

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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Mostly changeable; warm first half of month.

At the beginning of the month an anticyclone was centred over Scandinavia and as the centre of high pressure moved slowly south-eastwards over eastern Europe between the 1st and 4th a series of frontal troughs crossed the British Isles from the south-west. By the 5th a deep depression had become slow-moving over the Atlantic to the west of Ireland and a southerly airstream was established over the British Isles. The low-pressure area persisted to the west of Ireland for several days with further frontal troughs moving slowly north-eastwards over all districts. On the 12th the depression began to move slowly south-eastwards towards Biscay and a complex low-pressure area then developed from Spain across the Low Countries to eastern Europe. During the 16th a ridge from the Azores anticyclone extended over the British Isles but the high-pressure centre was quickly transferred to the Biscay area allowing further fronts to cross all districts from the west during the next few days.

On the 20th an anticyclone moved over south-western parts of the British Isles and then intensified steadily as it continued to move slowly towards Scandinavia. Although high pressure persisted over Scandinavia and north-west Russia until the end of the month, frontal systems moving from the west made erratic progress over the British Isles, finally clearing eastern coastal areas early on the 29th. During the 30th and 31st further fronts, associated with a deep depression south of Iceland, crossed all districts followed by a showery south-westerly airstream.

Weather

Changeable weather affected the United Kingdom for most of the month, although there were brief anticyclonic interludes. Periods of rain or showers occurred in all areas from time to time, and there were thunderstorms in places, particularly during the first half of the month. The weather was rather warm at first but from mid-month onwards temperatures were mostly near normal with a slight frost in many areas during the last few days.

Wind

Winds were frequently fresh or strong in coastal areas, except for a few days around the middle of the month, when speeds were light in most districts. Gales occurred around the northern coasts of Scotland, Orkney and Shetland during the first week and on many days between the 18th and 30th; on the 19th a gust of 58 kt was recorded at Lerwick in the Shetland Isles. In inland areas winds were generally lighter throughout the month, although gales occasionally affected exposed high ground during the latter half. Wind directions were mostly between south-east and south-west but there was a spell of easterly to north-easterly winds for a few days around mid-month.

Temperature

Monthly mean temperatures were above average in all districts. Values in most places were up to 1 °C above normal, but in small areas around the Thames estuary, in Greater Manchester and in parts of the Highland and Grampian Regions of Scotland values a little over 1 °C above normal were recorded.

The first half of the month was generally rather warm with maxima of at least 21 °C occurring at many

places between the 7th and 9th. The night of 8th/9th was also unusually warm in many areas; at Manchester Airport the minimum of 16.8 °C on that night was the highest recorded in any October in the Manchester area in composite records beginning there in 1877. Temperatures during the latter half of the month were near normal with slight frost occurring in many districts during the last few days.

Rainfall

Monthly rainfall totals were above average over eastern and southern Scotland, most of Northern Ireland and parts of the Isle of Man. Rainfall was also above average in north-east England, in an area extending southwards from Cleveland to West Sussex, in south-west England, in western districts of Wales and around Merseyside. Elsewhere in the United Kingdom values were below normal. In Scotland, more than twice the normal rainfall for October fell in the Aberdeen area but, in contrast, only about half the normal was recorded in some north-western parts of the Highland Region. There were also large variations in the rainfall totals recorded in some parts of England; in coastal areas of East Anglia and the south-east less than 50 per cent of normal was recorded, while around 150 per cent fell in parts of Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

Generally changeable weather, with occasional periods of rain or showers, affected the United Kingdom for most of the month, although rainfall amounts were very variable. Heavy falls of rain occurred in some areas; on the 4th, during prolonged rainfall over parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland, 90.3 mm was recorded at Aberdeen Airport (Grampian Region) in 15 hours commencing at 0300 GMT, and falls of more than 50 mm were recorded at several places in Co. Down in the 24 hours ending at 0900 GMT on that day.

Snow

Sleet showers were reported in the Orkney Isles on the 20th, but otherwise reports of snowfall were restricted to the higher parts of the Scottish mountains on a few occasions during the latter half of the month.

Sunshine

Monthly sunshine totals were above average over

north-western parts of Scotland and most of Northern Ireland. Above-average sunshine was also recorded over much of England and Wales, apart from northern counties, some southern and eastern coastal districts and a few widely scattered districts elsewhere. Values exceeded 130 per cent of normal in parts of Co. Down, in the Great Glen (Highland Region) and in places around the Greater London area. In contrast, some areas in southern and eastern Scotland had only around 75 per cent of their normal sunshine for the month and at Lerwick (Shetland Isles) only 41.3 hours of sunshine (67 per cent of normal) was recorded, the lowest October total there since 1945.

All areas enjoyed sunny days at times throughout the month although there were no long, persistently sunny spells over the United Kingdom as a whole. Over England and Wales the 5th and 18th were particularly sunny days, but in Scotland the sunniest period was between the 20th and 22nd.

Fog

Overnight fog patches formed frequently in inland areas throughout the month, particularly in England and Wales, although southern parts of Scotland were also affected at times. On the 14th, 15th and 16th fog was slow to clear in central and eastern areas of England, and on the 21st fog did not clear until early afternoon in the Central Lowlands of Scotland. On the night of 27th/28th fog became widespread over the southern half of England and eastern parts of Wales causing some disruption to air traffic at Heathrow and Gatwick Airports for a time on the morning of the 28th.

Hill and coastal fog occurred at times, particularly during the first half of the month. The main areas to be affected were coastal districts of north-east England and eastern Scotland, but on occasions fog also developed around the coasts of northern Scotland, Orkney and Shetland. On the 2nd fog persisted throughout the day in places near the east coasts of England and Scotland.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

Table 1 District values

District	air temperature °C					mean 30-cm earth temp °C	rain- days	rainfall	sun- shine
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	max.	min.	mean				
	difference from average							% of average	
0 Scotland N	21.6	0.1	+0.5	+0.7	+0.6	−0.2	−1	89	99
1 Scotland E	20.4	−2.0	+0.1	+1.5	+0.8	+0.8	+2	134	84
2 England E & NE	21.5	−2.7	+0.3	+0.7	+0.5	+0.7	0	107	103
3 East Anglia	21.5	−1.7	+0.7	+0.8	+0.8	+0.6	0	93	105
4 Midland Counties	21.2	−1.7	+0.7	+0.4	+0.6	+0.5	+1	91	106
5 England SE & Central S	21.0	−1.3	+0.7	+0.9	+0.8	+0.5	0	79	113
6 Scotland W	20.0	−2.0	+0.4	+1.0	+0.7	+0.4	+3	116	85
7 England NW & Wales N	22.0	0.0	+0.4	+0.8	+0.6	+0.4	+4	87	99
8 England SW & Wales S	20.3	1.2	+0.5	+0.5	+0.5	+0.8	+2	102	102
N Ireland	18.7	−0.8	+0.5	+0.6	+0.5	+0.4	+6	129	112
Scotland	21.6	−2.0	+0.3	+1.1	+0.7	+0.3	+1	113	89
England & Wales	22.0	−2.7	+0.5	+0.7	+0.6	+0.6	+1	93	105

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations