

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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## Generally a cool month, although sunny in the south

On the 1st southern areas came under the influence of a ridge of high pressure, while weak fronts affected northern areas. On the 3rd a cold front crossed all areas, clearing south-east England late in the evening. A transient ridge of high pressure covered southern areas on the 4th. On the 5th fronts associated with the former tropical storm 'Gustav' moved across north-western areas. As the depression moved away across the North Sea on the 7th pressure rose again in all areas. A cold front moved south-eastwards across Scotland, trailing across northern England late on the 12th, but moved away by midday on the 13th, bringing all parts of the United Kingdom once more under the influence of an anticyclone. A series of fronts moved rapidly across north-western areas later on the 13th and cleared southern England late on the 14th. All areas came once more under the influence of an anticyclone which persisted over the next two days but by midday on the 16th the next series of fronts was working its way south-eastwards across all areas and cleared southern England late on the 18th. During the night of the 18th/19th further fronts crossed all areas, clearing southern England by midday on the 19th. A further succession of fronts crossed all areas during the next four days. By the 25th low pressure to the south and east of the British Isles gave way to a ridge of high pressure extending from an Atlantic anticyclone. High pressure became persistent over southern areas of the British Isles during the next two days, although northern areas again suffered frontal incursions. As the high pressure drifted away slowly eastwards a warm front moved steadily north-eastwards late on the 28th, followed by a frontal trough. The system slowed down over the Midlands, becoming part of a complex low-pressure area covering most of the United Kingdom early on the 30th, and was replaced later that day by a ridge of high pressure.

### Weather

After a hot start to the month cooler weather spread from the north-west by the 3rd, bringing some rain to most places, especially in the west and north. A somewhat settled spell between the 7th and 15th was followed by generally cooler and more changeable weather after mid month. During the night of the 18th/19th heavy rain and strong winds caused a landslip on the West Highland line from Fort William to Mallaig at Glenfinnan. Heavy showers on the 22nd/23rd in the south and west later became widespread over England and Wales with hail and thunder in places. It remained unsettled in most places for the rest of the month apart from a brief spell of fine weather on the 27th. Thunder was reported over Dorset during the evening of the 29th and for a time around London after noon on the 30th.

### Wind

The month was largely quiet, but with some strong winds, mainly in northern areas, between the 5th and 7th and on the 19th and 20th. The highest gust measured during the month was 86 kn, at the high-level station at Cairngorm, Highland Region on the 18th. The 19th was very windy over Scotland generally and gusts of more

than 60 kn were widespread in northern areas; a gust of 80 kn was measured at Butt of Lewis, Western Isles with an hourly mean wind speed of 56 kn and Kirkwall, Orkney had two gusts of 75 kn with an hourly wind speed of 50 kn. Wind directions were mainly westerly or southerly.

### Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were generally near or below normal, ranging from 2 °C below normal in western Scotland to 0.6 °C above normal in the Channel Islands.

Temperatures remained high for the first three days of the month, reaching 26 °C in some parts of the south-east. Central and eastern areas of Scotland had temperatures around 20 °C on a number of days during the first week, with 24.5 °C being recorded at Dyce, Grampian Region on the 2nd. It became cooler from the 3rd, and although there were some warm days, it remained generally cooler over the rest of the month, with some early frosts in the second half. On the 28th the temperature fell to -1.4 °C at Hurn, Dorset, giving the coldest night there in nearly 50 years of records. The highest temperature of the month in the United Kingdom was 26.6 °C at Marholm, Cambridgeshire on the 2nd and the lowest was -3.4 °C at St Harmon, Powys on the 26th.

### Rainfall

Monthly rainfall totals were well above normal in northern Scotland, the Western Isles, and parts of North Wales, but below normal elsewhere, with a large part of the Midlands and south-east England having less than half the normal rainfall, and ranged from 181% at Cape Wrath, Highland Region to 36% at Folkestone, Kent and in central London.

Rainfall amounts between 15 mm and 30 mm were measured in Scotland on the 5th and 6th, but amounts were generally small elsewhere. On the 17th rainfall amounts between 20 mm and 30 mm were measured in some northern areas. During

the 18th and 19th some very heavy rain fell over western Scotland; 66.5 mm fell in a 7-hour period at Ardgour, Highland Region. Among heavy falls were: 94 mm at Eilanreach, Highland Region on the 18th, 80 mm at Isle of Rhum, Highland Region on the 27th and 76 mm at Princetown, Devon on the 29th.

### Sunshine

Monthly sunshine amounts were below average over East Anglia and much of Scotland, apart from the Forth-Clyde valley. Everywhere else amounts were near or above average, reaching nearly 140% in South Wales. In contrast north Norfolk was rather dull with only 76% of average sunshine.

The most sunshine measured during a day was 13.0 hours at North Wyke, Devon on the 2nd and Slapton, Devon on the 9th; the highest monthly sunshine total was 229 hours at Jersey, Channel Islands.

### Fog

Patchy fog formed over central southern and south-west England for a time early on the 2nd, over southern Scotland and Northern Ireland early on the 10th, with isolated patches on the 11th. Fog patches occurred in places, especially over the East Midlands on the 12th, and, mainly in eastern areas, around dawn on the 13th. Thick fog occurred in East Anglia and southern England on the 14th and over Northern Ireland and the northern half of England on the 30th. Further fog patches formed over south-west Scotland on the 23rd and in central and eastern areas on the 26th, but soon cleared. On the 28th parts of southern England started the day foggy and some patches formed in the Midlands late on the 29th. Coastal fog occurred in western areas on the 25th, and coastal and hill fog in eastern areas on the 27th and 29th.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

**Table 1 District values**

District	Air temperature °C					Mean 30 cm soil temp°C	Rain- days	Rainfall	Sun- shine
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	Max.	Min.	Mean				
			Difference from average					% of average	
0 Scotland N	20.5	-2.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.1	+1	146	86
1 Scotland E	23.8	-0.7	-0.6	-0.5	-0.6	+0.2	-1	80	98
2 England E & NE	25.1	-0.2	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	+0.5	-1	67	98
3 East Anglia	26.4	0.2	-0.3	-0.8	-0.5	+0.3	-1	60	94
4 Midland Counties	26.0	0.3	0.0	-0.7	-0.3	+0.3	-1	62	112
5 England SE & Central S	25.6	3.5	+0.5	-0.8	-0.1	+0.5	-4	50	118
6 Scotland W	20.4	-0.9	-0.8	-1.1	-0.9	+0.3	-2	91	101
7 England NW & Wales N	23.5	1.6	-0.6	-0.4	-0.6	+0.6	-2	75	112
8 England SW & Wales S	26.0	0.5	+0.3	-0.4	-0.1	+0.5	-3	69	128
N Ireland	21.7	0.2	-0.4	-1.0	-0.7	+0.2	-2	47	109
Scotland	23.8	-2.7	-0.7	-0.8	-0.7	+0.1	-1	113	95
England & Wales	26.4	-0.2	-0.1	-0.6	-0.4	+0.5	-2	65	110

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations