

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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Cool everywhere, but with variable rain and sunshine

A large anticyclone was centred near Dublin on the 1st, and this drifted slowly north-westwards over the next two days, allowing a cold front to sweep southwards across Britain on the 3rd. The high then drifted back across Scotland and northern England on the 4th and 5th, before eventually moving into central Europe as it decayed. An intense depression approached from the south-west on the 6th to become slow-moving in the southern Irish Sea on the 8th, while its associated fronts moved northwards across all parts except central and northern Scotland.

On the 9th, 10th and 11th the now complex low and its fronts moved north into Scotland, whilst a small depression moved east along the 50th parallel. An even more intense depression approached south-west England on the 12th, with active fronts moving into southern Britain. Whilst an occlusion moved north towards southern Scotland on the 13th, the low itself drifted slowly east across the Channel Islands and Normandy, moving off into the Netherlands on the 14th. Another less intense depression followed a very similar track on the 15th and 16th, after which on the 17th a ridge of high pressure extended down over Britain from an anticyclone in the Arctic. Over the next few days this moved east into Denmark and Poland, a large depression from the Atlantic became almost stationary to the west of Ireland, and a waving cold front became slow-moving over western Britain.

On the 21st, as the low moved to the north of Scotland, the front finally cleared away eastwards to leave the whole country on the 22nd and 23rd under a very weak ridge of high pressure. On the 24th the ridge persisted over England, but a cold front moved across Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. On the 25th, 26th and 27th, pressure was generally low over the Low Countries and Germany, whilst a weak ridge from the Azores high persisted over Northern Ireland and Scotland. On the 28th the low over the southern North Sea moved slowly westwards but filled, whilst a complex of fronts moved into Northern Ireland and south-west England. On the 29th a depression developed near Brest and moved north-westwards to cross Ireland on the 30th.

Weather

Apart from outbreaks of light rain or drizzle over parts of Scotland and northern England, the first two days of the month were dry everywhere. On the 3rd there were scattered light showers, especially in the eastern half of England, but on the 4th these were restricted to East Anglia and died out completely early on the 5th. The next day was dry everywhere, but the 7th saw outbreaks of locally quite heavy rain spread north-eastwards from Cornwall into much of England and Wales, with many thunderstorms developing in south-east England in the evening. On the 8th

showers or outbreaks of rain were more widespread, with only the northern half of Scotland and the extreme south-east of England escaping, and thunderstorms developed extensively in the Midlands, Wales and parts of southern Scotland, but over the next few days the showers gradually faded away except over parts of Scotland.

On the 12th rain, prolonged in places, spread north-eastwards across all of southern Britain, and this rain moved into northern England and the Borders during the early hours of the 13th while the rain further south became more showery. The rain was very heavy in places, especially over the Pennines, the Peak District, East Anglia and the Isle of Wight, with scattered thunderstorms. There were further outbreaks of rain on the 14th, except in parts of Scotland and in southern England, and it was persistent east of the Pennines; on the 15th the rain returned to southern England before retreating slowly to East Anglia on the 16th. The next two days were largely dry, except for isolated light showers in widely separated parts of Britain, but on the 19th rain spread across Northern Ireland and Scotland, and later to Wales and western parts of England.

On the 20th the more continuous rain moved south-eastwards across England and Wales, to be replaced by scattered showers which spread further on the 21st with isolated thunderstorms in north-west England. On the 22nd there was widespread fog early and late in England and Wales, with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms developing in England in the afternoon. Fog was the main feature in many parts of the country for the next two nights, with further outbreaks of rain spreading into northern and western parts on the 24th. There was a little rain in places on the 25th, and some quite persistent heavy rain in East Anglia and in Kent on the 26th; this rain extended further west, north and south in England on the 27th. On the last three days of the month there were outbreaks of locally heavy rain in many parts, particularly in the south-west of England on the 28th and 29th, and in the Midlands and the north on the 29th, but becoming more showery generally on the 30th.

Wind

At low levels, gales were recorded on the 12th on the coasts of Essex, Kent, Devon and Cornwall, on the 13th at Gorleston, Norfolk, on the 19th at Killough, Down, and on the 30th at Langdon Bay, Kent. Generally the 12th and 13th were the windiest days of the month. The highest gust reported was 79 knots at Great Dun Fell, Cumbria on the 13th, whilst a gust of 59 knots on the 12th was the highest reported at low levels.

Temperature

Monthly mean temperatures were below average almost everywhere, ranging from 2.8 °C below normal at Preston Montford, Shropshire and 1.7 °C below in places in south-eastern and central southern England, to around average in the Western Isles. The highest temperature reported during the month was 27.2 °C on the 1st at Great Malvern, Hereford & Worcester, and the lowest was -4.8 °C on the 28th at Carnwath, Strathclyde.

Rainfall

The month was dry in northern and western Scotland, but was markedly wetter than average in most of the south-eastern half of England and Wales. Monthly totals ranged from less than 20% of average at Kinlochewe and Diabaig, both in Highland Region, to almost 300% of average at Coltishall, Norfolk and in the Isles of Scilly. The highest reported daily rainfall was 76 mm on the 9th at Carnmoney, Londonderry; the highest daily fall in England and Wales was 75 mm on the 13th at Fylingdales, North Yorkshire, and in Scotland it was 59 mm on the 19th at Bargrennan, Dumfries & Galloway.

Snow

There were no confirmed reports of sleet or snow anywhere in the United Kingdom.

Sunshine

It was sunnier than average in parts of Scotland and in south-west England and south Wales, but was rather dull elsewhere. Monthly totals ranged from 146% of average at Kinlochewe, Highland Region, to only 50% of average at Preston Montford, Shropshire. The highest daily total of the month was 12.7 hours on the 1st at both Teignmouth and Torquay in Devon, and in the Isles of Scilly; the highest monthly total was 180.6 hours at Guernsey Airport.

Fog

Patchy fog formed around dawn in northern and western parts on the 1st, and again in parts of Wales and the Midlands on the 7th. There were some short-lived fog patches in southern England on the 15th, and in northern Scotland and the Midlands on the 18th. Fog, dense in places, became extensive by dawn over much of England and Wales, southern Scotland and Northern Ireland on the 22nd and 23rd, and over England and Wales on the 24th, but cleared slowly each morning.

Miscellaneous phenomena

Several small tornadoes were reported during the month, in particular, one in Lewes, East Sussex on the 11th and one at Portland Bill, Dorset on the 12th.