

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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Mild and very wet

The month began with high pressure over Greenland and eastern Europe and an extensive trough of low pressure, associated with a depression in the Norwegian Sea, covering the British Isles. A depression formed over Brittany on the 2nd and moved quickly north-eastwards across southern England into the North Sea where it remained until the 4th before moving into Scandinavia. Meanwhile the Greenland anticyclone had extended a ridge of high pressure southwards, covering much of the British Isles, before it retreated northwards again on the 6th, allowing a complex low pressure area over southern Europe to move northwards to affect the British Isles. Pressure remained low until the 15th, when a weak ridge of high pressure temporarily affected the British Isles, only to be replaced by a continuous sequence of depressions, which developed over the Atlantic and moved eastwards to cross the British Isles. Another temporary ridge of high pressure extended northwards from the Azores to affect all parts of the British Isles for a time on the 26th, to be displaced shortly afterwards by frontal systems associated with a deep depression pushing eastwards from the northern Atlantic across the north of the British Isles.

Weather

All districts had wet, unsettled weather for most of the month, with strong to gale force winds and heavy rain at times. For a while in the north the rain turned to sleet or snow. Thundery rain and thunderstorms with hail at times occurred on several days in the first week and in the last ten days. On the 24th St Mawgan, Cornwall reported heavy hail with hailstones 15 mm in diameter. Persistent fog was reported between the 15th and 20th, mainly in the south.

Wind

Winds were mainly light to moderate, occasionally strong to gale force until the 20th. From the 21st onwards they were mainly moderate to fresh, but frequently strong to gale force in places. During the last week there was widespread flooding and damage, with reports of power lines blown down and roads closed as winds with gusts to over 70 kn lashed southern and western areas of England and Wales. A 9500 tonne ship had its electronic navigation system put out of action by the force ten winds and had to take refuge in Plymouth.

Maximum gusts reported during the month were 70 kn at Herstmonceux, Sussex, 74 kn at Gwennap Head, Cornwall and 73 kn at Guernsey Airport, Channel Islands, all on the 23rd; Edinburgh Royal Observatory recorded a 77 kn gust on the 27th. At high level there was a gust of 86 kn recorded at the anemograph station at Cairngorm, 1075 m above sea level, on the 1st and again on the 27th, but two gusts of 112 kn were recorded within half an hour on the 27th by an automatic station erected by Heriot-Watt University on the summit about 200 m higher.

Temperature

Mean temperatures were above the monthly average almost everywhere, except for parts of Northern Ireland and central Cornwall. Temperature differences ranged between 2.0 °C and 2.7 °C

above average in East Anglia and between 1.0 °C and 2.0 °C elsewhere. On the 1st everywhere in England and Wales, apart from western coastal areas, had a very mild afternoon with temperatures near to long-term records for November. The maximum temperature for the month, 19.2 °C, was measured on that day at Enfield, Greater London, the warmest November day in the London area since 1938. The lowest minimum of -10.0 °C was measured on the 6th at Lagganlia, Highland Region. The lowest in England and Wales was -5.5 °C at Loggerheads, Clwyd on the 16th.

Rainfall

All parts of the United Kingdom were wet or very wet except for the western half of Northern Ireland, parts of south-east England and East Anglia and north-west Scotland. Some parts of the western Midlands, most of eastern Scotland and part of north-east England had over 200 per cent of average rainfall. The area including Aberdeen, Grampian Region and Montrose, Tayside was very wet, having over 300 per cent of average rainfall.

Aberdeen Airport, Grampian Region had 268 mm of rain, making it the wettest November there since records began in 1942. Cwmbargoed, Mid Glamorgan with 259 mm had the wettest November since 1970. There were about a hundred places with rainfall in excess of 50 mm on the 3rd, some in northern England, but most in southern and eastern Scotland. The greatest fall in 24 hours, 110 mm, was at Hungry Snout, Border Region on the 3rd. Kielder Castle, Northumberland recorded 93 mm on the same day. During the five days from the 20th, Cilfynydd, Mid Glamorgan recorded over 150 mm of rain, 61 mm of which fell on the 21st.

Snow

The first low-level snow of the winter fell on the 4th and for a time Alston, Cumbria was cut off and the A92 road at Glenshee, Dumfries and Galloway was reported to be impassable. On the 4th and 5th snow cover was mainly on the higher ground, but on the 7th lower ground was affected and Balmoral, Grampian Region and Glenshero Lodge, Highland Region each reported 3 cm of snow lying. In the second half of the month wintry showers

were reported almost daily, mainly on higher ground in Scotland, but accumulations were slight.

Sunshine

November was a very dull month with sunshine amounts below normal nearly everywhere, except for parts of south-east England (where in Greater London amounts reached nearly 150 per cent of average) and parts of western Scotland and western parts of Northern Ireland which had about 120 per cent of average. In parts of southern and eastern Scotland there was less than 50 per cent of average sunshine. The highest daily sunshine total during the month was 9.1 hours at Portland Bill, Dorset on the 3rd. There was 8.3 hours of sunshine at Eskmeals, Cumbria on the 5th and Guernsey, Channel Islands on the 10th. On the 27th only half a dozen places caught a glimpse of the sun and the maximum was only 0.9 hours at Jersey (St Helier), Channel Islands.

Fog

Fog formed frequently overnight during the month, notably on the 7th and between the 10th and 20th, most frequently in England, especially in eastern and central southern areas. On the 7th fog was thick and slow to clear from parts of Lincolnshire. Fog was persistent at times in central and southern parts of England between the 15th and 19th, and was again thick in Northern Ireland, southern England and parts of East Anglia on the 20th. There were occasional reports of patches of hill and sea fog during the early part of the month.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

Funnel clouds were reported by St Mawgan, Cornwall on the 2nd, St Catherine's Lighthouse, Isle of Wight on the 3rd and Gwennap Head (Land's End), Cornwall on the 14th. On the 9th there were numerous reports of coloured dust deposits from rain from as far afield as Brighton, East Sussex and Middlesbrough, Cleveland. The colours varied between red and brown and the dust is assumed to have been of Saharan origin. There were further reports of red dust at Kew, Greater London on the 12th and of sand deposits on south-facing windows at Stainburn, Cumbria on the 30th.

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			
0 Scotland N	15.0	−10.0	+0.8	+1.3	+1.0	+0.1	+2	114	82
1 Scotland E	15.6	−8.7	+0.7	+2.2	+1.5	+1.1	+5	241	58
2 England E & NE	16.8	−3.0	+1.0	+2.2	+1.6	+1.6	+4	168	73
3 East Anglia	18.1	−0.4	+1.7	+2.5	+2.1	+2.3	+3	244	84
4 Midland Counties	17.5	−2.9	+1.1	+2.0	+1.5	+1.6	+4	171	73
5 England SE & Central S	18.3	−2.1	+1.9	+2.2	+2.0	+2.2	+4	137	99
6 Scotland W	13.5	−7.6	+0.5	+1.5	+1.0	+1.0	+1	142	81
7 England NW & Wales N	16.8	−3.4	+0.6	+1.6	+1.1	+1.3	+3	147	77
8 England SW & Wales S	16.8	−2.9	+0.8	+1.1	+0.7	+0.9	+6	153	83
N Ireland	12.5	−4.8	−0.1	−0.2	−0.1	+0.3	+1	105	93
Scotland	15.6	−10.0	+0.7	+1.7	+1.2	+0.7	+3	151	74
England & Wales	18.3	−3.4	+1.2	+1.9	+1.5	+1.7	+4	150	81

*Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations