

Monthly Weather Report

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October 1967 — *Very wet generally with stormy periods*

Weather was mainly cyclonic in character throughout the month.

Troughs associated with a complex low pressure area to the north of the British Isles, moving eastwards across the country, brought stormy weather and heavy rain to most districts during the first three days of the month. Portland Bill recorded a gust of 72 kt on the 3rd as a depression crossed northern districts to the North Sea. The 4th and 5th were mainly dry days, although there were scattered showers on the 4th in the northerly airstream behind the depression, and further rain from the Atlantic reached south-west England during the evening of the 5th.

An anticyclone centred off the coast of Portugal drifted north-eastwards to France during the next few days. Temperatures, which had been below average, rose considerably on the 6th, as south-westerly winds from low latitudes spread over the British Isles. The nights were particularly mild and that of the 8th/9th was the mildest October night in central London for 6 years. Although rainfall was mainly slight in southern England, disturbances moving around the northern flank of the anticyclone brought rain, heavy at times, to Scotland and northern England. Unusually heavy falls on the 8th and 9th led to widespread flooding in south-west Scotland and the Lake District; Great Langdale (Westmorland) recorded 146 mm in 24 hours. North Wales suffered considerable flood damage on the 10th as a shallow wave disturbance moved from southern Ireland to the North Sea.

The mild spell came to an end on the 11th as the anticyclone over western Europe moved away eastwards and cooler westerly winds, associated with a deep depression near Iceland, brought temperatures near to the normal and rain to all areas of the British Isles. The rain continued in south-east England throughout the 12th, but many parts of the country had long sunny periods on both the 12th and the 13th.

Generally wet weather, with gales in the west, returned to all areas on the 14th as a deep depression from the Atlantic skirted the coast of north-west Scotland. This depression deepened still further as it turned north-eastwards on the 15th and moved up the Norwegian coast; winds became north-westerly in Scotland and temperature fell sharply. Another depression moving from the south-west across the Midlands made the 16th the stormiest day of the month in England and Wales. The day's rainfall exceeded 50 mm in many parts of the Midlands and 85 mm fell at Llwynon (Brecknock). There was widespread flooding in the Midlands. Gales were severe in places and continued on the 17th from a north-westerly direction behind the depression. Thundery showers spread to all districts in this cold north-westerly airstream, and snow was reported as far south as Ringway (Manchester).

The 18th was a cold, dry and sunny day as a ridge of high pressure moved eastwards across the country but south-westerly winds, associated with a depression off western Scotland, brought milder weather on the 19th. Rain in most areas on the 19th and 20th continued in south-east England on the 21st due to minor disturbances on the trough of the main depression. The next three days were mainly dry in the Midlands and southern England, although weather continued unsettled in the north.

The remainder of the month was very changeable with frequent strong to gale force winds. A deep depression moving eastwards between Scotland and Iceland brought widespread rain on the 25th and showers on the 26th. Stormy weather returned on the 27th as a deepening depression moved quickly from the Irish Sea across northern England. Rain was prolonged and often heavy and there were thunderstorms in south-east England and severe gales in the English Channel. A showery northerly airstream behind the depression reduced temperatures below average on the 28th and 29th. The 30th was quieter and sunny in the south, but rain which reached all districts late in the day continued for most of the 31st as a depression from the Atlantic moved south-eastwards across the Midlands.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was well below the 1931-60 average everywhere, the deficit ranging from 15.1 mb at Lerwick to

5.9 mb at Thorney Island. Surface winds were predominantly between west and south-west apart from north-westerlies on the 4th, 5th, 15th-17th and during the last week of the month. Gales were widespread on the 16th and 17th in England and Wales and on the 25th and 26th in Scotland; they occurred on 11 days at St. Catherines Pt, Isle of Wight, mainly during the second half of the month. A gust of 82 kt was reported from Portland Bill on the 27th.

Temperature — Mean temperatures were above the 1931-60 average in England and Wales, mainly because of mild nights, but they were below average in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The coolest periods were around the middle of the month and during the last week.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 21.1°C at Southampton on the 8th, -2.8°C at Moor House on the 18th; (Scotland) 18.9°C at Dunbar on the 9th, -7.2°C at Cairngorm on the 18th; (Northern Ireland) 18.9°C at Tollymore Park on the 8th, -0.6°C at several places on the 16th and 18th.

Rainfall — Except for October 1960, this was the wettest October over England and Wales since 1903. Rainfall was more than the 1916-50 average over most parts of the United Kingdom except for a narrow strip in Scotland from east Angus to Dornoch Firth. It was more than twice the average over many western and southern districts of Scotland, parts of north-west England, most of Wales and parts of Devonshire, Gloucestershire and Hampshire.

Thunderstorms were widespread in Scotland on the 2nd and 25th in northern England on the 17th and in southern England on the 27th and 28th.

Snow or sleet (rain or drizzle and snow) fell on the higher ground in the north from the 17th to the 20th; snow lay 5 cm deep at Moor House (Westmorland) on the 17th.

Sunshine — In Scotland sunshine was generally above the average except in the Inner Hebrides and the western areas of the mainland north of the Clyde. In England and Wales sunshine was mainly below average apart from the north Midlands and north-east England, where it was above average, percentages ranged from 142 at Huddersfield to 69 at Cardiff.

Fog — Fog at 0900 GMT was infrequent; it occurred locally on 4 days in Scotland and was fairly widespread in southern England on the 8th and 22nd.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was seen in Scotland on 4 nights.

TABLE 1—DISTRICT VALUES, OCTOBER, 1967

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE °C					EARTH TEMP. °C		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUNSHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 30 cm.	Mean 12½ cm.			
			Difference from Average					% of Average		
0 SCOTLAND, N.	14.7	-0.5	-0.7	-0.8	-0.8	-0.5	+0.2	+5	143	107
1 SCOTLAND, E.	17.8	-1.1	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	+0.1	0.0	+3	121	123
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	19.4	1.1	+0.3	+0.5	+0.4	+0.7	+0.5	+3	145	117
3 ENGLAND, E.	20.6	0.6	+0.3	+1.4	+0.9	+0.9	+0.4	+5	179	99
4 MIDLANDS	19.4	1.1	+0.1	+1.5	+0.9	+1.0	+0.5	+8	188	111
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	20.5	0.0	+0.4	+1.7	+1.1	+0.8	+0.3	+6	167	92
6 SCOTLAND, W.	16.6	-2.5	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	+0.3	+0.1	+6	174	116
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	17.2	1.7	-0.3	+1.0	+0.4	+0.9	+0.6	+7	189	100
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	19.4	1.7	-0.3	+0.8	+0.3	+0.5	+0.3	+9	191	83
N. IRELAND	18.1	-0.6	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-	-	+7	143	106
SCOTLAND	17.8	-2.5	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-	-	+5	145	115
ENG. and WALES	20.6	0.0	+0.1	+1.1	+0.7	-	-	+6	178	100

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