

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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Unsettled, cool at first; then generally warm, dry and sunny

During the first three days pressure was low over northern parts of the United Kingdom and high over southern areas. Later on the 3rd a series of fronts moved steadily eastwards across all areas clearing eastern England later on the 4th, while the centre of low pressure crossed northern England to the North Sea early on the 5th. A transient ridge of high pressure crossed most areas on the 6th, followed later by a frontal system which crossed all areas during the next two days, finally clearing eastern areas early on the 9th, while a ridge of high pressure progressively extended across southern and western areas. On the 11th an anticyclone was centred over the western English Channel, while a trailing cold front lay across northern England. By midday on the 12th the front was edging northwards as a warm front across Northern Ireland, whilst edging southwards as a weak cold front over England and Wales. Later, the warm front remained slow moving over Northern Ireland while the cold front became detached and moved away eastwards. On the 13th, while the remains of the warm front affected mainly western parts of Scotland, other areas were influenced by an anticyclone centred over the North Sea; early on the 14th the warm front moved away northwards, leaving the anticyclone dominant for the rest of the month in south-eastern areas. However, frontal systems crossed western and northern areas from time to time. During the 27th fronts associated with a wave depression over the Celtic Sea crossed all parts of the United Kingdom, clearing eastern England by the 28th. On the 29th the frontal system of a deepening Atlantic depression moved across western parts of the United Kingdom. The cold front weakened as it advanced into the high pressure area and became slow moving along the English Channel, finally dissipating during the morning of the 31st.

Weather

The month began with a period of somewhat unsettled weather in northern areas, but more settled weather in southern areas. Early on the 5th an unstable north-westerly airstream covered all areas, with strong winds and some rain in most areas during the day; amounts were mainly light. Rain fell in many places from the Midlands northwards on the 15th, but it became warm and sunny on the 16th, and southern areas remained so for the rest of the month. However, western and northern areas of Scotland had very small amounts of rain on the 18th, and on the 19th there was a little light rain or showers in western areas. On the 27th it became unsettled in most areas although remaining warm. The month was remarkable for the infrequency of thunder, although some outbreaks occurred, on the 1st and 2nd, sometimes with hail in places, on the 15th in north-west England and Wales, and over eastern England and East Anglia on the 15th and 16th. Further scattered outbreaks occurred from the 27th to 30th.

Wind

It was another quiet month apart from one or two fresh windy days. Winds reached gale force on the 5th at Shoreham-by-Sea, East Sussex and at Forth Road Bridge and Leith Harbour, both Lothian

Region on the 9th. Highest gusts measured at low-level stations were 54 kn at Gwennap Head, Cornwall, 53 kn at Shoreham-by-Sea, and 50 kn at Camborne, Cornwall, all on the 5th. Wind directions were westerly until the 11th, variable or easterly until the 27th and southerly thereafter.

Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were above normal everywhere except for one or two locations in the south-east, and ranged from 1.7 °C above normal at places in western Wales to 0.1 °C below normal at Folkestone, Kent. After a cool start to the month, especially in the west and north, where temperatures only reached 14 °C or less, it became warmer on the 7th and on the 8th the temperature at Heathrow, Greater London reached 26.8 °C. It became hot in the south by the 11th, and more generally by the 14th, and on every day from the 11th to 31st 26 °C was reached somewhere in the United Kingdom. Temperatures reached 31 °C in one or two places in the south on the 15th and up to 33 °C over a large area of central and southern England on the 21st. The highest temperature during the month was 33.3 °C at St Helier, Jersey on the 21st and the lowest was -0.5 °C at Grendon Underwood, Buckinghamshire on the 3rd.

Rainfall

Monthly rainfall amounts were below normal in all areas except the far north-west of Scotland, the Isle of Man, and parts of Cornwall, ranging from more than 150% of normal at Stornoway, Western Isles to as little as 8% of normal at Eastbourne, East Sussex.

July was generally dry in England and Wales, many places having no significant rain from the 8th to 26th. Several places had no significant rain from the 7th for the rest of the month, including Odiham and Farnborough, Hampshire, Easthampstead, Berkshire and Charing, Kent. Heavy rain fell on the 3rd, 4th, 7th, 8th and 29th in western areas. A fall of 61 mm in 24 hours was measured at

Princetown, Devon on the 29th. Other large amounts included 49 mm at Grizedale, Cumbria, 40 mm at Widdybank Fell, Co. Durham and Slaidburn, Lancashire on the 4th and 46 mm at Dunstaffnage and 40 mm at Aros, both Strathclyde Region, on the 8th.

Sunshine

Monthly sunshine amounts were above average everywhere and ranged from 168% at Aldergrove, Co. Antrim to 107% at Lerwick, Shetland.

The 2nd and 3rd were very sunny days in most places. The highest monthly sunshine total was 334.4 hours at Bastreet, Cornwall and the most daily sunshine was 16.3 hours at Stornoway, Western Isles on the 23rd.

Fog

Fog formed overnight in many areas on the 17th, clearing from most places in the morning. There were some patches in western areas, especially near coasts on the 16th, and in many areas on the 17th and 25th; on the 31st a few patches formed around dawn. Coastal fog occurred in south-west England and South Wales on the 6th and 7th, clearing on the 8th. Coastal fog patches persisted along the west coast of Wales on the 16th. Further fog occurred on coasts around Shetland and north-east England on the 18th, and on western coasts on the 20th. There was patchy hill and coastal fog in eastern areas of Scotland on the 19th and north-eastern England on the 21st; isolated patches of fog in the English Channel drifted on to exposed coasts on the 31st. Some hill fog occurred in the Southern Uplands on the 3rd, in north-west England on the 12th, in eastern England and East Anglia on the 15th, northern Scotland on the 23rd, and on the southern Pennines on the 21st and 27th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

On the 27th Cavendish, Suffolk reported a deposit of Saharan dust after rain.

Table 1 District values

District	Air temperature °C					Mean 30 cm soil temp°C	Rain- days	Rainfall	Sun- shin
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	Max.	Min.	Mean				
			Difference from average					% of average	
0 Scotland N	28.8	0.0	+1.3	+0.5	+0.9	+0.5	—3	81	149
1 Scotland E	26.9	2.0	+0.7	+0.3	+0.5	+0.6	—5	49	137
2 England E & NE	29.9	1.9	+1.3	0.0	+0.6	+0.6	—5	52	139
3 East Anglia	31.2	3.3	+2.0	—0.4	+0.8	+0.4	—5	36	138
4 Midland Counties	32.4	2.7	+2.6	—0.1	+1.2	+0.5	—5	43	153
5 England SE & Central S	32.5	4.4	+2.1	—0.1	+1.0	+0.5	—5	28	141
6 Scotland W	26.1	1.1	+1.0	+0.4	+0.7	+0.9	—3	78	140
7 England NW & Wales N	29.7	3.5	+1.6	+0.5	+1.0	+0.9	—5	57	151
8 England SW & Wales S	30.5	4.7	+2.1	+0.9	+1.5	+0.8	—4	67	154
N Ireland	26.0	3.0	+1.3	+0.8	+1.1	+0.6	—3	78	165
Scotland	28.8	0.0	+1.0	+0.4	+0.7	+0.7	—4	73	142
England & Wales	32.5	1.9	+1.9	+0.1	+1.0	+0.6	—5	51	146

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations