

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

# NOVEMBER 1981

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

VOLUME 98

NUMBER 11

## Changeable; very wet in north-west Scotland; mainly dry in south.

For much of the month pressure was low to the north and high to the south of the British Isles while fronts crossed all parts at times but, until mid-month, they were weak in the south. Between the 4th and 7th, however, a large anticyclone drifted from Ireland to the North Sea before moving away over central Europe on the 10th while, on the 14th, another high came slowly eastwards up the English Channel.

Depressions moved eastwards to the north of Scotland in the vicinity of Shetland on the 1st, 11th, 20th and 23rd, the last two being particularly intense. Frontal waves gave cloud and rain over southern parts of Britain at times during the third week of the month and the far north of Scotland on the 21st and 22nd. On the 23rd a very vigorous cold front swept south-eastwards over all districts while on the 30th a small depression ran rapidly from west of Scotland across north-east England to Germany.

### Weather

For much of the month the weather was changeable with periods of rain or showers but, except in the north-west, rainfall amounts were mostly small during the first two weeks. From about mid-month sleet or snow fell on several occasions in the north while during the fourth week wintry showers occurred over some southern areas. Thunder was reported occasionally during the last two weeks of the month, mainly over Scotland and Northern Ireland; on the 27th and 28th brief thunderstorms also occurred over central and southern parts of England.

### Wind

Winds were fresh or strong at times with gales in exposed places, but over southern districts they were lighter generally during the first half of the month. The gales were severe on several occasions, especially in the north and west during the last two weeks. Storm force winds caused considerable damage to buildings in parts of Scotland on the 20th, when a gust of 89 kn was recorded at Greenock Port (Strathclyde Region); a gust reached 82 kn at Sumburgh (Shetland) during the night of the 23rd/24th when three men were swept overboard from a trawler and drowned between Shetland and Orkney. The crew of five were also lost when a trawler was wrecked off Land's End on the 18th. Wind directions were mostly south-westerly, but at times, particularly from the 11th to the 14th and during the last week of the month, they were from west or north-west.

### Temperature

Monthly mean temperatures were above normal except over the far north of Scotland. Values ranged from about 1.5 °C above average at a few places in the Strathclyde Region, Clwyd, Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester and in Devon to about 1 °C below in the north of Shetland.

Most parts were quite warm during the first three days of the month with temperatures reaching 17 °C in several places. Towards the end of the first week it became rather cold for a few days before temperatures returned to about normal. Except in the far north most parts were very mild between the 20th and 23rd after which temperatures were variable with the north-east being mostly rather cold. Frost occurred at times, particularly in parts of southern England between the 5th and 13th and over Scotland during the last two

weeks of the month, although it was mostly slight.

### Rainfall

Rainfall totals were above the average for November over Scotland, except for parts of the east and here and there in the south-west, most north-western areas of England, parts of North Wales and the Isle of Man and at a few places in Northern Ireland. More than twice the normal amount fell over much of north-western Scotland. The total of 610 mm (299 per cent of average) at Achnashellach was the highest for any month since records began there in 1923 while the 227.9 mm at Stornoway (Western Isles) was the largest November total in the area since 1898. Elsewhere rainfall was below normal, less than 50 per cent of average being recorded in most southern and some central parts of England, the far south-west of Wales and the Channel Islands.

All areas had periods of rain or showers at times but, until the 16th, rainfall was mostly slight over England, Wales and south-east Scotland while it was dry generally from the 4th to the 8th. Rainfall was heavy at times in the west and north, particularly over the north-west of Scotland. On the 9th a total of 121.8 mm was recorded at Heaste on the Isle of Skye while in North Wales on the 17th, when 105.4 mm fell at Pen-y-Pass in Snowdonia, several roads and the Llandudno to Blaenau Ffestiniog railway line were closed by floods.

### Snow

Wintry showers occurred at times over the north of Scotland, particularly from the 12th, over Northern Ireland and the north of England from the 18th while, between the 23rd and 28th, they were also reported as far south as the moors of south-west England. Longer periods of snow occurred over the north-east of Scotland during the nights of the 25/26th and 29/30th. Accumulations of snow were, in general, slight and mostly over the higher ground in northern

Scotland during the last week of the month although 19 cm lay at Dalwhinnie (Highland Region) on the 25th.

### Sunshine

In most parts of the United Kingdom sunshine totals were below the monthly average. Above average values were reported in many sheltered eastern areas, from the north-east of the Highland Region to Greater London, and at some places in central Scotland and the west of the Midlands. Values ranged from about 130 per cent of average at a few places in south-east Scotland and north-east England to about 55 per cent along parts of the south coast from the Isle of Wight to Cornwall and in Guernsey.

The best of the sunshine, in an often dull month, occurred over the south-east of England and the Channel Islands between the 5th and the 9th and in the north-east of Britain from the 12th to the 20th.

### Fog

Overnight fog formed on several occasions during the first three weeks of the month, especially over central and southern England. It was slow to clear in places and patches persisted for much of the day in Merseyside on the 5th and in Greater Manchester on the 16th. Hill fog occurred at times, mainly in the west and north during the first few days and, again, during the second half of the month when fog patches were also reported over south-western coasts from time to time.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

A waterspout was observed at Spurn Point (Humber-side) on the 20th while minor tornadoes, whirlwinds or severe squalls caused serious damage at many places in an area from Anglesey across the Midlands to eastern England on the 23rd and ripped the roof off a house on the Isle of Sheppey (Kent) on the 30th, all associated with the passage of cold fronts.

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								
0 Scotland N	15.3	-2.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.5	+4	195	81
1 Scotland E	15.7	-6.0	+0.6	+0.8	+0.7	+0.1	+3	109	106
2 England E & NE	15.9	-4.0	+1.4	+0.4	+0.8	0.0	-3	68	115
3 East Anglia	16.3	-1.9	+1.0	+0.6	+0.8	+0.6	-3	60	91
4 Midland Counties	15.9	-3.7	+1.3	+0.8	+1.1	+0.6	-2	61	91
5 England SE & Central S	16.9	-2.5	+0.9	+0.9	+0.9	+0.8	-2	48	85
6 Scotland W	14.9	-2.8	+0.8	+1.0	+0.9	+0.3	+4	155	84
7 England NW & Wales N	15.9	-1.3	+0.9	+1.3	+1.1	+0.6	+1	118	80
8 England SW & Wales S	16.3	-2.3	+0.7	+1.0	+0.8	+0.8	-2	56	66
N Ireland	14.1	-2.1	+0.9	+0.8	+0.8	+0.3	0	83	78
Scotland	15.7	-6.0	+0.4	+0.6	+0.5	0.0	+4	153	90
England & Wales	16.9	-4.0	+1.0	+0.8	+0.9	+0.6	-2	69	88

\*Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations