

# Monthly Weather Report

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SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS

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### November, 1951 - Exceptionally wet and very mild.

In marked contrast to October the weather of November was exceptionally wet. In Scotland it was the wettest November in a record going back to 1869 and in England and Wales during the same period it was the wettest apart from 1940 and 1929. The month was also unusually mild.

In the opening days a depression south of Iceland moved east-south-east and became less deep, while a secondary off south-west Ireland moved north-east to the North Sea and then turned west-north-west across the north of Scotland. Rain fell generally and was heavy in places, and thunderstorms occurred locally on the 2nd and 3rd. From the 4th to the 6th secondary depressions south-westward of the British Isles moved north-east or north and then turned north-west to west; widespread south-easterly gales and heavy rain occurred on the 4th and 5th. Thereafter pressure was low off our south-west coasts: on the 7th to 9th associated troughs of low pressure moved north over the British Isles and on the 10th and 11th a secondary depression moved north-north-west from the south of France to west of the Hebrides. Rain occurred daily and the weather was very mild. A temporary improvement occurred on the 12th and 13th, though there were scattered showers and local thunderstorms on the 12th. On the 14th and 15th a trough associated with a complex, deep depression in the Atlantic moved north over the British Isles giving further rain. A period of showery weather ensued from the 16th to the 21st, with thunder in places and heavy rainfall at times. Gales were registered in the west on the 21st and 22nd. On the 24th a depression moved from the Hebrides to south Sweden and on the 25th an associated trough moved south over England and Wales; heavy rain fell in England and Wales on the 24th and some snow or sleet in Scotland on the 24th and 25th. Northerly winds of polar origin behind this depression caused a fall in temperature and in the wedge that followed widespread frost occurred. Fair sunny weather prevailed in England and Wales on the 26th. Subsequently high pressure was established to the south and south-west of the British Isles, while Icelandic depressions moved east or north-east in the far north and, although showers occurred, the very wet spell was ended over most of the country, particularly in England and Wales. Gales occurred locally at exposed stations from the 27th to the 30th, especially on the 28th.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure was considerably below the average throughout the country, the deviation from the average at 9 h. ranging from -7.5 mb. at Lerwick to -12.6 mb. at Renfrew and Eskdalemuir. At Oxford the mean pressure was the lowest for November since records began in 1881 but in November 1926 it was almost as low. Gale force was reached locally on the 4th-6th, 9th, 14th-16th, 21st-22nd, 24th and 27th-30th. The gales on the 4th, 5th and 28th were widespread. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 64 at Plymouth on the 4th, 67 at Scilly on the 21st, 63 at Stornoway on the 28th and 66 at Lerwick on the 30th.

**Temperature.**—Mean temperature exceeded the average for the period 1906-35 by 3.9°F. in England and Wales, 3.0°F. in Scotland and 2.6°F. in Northern Ireland. In England and Wales, apart from November 1938 and 1939, it was probably the mildest November since before 1901. The most widespread frost occurred on the 26th, but in Scotland appreciable frost occurred locally also on the 23rd and 25th. At certain stations temperature in the screen did not fall

below 32°F. throughout the month; at Nairn this has not occurred previously in November since before 1901, while at Kew Observatory the lowest minimum, namely 33°F. is the highest for November apart from that registered in 1946 during the same period.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 62°F. at Southampton on the 7th, 23°F. at Kielder Castle on the 26th; (Scotland) 60°F. Kirkcaldy on the 17th, 21°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 23rd; (Northern Ireland) 58°F. At Castle Archdale on the 10th, 28°F. at Armagh on the 7th.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 207 in England and Wales, 167 in Scotland and 160 in Northern Ireland. The heavy rainfall caused severe flooding in many parts of the country. Less than the average occurred only at a few places in Skye, Inverness-shire and Wester Ross. Elsewhere in Scotland more than twice the average was registered in the east from Banff to the Firth of Forth and in the neighbourhood of the Solway Firth and the Border Counties, while more than 250 per cent. was received in a coastal strip from Aberdeen to Fife. In England and Wales more than 250 per cent. of the average occurred over much of a central area extending from the Isle of Wight to Cheshire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, while more than 300 per cent. was registered locally in South Wiltshire and at Edgbaston, Birmingham. In Northern Ireland the rainfall ranged from less than 125 per cent. in the extreme west to more than 175 per cent. in counties Down, Armagh and South Antrim. Rain also occurred frequently, measurable rain being recorded on nearly every day in some places in the west and north.

Among the heaviest falls in 24 hours were:—

- 4th 4.39 in. Ardconaig Manse, Loch Tay, 4.06 in. at Tyndrum, Perthshire, 3.71 in. at Ardkinglas, Loch Fyne, 3.65 in. at Stronvar, Balquhidder, 3.59 in. at Thirlmere, Cumberland and 2.95 in. at Crickhowell, Brecon.
- 5th 3.55 in. at Aitnach, Aberdeenshire and 3.04 in. at Danby, Yorkshire.
- 8th 2.21 in. at Bwlchgwyn.
- 23rd 2.43 in. at Watendlath Farm, Cumberland.
- 24th 2.44 in. at Treherbert, Glamorgan.

Thunderstorms occurred locally on the 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 12th, 15th-19th, 21st, 25th and 27th-29th; they were somewhat widespread from the 16th to 18th. Snow or sleet showers occurred locally in Scotland, chiefly during the last 10 days. Snow lay at times on high ground in Scotland towards the end of the month; for example at Glenmore Lodge and Balmoral on the 25th, 26th and 29th and at Dalwhinnie on the 25th, 26th, 28th and 29th.

**Sunshine.**—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for 1906-35 was 97 in England and Wales, 74 in Scotland and 64 in Northern Ireland. The deficiency was substantial in the north and west of Scotland, north-west England and Northern Ireland, whereas locally in southern England and the English Midlands there was a considerable excess.

**Fog.**—Fog occurred at times mainly on the 1st, 2nd, 5th-14th and 23rd.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 13 nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 12 days.