island on the 1st, -6.1 at Lisnafillan on the 18th.

Rainfall — In Scotland rainfall was mostly above the average, only the north-east, a small part of Fife and Angus and a narrow strip near the west coast recording a deficit. While parts of Moray and Banff had less than half, some places in the upper Tweed Catchment had twice their average. In England and Wales rainfall was generally above the average except in the extreme east of Kent, at the mouth of the Thames Estuary, over the eastern part of East Anglia, around the Wash and also over much of North Wales, parts of Lancashire, the West Riding of Yorkshire and Derbyshire. It was more than twice the average in parts of Montgomery and Gloucestershire and on the borders of Westmorland and Cumberland.

Snow and sleet showers were observed in Scotland on 13 days mainly during the second half of the month. In England and Wales snow was observed on the 1st, 13th-23rd, 25th, 27th and 28th (15 days) and ground was snow-covered 3-6 cm deep in parts of South-east England on the 17th and 18th.

Thunder was heard in Scotland on 7 days, thunderstorms being widespread on the 27th and 28th in Scotland, on the 19th in eastern and southern England, and on the 28th in South-east England.

Sunshine — Sunshine was around and above average in north-east, south-east and parts of Central Scotland, but there were deficits of up to 20 hours over parts of Perthshire and Argyll. In England and Wales it was everywhere above the average being about 25 per cent above in the Midlands and south-east England. Percentages ranged from 162 at London Weather Centre to 91 at Newport, Salop.

Fog — Fog at 09h was reported at one place or another in Scotland on 9 days, and in England and Wales on the 1st-13th, 15th-18th, 22nd and 27th (19 days); it persisted in parts of south-east England throughout the 6th and in parts of Lancashire and Cheshire for most of the 8th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was observed in Scotland on six nights and it was seen as far south as Leeming on the night of the 8th/9th.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES, FEBRUARY, 1967

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE °C					EARTH TEMP. °C		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUNSHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 30 cm.	Mean 122 cm.			
0 SCOTLAND, N.	11.1	-1.7	+1.3	+1.9	+1.6	-	-	0	125	86
1 SCOTLAND, E.	12.2	-2.2	+1.2	+1.9	+1.5	-	-	+1	120	107
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	13.3	-3.7	+1.5	+1.7	+1.6	+1.1	+0.3	-2	121	117
3 ENGLAND, E.	13.3	-2.8	+1.8	+1.8	+1.8	+1.5	+0.6	-1	102	120
4 MIDLANDS	13.3	-4.4	+2.0	+1.3	+1.6	+1.3	+0.8	-1	140	124
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	13.3	-5.0	+1.9	+1.6	+1.8	+1.2	+0.9	0	136	124
6 SCOTLAND, W.	12.1	-6.2	+1.0	+1.6	+1.3	+1.4	+0.5	+1	131	94
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	14.4	-4.5	+1.4	+1.6	+1.5	+1.5	+0.9	+1	128	115
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	13.9	-3.3	+1.3	+1.0	+1.2	+1.3	+0.8	0	173	114
N. IRELAND	12.8	-2.9	+1.0	+0.9	+0.9	-	-	0	113	113
SCOTLAND	-	-	+1.2	+1.8	+1.5	-	-	+1	135	96
ENG. and WALES	-	-	+1.7	+1.5	+1.6	-	-	-3	133	119

*Highest Max. and Lowest Min. of the District Value Stations.