

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

# AUGUST 1992

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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## Wet and breezy throughout. Warm at first, but autumnal to finish with

On the 1st, a cold front associated with a depression to the north-west of Scotland crossed the country, followed by another which cleared all areas on the 3rd. Fronts associated with a depression to the west of Ireland crossed the country on the 4th, although the cold front did not clear south-east England until early on the 6th. Behind this front, pressure rose over most of the country. The front returned on the 7th, associated with a thundery low over Biscay. This low continued slowly northwards during the 8th, and by the 9th had become complex, covering most of England and Wales. A weak ridge on the 10th preceded the next frontal systems. Late on the 11th the first cold front cleared the United Kingdom, but a secondary system rapidly approached the south-west. The main depression crossed Scotland during the 12th and the 13th, with further systems rotating around it. One centre crossed southern England on the 13th, whilst on the 14th an anticyclone covered all parts except the extreme north-west. Fronts crossed all areas during the 15th and 16th, and a ridge developed on the 17th. On the 18th, falling pressure allowed a front to threaten south-east England, whilst an Atlantic system affected north-west Scotland. Pressure remained high over many areas on the 19th, weakening both fronts, although the southern one became active on the 20th before moving away eastwards. With another ridge over southern districts later that day, weak Atlantic fronts made slow progress. A depression became established off north-west Ireland on the 22nd, and its fronts crossed all areas. A system crossed southern England on the 23rd and early on the 24th, with further minor depressions crossing the United Kingdom on the 25th. During the 26th, a low and its associated fronts approached south-western areas, developing into a complex system on the 27th. By the 28th, it was centred over Scotland, whilst on the 29th a deep low moved from the south-west to be centred over Ireland later that day. During the 30th, it had moved to Scotland. Its fronts had cleared the south coast by midday, but still affected Scotland. Low pressure dominated throughout the 31st.

### Weather

August was very unsettled with many wet and windy days. After a warm or hot start in southern areas, thunderstorms developed over many parts of England and Wales between the 7th and 9th. These were directly responsible for at least six deaths — two from electrocution and four from traffic accidents, mostly in central and eastern areas. Torrential rain fell in many places. It then became cooler and unsettled everywhere. Showers or longer spells of rain, often heavy and thundery, occurred somewhere on almost every day, notably over the Bank Holiday weekend (29th–31st). Everywhere was very wet and windy, leading to several serious traffic accidents. Trees were brought down in Central London, causing one of the six weather-related fatalities that weekend. Many seaside resorts (including Southsea, Sidmouth and Bridlington) were forced to close their promenades. Severe flooding occurred in many places.

### Wind

With gales or strong gusts reported widely throughout, August was in stark contrast with June and July. On the 5th and 6th, gales affected western and north-western Scotland, with gusts exceeding 50 kn at the Butt of Lewis. In the south and west there were widespread gusts over 50 kn on the 12th, and on the 22nd and 23rd there were gales with a gust of 56 kn reported at Camborne, Cornwall on the 23rd. The rest of the month was generally windy, with gusts in excess of 40 kn being reported every day in some places. The windiest day was the 30th, with gusts of 50kn or more widely reported in the south, especially along the channel coast and East Anglia. The highest reported gust on this day was 59 kn at Sheerness, Kent. During the mobile periods, wind directions were predominantly from the north-west, west or south-west. However, at other times, directions were variable.

### Temperature

Anomalies ranged from 1.2 °C below average at Braemar, Grampian Region and Ardtalnaig, Tayside Region, to 1.2 °C above average at Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire. The highest temperature was 28.9 °C at Writtle, Essex on the 1st, whilst the lowest was -1.2 °C at Eskdalemuir, Dumfries & Galloway on the 29th.

### Rainfall

The provisional general rainfall value for England and Wales of 126 mm represents 140% of average, making it the wettest August for some years. Places receiving over 150% of average were widespread, the highest percentage being at Benbecula, Western Isles (287%). Eastern areas were drier, the lowest percentage being recorded at Whitby, North Yorkshire (59%). Wick, Highland Region, recorded its wettest August for 60 years. Among heavy falls were 71 mm at Presteigne, Powys, and 63 mm at Rhandirmwyn, Dyfed — both on the 7th, and 63 mm at Kinlochewe, Highland Region,

on the 31st. There were 58 recorded daily events of 40 mm or more during the month, and undoubtedly many more unrecorded. Snow fell down to 3600 feet on Ben Nevis on the 30th.

### Sunshine

August showed a marked contrast between reasonable amounts in parts of eastern Britain, and very dull conditions in parts of the south and west. Percentages ranged from 133% of normal at Sheffield to 64% of normal at Cudrose, Cornwall. Several southern coastal resorts had their dullest August for over twenty years. The highest monthly total was 204.3 hours at Cleethorpes, Humberside, whilst the most in a day was 14.1 hours at L'Ancrese, Guernsey, on the 5th.

### Fog

Patches formed in parts of south-east England early on the 1st. On the 8th, some early fog affected the Eastern Scottish highlands, and later that day coastal fog formed in south-west England, developing extensively overnight, finally affecting most of England and Wales. Fog formed over the Lizard peninsula for a time on the 13th, and a few mist or fog patches affected sheltered areas on the 14th. On the 18th, fog formed in Galloway and in parts of the Forth–Clyde valley, and later near the Lincolnshire coast. Extensive coastal mist or fog formed over eastern England on the 19th, reforming that evening, and again the following day and night. Patchy fog formed over East Anglia and North Wales early on the 22nd. Early on the 24th, north-east England and south-west Scotland experienced fog patches.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

Dust was reported being deposited during heavy rain in Berkshire on the night of 8th/9th. Ball lightning was reported during a thunderstorm at Luton, Bedfordshire, on the 11th, and at Edinburgh on the 30th.

**Table 1 District values**

District	Air temperature °C					Mean 30 cm soil temp °C	Rain-days	Rainfall	Sunshine
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	Max.	Min.	Mean				
	Difference from average					% of average			
0 Scotland N	21.9	4.0	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4	0.0	+6	183	99
1 Scotland E	22.9	1.2	-0.6	-0.8	-0.7	+0.1	+6	163	102
2 England E & NE	26.3	0.8	0.0	+0.1	0.0	+0.2	+2	120	109
3 East Anglia	28.9	4.1	+0.5	+0.8	+0.6	+0.8	+3	127	97
4 Midland Counties	25.5	4.2	-0.5	-0.1	-0.2	+0.3	+3	158	105
5 England SE & Central S	28.5	5.5	-0.4	+1.0	+0.3	+0.7	+7	159	82
6 Scotland W	21.1	-1.2	-1.1	-0.3	-0.7	0.0	+9	202	102
7 England NW & Wales N	24.3	2.8	-1.1	0.0	-0.5	+0.1	+5	143	105
8 England SW & Wales S	26.8	5.9	-0.9	+0.3	-0.3	+0.2	+8	202	83
N Ireland	21.2	2.0	-1.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.1	+5	175	109
Scotland	22.9	-1.2	-0.7	-0.5	-0.6	0.0	+7	185	101
England & Wales	28.9	0.8	-0.4	+0.3	0.0	+0.4	+5	154	97

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations