

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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Unsettled early and late; hot and sunny in between

The month began with an anticyclone in mid Atlantic and a complex low pressure area from Scandinavia to Spain. During the first week a series of shallow depressions and their associated fronts crossed the British Isles from north to south. On the 7th a transient ridge of high pressure covered most of the British Isles while on the 8th the complex area of low pressure covering most of western Europe moved slowly away. From the 9th to 11th pressure rose to the east of the United Kingdom while weak fronts associated with an Atlantic depression moved north-eastwards across the British Isles. An anticyclone over Scandinavia extended a ridge southwards on the 12th and, after the passage eastwards of a cold front on the 13th and 14th, high pressure became established over much of the United Kingdom. By the 21st the anticyclone had transferred to mid Atlantic, allowing a small depression to slip southwards along the east coast on the 21st/22nd, affecting parts of East Anglia and Kent. Pressure remained high in the south while weak frontal systems affected northern areas of the United Kingdom, but by the 25th a depression and its more active fronts approached northern Scotland. During the rest of the month a series of areas of low pressure crossed all parts of the British Isles.

Weather

The first eight days of the month were dominated by cool showery weather, with outbreaks of thunder somewhere every day. On the 5th and 6th, thundery showers became widespread and prolonged in some areas, particularly in a belt from Merseyside to south-east England; in the Gillingham area of Kent hailstones lay to a depth of several centimetres, bringing traffic to a halt. The Surrey Fire Brigade were called out to floods, and a mother and her young child were taken to hospital after the roof of their house collapsed when it was struck by lightning. The weather was warmer and predominantly dry from the 9th to 12th. On the 13th heavy, thundery rain came to much of northern England and north-west Wales, with scattered outbreaks of rain in other western areas. All areas again became dry on the 14th. Apart from some showers and thunderstorms overnight on the 21st/22nd in parts of East Anglia and Kent, it remained mainly dry until the 24th when rain moved southwards from Scotland replacing dry weather which had in some places lasted 18 days; rain was particularly heavy and prolonged over North Wales and northern England and there were showers in many places elsewhere, accompanied by thunderstorms in eastern England.

Wind

The month was generally very quiet, although winds were fresh or strong in places, mainly in the west, on the 11th, 25th, and 28th. The strongest mean wind measured at a low-level station during the month was 33 kn at Shoreham-by-Sea, East Sussex on the 28th, with a gust to 44 kn; Fleetwood, Lancashire had a gust to 45 kn on the same day. However, the strongest gust at a low-level station during the month was 52 kn at Charter Hall, Borders Region on the 25th. Wind directions were variable on 15 days, otherwise they were mainly southerly or westerly.

Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were generally just above normal in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but slightly below normal in Scotland, ranging from about 1 °C above normal in places in southern England to nearly 1 °C below normal in the Western Isles.

From the 15th to 19th temperatures over a large area rose above 25 °C, reaching a peak of 30 °C in a number of places on the 20th before cooler air spread down from the north-west. Halesowen, West Midlands had the highest June maximum since 1976 with 29.7 °C on the 20th which was the second warmest June day since at least 1956; in contrast the 2nd was the coldest June night since 1962, with a temperature of 0.1 °C. Night minima were as high as 19 °C in parts of the West Country and Wales on the 13th. The highest temperature of the month was 30.6 °C at North Heath, West Sussex on the 20th. The lowest temperature recorded was -4.0 °C at Kinbrace, Highland Region on the 3rd.

Rainfall

Monthly rainfall amounts were generally below or near normal; however, parts of southern Scotland and northern and eastern England had higher than average values. The most rain fell at Blackpool, Lancashire with nearly twice the normal rainfall, compared with Exeter, Devon where only a third of the normal rain fell.

On the 27th the Liverpool area had falls of rain greater than 40 mm; heavy falls included 60 mm at Preston, 53 mm at Aughton, and 51 mm at Lathom Park, all in Lancashire. Further quite heavy rain fell on the 29th in several areas, and on the 30th 20 mm to 30 mm fell over most of a belt from North Wales and Lancashire to Humberside, Lincolnshire and Norfolk, most falling again on Merseyside, including a heavy fall of 53 mm at Crosby, Merseyside. Among other heavy falls was 56 mm at Broadford, Western Isles on the 24th; large amounts of 46 mm and 45 mm were

measured at Machynlleth, Powys and Nantmor, Gwynedd respectively on the 30th.

Sunshine

Monthly sunshine totals were above normal nearly everywhere, although in parts of the Scottish Highlands and the Western Isles it was rather dull, and amounts varied from as much as 139 per cent at Leeming, North Yorkshire to 89 per cent at Stornoway, Western Isles.

At Halesowen, June was the sunniest since 1976 with 258 hours of bright sunshine. Wingerworth, Derbyshire reported the sunniest June on record at the station, 53 hours higher than the mean for the month. Jersey, St Helier had the highest sunshine total, with 339 hours; the highest on the mainland was Eastbourne, East Sussex with 308 hours. The most sunshine in a day was 16.5 hours at Lerwick, Shetland.

Fog

On the 6th and 9th there was fog, some thick for a time, around dawn in eastern England. Early on the 11th fog patches formed over southern England, and on the 14th fog affected several northern and western areas, particularly near coasts. Conditions were favourable mainly in East Anglia for the formation of patchy fog on several other nights, notably the 15th, 19th, 20th, 23rd and 25th. Southern England had more extensive fog on the 30th. Coastal fog occurred on the 11th and 29th in the south-west and South Wales and on the 13th in the west and north; on the 19th and 20th there was sea fog at times in the far north, becoming more persistent across northern Scotland and Orkney and Shetland on the 20th. On the 9th there was some hill fog over the Scottish Highlands, on the 11th in western and northern areas and on the 29th and 30th in south-west England.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

On the 6th a tornado was reported near Brightlingsea, Essex.

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 | | | |
| 0 Scotland N | 27.6 | -0.5 | +0.2 | -0.6 | -0.2 | +0.3 | -1 | 81 | 111 |
| 1 Scotland E | 27.8 | -0.5 | +0.3 | -0.3 | 0.0 | +0.7 | -3 | 77 | 109 |
| 2 England E & NE | 29.7 | -1.3 | +0.9 | -0.4 | +0.3 | +0.9 | -2 | 104 | 125 |
| 3 East Anglia | 28.5 | 0.4 | +0.9 | -0.5 | +0.2 | +0.4 | +1 | 107 | 123 |
| 4 Midland Counties | 30.1 | -0.6 | +1.3 | -0.4 | +0.4 | +0.9 | -2 | 89 | 119 |
| 5 England SE & Central S | 30.2 | 1.8 | +1.3 | +0.2 | +0.7 | +0.8 | -1 | 69 | 120 |
| 6 Scotland W | 28.0 | -2.4 | +0.1 | -0.7 | -0.3 | +0.8 | -1 | 87 | 110 |
| 7 England NW & Wales N | 28.9 | -0.2 | +0.6 | 0.0 | +0.1 | +1.1 | -1 | 101 | 117 |
| 8 England SW & Wales S | 29.3 | 0.4 | +1.0 | +0.1 | +0.5 | +1.2 | -2 | 67 | 117 |
| N Ireland | 30.0 | -0.3 | +0.4 | 0.0 | +0.2 | +0.3 | -2 | 80 | 113 |
| Scotland | 28.0 | -2.4 | +0.2 | -0.5 | -0.2 | +0.6 | -2 | 84 | 110 |
| England & Wales | 30.2 | -1.3 | +1.0 | -0.2 | +0.4 | +0.9 | -1 | 88 | 120 |

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations