

November 2009

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1971-2000.

UK overview

Mean temperatures were well above the 1971-2000 normal for November, typically by between 1.5 and 2.5 °C over England and Wales and between 0.5 and 1.5 °C over Scotland and Northern Ireland. For the UK, November was the warmest since 2003 and ranks seventh in a series starting in 1914. There were very few days with air frost.

Almost all areas recorded well above average rainfall, with many having well over twice the normal amount. The wettest areas were Cumbria, Northumberland, the Scottish Borders and parts of Northern Ireland, mid-Wales and southern England. Only in the far north of Scotland were rainfall totals near normal. It was the wettest November over the UK in a series from 1914, more than 20 mm wetter than November 1951.

Many areas received close-to-average sunshine. It was dullest in Wales, the Scottish Borders and parts of western and southern England, and brightest in northern Scotland and much of eastern England.

A maximum temperature of 18.5 °C was recorded at Hartpury College (Gloucestershire) and Longtown (Herefordshire) on 1st. A minimum temperature of -8.6 °C was recorded at Braemar (Aberdeenshire) and at Cromdale near Grantown-on-Spey (Moray) on 9th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 on 20th, 253.0 mm of rainfall was measured at Seathwaite in Cumbria. 316.4mm was recorded here between 0000 and 2359 on 19th November, the highest UK total for any 24-hour period. A wind gust of 100 mph was recorded at Needles Old Battery on the Isle of Wight on 14th.

England diary of highlights

The weather was unsettled throughout, with showers or longer periods of rain and some strong winds at times. However, it was very mild, with mean temperatures everywhere at least 1.0 °C above the 1971-2000 normal and more than 2.0 °C above in the east Midlands, East Anglia and south-east England. It was the warmest November over England since 1994 and the third-warmest in a series from 1914. There were very few days with air frost. Rainfall was well above average everywhere, especially so in Cumbria, Northumberland and parts of southern England with well over twice the normal amount. It was the second wettest November in the series from 1914, but almost as wet as November 1929. Sunshine totals ranged from above normal over East Anglia and other eastern areas to a little below normal further north and west.

1st to 7th: On the 1st heavy rain and strong winds spread across all parts. 49.6 mm of rain was reported at Keswick (Cumbria) with gusts to 70 m.p.h. over northern hills. It was very mild with temperatures reaching 17 °C in the south. Rain cleared to a scattering of showers on 2nd with quieter conditions. Further rain spread from the west overnight and on 3rd, becoming heavy later with squally winds. The 4th was brighter with blustery showers, but it was cloudier with periods of rain on 5th. Rain spread from the west on 6th, then showery. Largely dry at first on 7th, then showers or thunderstorms spread to the south-west and north-west later, before extending to the south-east overnight.

8th to 14th: On 8th scattered showers continued at first, before becoming drier. The 9th was dry with some mist or fog patches at first and it was rather cold where these persisted; Lyneham (Wiltshire) reached only 5.2 °C. The 10th was a generally cloudy day with rain spreading from the west. Largely dry at first on 11th, then rain reached the south-west later with strengthening winds. A wet day on 12th across the south, but mild

with a temperature of 15.5 °C at Gravesend (Kent). The 13th was another wet day in the south with falls around 20 mm, then heavy rain moved northwards later. It became very windy with gusts in excess of 70 m.p.h. in exposed southern areas, but mild with highs around 16 °C in the London area. Very windy with heavy rain on the 14th, especially in the south with gusts near 80 m.p.h. on English Channel coasts and 100 m.p.h. at The Needles Old Battery (Isle of Wight). Tornadoes were reported in Essex and Suffolk.

15th to 22nd: The 15th was a quieter day with sunny spells and scattered locally heavy showers, with thunder in the south at times. Rain spread across all parts on 16th, then bright and windy with showers. Mainly dry at first on 17th, then rain later. The 18th was the start of a very wet and windy period in the north. The 19th saw heavy, persistent rain over the Lake District and severe flooding. Seathwaite (Cumbria) recorded 395.6 mm in the 48 hours from 0900 on 18th. Rain cleared on 20th to sunny spells and scattered showers. Further heavy rain spread across all parts on 21st with a further 32.4 mm reported at Shap (Cumbria), and mild air across the south with 17.3 °C at Gravesend. Rain cleared early on 22nd with sunny spells and scattered showers, then heavy showers later with gusts to around 60 m.p.h. in the west.

23rd to 30th: The 23rd saw strong to gale-force south-westerly winds and periods of heavy rain or showers. A tornado was reported in Derbyshire. Further heavy rain on 24th particularly in Cumbria giving 51.8 mm at Shap. The 25th was brighter with some showers, occasionally persistent and heavy in the west and north. Very windy, with gusts to near 60 m.p.h. in the north. The 26th and 27th were bright with blustery showers. The 28th saw further heavy rain spread across southern and central areas. On 29th further localised flooding was reported, particularly in Yorkshire, with 48.2 mm of rainfall at Fylingdales (North Yorkshire). Conditions turned colder on 30th as it became brighter with a northerly breeze.

Wales diary of highlights

The weather was unsettled throughout, with showers or longer periods of rain and some strong winds at times. However, it was mild, with mean temperatures about 1.5 °C above the 1971–2000 normal. It was the warmest November since 2002, and seventh-warmest in a series starting in 1914. There were very few air frosts. Rainfall was well above average, with over twice the normal amount in mid-Wales. It was the second-wettest November in the series from 1914, but almost as wet as November 1929. Sunshine totals were mostly somewhat below normal.

1st to 8th: A developing depression moved north-eastwards early on 1st giving a spell of heavy rain followed by squally showers. Strong winds accompanied the rain and showers with gusts of over 60 m.p.h. over the west; 76 m.p.h. was recorded at Mumbles, Swansea. The next few days were generally showery, with a longer spell of rain later on 2nd into 3rd and a further spell of rain on 6th. The showers were often heavy especially on 5th and later on 6th. During 7th a small depression moved eastwards giving widespread heavy showers with thunderstorms over the south. Gusts up to 50 m.p.h. accompanied some of the showers. Heavy showers continued into 8th although they become lighter and fewer during the day.

9th to 11th: A quieter interlude with light winds. There was local frost and fog early on 9th with fog and low cloud persisting all day in some eastern areas. Rain reached the west late on 9th and moved east overnight, dying out during daytime on 10th with some brightness over the west. A quiet start to 11th before cloud and heavy rain spread north-east later, with 16.2 mm at Lake Vyrnwy (Powys).

12th to 30th: Very unsettled with rain or heavy showers occurring each day. Rain became very heavy later on 13th into 14th with severe gales for a time, heavy squally showers following. There was a brief respite on 15th although showers affected coastal areas. Rain and strong winds again on 16th with gusts of 60 m.p.h. Showers, heavy and thundery in places, occurred on 17th with 86.4 mm at Capel Curig (Conwy). It became very mild on 18th and 19th but with gales or severe gales over the coasts and hills and gusts of 70 m.p.h. Heavy rain also affected the north and west on the 18th and 19th with a further 62.4 mm at Capel Curig in 48 hours. It became dry on the 20th after some early rain but there was little respite from the rain until 30th. Following

some overnight rain, with snow over the highest parts of Snowdonia, the 30th became largely dry with some sunshine but colder.

Scotland diary of highlights

The weather was unsettled throughout, with showers or longer periods of rain and some strong winds at times. However, it was mild, with mean temperatures between 0.5 and 1.0 °C above the 1971-2000 normal. Rainfall varied from near normal across the far north to well above normal in the Borders and some eastern areas, where over twice the average was recorded. It was the wettest November in a series from 1914, some 20 mm wetter than November 1938 and November 2006. Sunshine totals were below normal across southern and western areas but above normal across northern Scotland.

1st to 9th: Persistent heavy rain affected most places on 1st, with almost 50 mm in 12 hours at Leuchars (Fife) and Aberdeen, bringing flooding. On 2nd the east was mainly dry, while showers affected the west. Rain crossed all parts on the morning of 3rd with brighter, showery weather following. The 4th remained bright with some showers but gales and some rain in the far north. On 5th prolonged showers affected the south-west in the morning otherwise it was bright with sunny spells and isolated showers. After a chilly night, with Altnaharra (Highland) dipping to -3.7 °C, rain spread from the west on 6th, followed by sunshine and showers in the west. The 7th was mainly sunny, although with showers in the south and west. Mainly dry and sunny on 8th and 9th after early frosts, with overnight minima of -7.3 °C then -8.6 °C at Braemar (Aberdeenshire).

10th to 24th: A band of rain moved eastwards on 10th. The 11th was mainly dry and cold. On 12th, rain spread north-eastwards, followed by showery weather and severe gales in the south-west. On 13th Shetland was wet, with Lerwick recording 24.6 mm, whilst elsewhere it was mainly fine and sunny. Rain arrived after dark with a wet night, clearing to showers on 14th; Threave (Dumfries and Galloway) recorded 40.2 mm of rain in 24 hours. The 15th was mainly dry and bright with a few showers in the south and west. The 16th was showery, with longer spells of heavy rain in parts of the south and west. The north-east started wet on 17th; otherwise it was mainly dry, although showers moved into the west later. A sunny start on 18th before outbreaks of rain spread from the west, with 48.0 mm at Eskdalemuir (Dumfries and Galloway). The 19th was cloudy with rain, heavy and prolonged in the south and west, giving a further 76.4 mm at Eskdalemuir. Widespread flooding occurred in Dumfriesshire and the Borders. The 20th was brighter with a few showers. Rain spread north-eastwards on 21st, clearing during the evening. Windy with gales in places during 22nd, and some heavy and prolonged showers. Heavy, blustery showers affected the north and west on 23rd with fewer showers in the east. Winds slowly moderated, then heavy rain on the 24th gave 41.6 mm at Tyndrum (Stirling) and 53.0 mm at Cluanie Inn (Highland).

25th to 30th: Severe gales on 25th, with a gust of 74 m.p.h. at Dundrennan (Dumfries and Galloway), and sunny spells and showers, the showers heavy, frequent and persistent at times in the west. Another day of sunny spells and blustery showers on 26th, the showers again frequent and heavy in the west. Further showers on 27th, mainly in the west and later the north. Showers across the north and north-east on 28th. Mist and fog were slow to clear across the south and south-west, otherwise bright with an early frost. The 29th and 30th saw wintry showers in the north and east and mainly dry weather elsewhere, but cold and breezy.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

The weather was unsettled throughout, with showers or longer periods of rain and some strong winds at times. Mean temperatures were about 0.5 °C above the 1971-2000 normal. Rainfall was well above average, particularly in Fermanagh, Armagh and parts of Tyrone where twice the normal amount was recorded. It was the wettest November over Northern Ireland in a series from 1914. Despite the wet month, however, sunshine totals were slightly above average.

1st to 10th: A wet day on 1st gave 35.2 mm of rainfall at Ballypatrick Forest (County Antrim). The 2nd was brighter with sunshine and scattered showers. Overnight rain cleared by dawn on 3rd though showers followed,

especially to the north and west. The 4th and 5th were bright and showery. The 6th started cloudy with rain before brightening later. The 7th and 8th were bright with sunny spells and scattered showers. The 9th started dry and bright before rain arrived later in the day. This cleared early on 10th and the rest of the day was dry.

11th to 25th: The 11th was mainly dry and bright. A band of rain overnight and early on 12th gave 21.0 mm at Ballypatrick Forest, before clearing to scattered showers. The 13th was fine and sunny though rain arrived in the evening. A wet night was followed by a day of sunshine and scattered showers on the 14th. The 15th was mainly dry and sunny though some showers developed in the evening. The 16th was a mainly cloudy day with rain or showers. A mainly dry morning on 17th but a band of showers then spread eastwards. Fine at first on 18th then it turned cloudy with spells of rain. Cloudy on 19th with rain, heavy at times, giving 40.6 mm at Altnahinch Filters (County Antrim). Early rain in the east on 20th cleared to leave scattered showers. The 21st started dry then rain spread from the south-west. The 22nd was windy with gales in places along with heavy and prolonged showers. A windy, showery start to 23rd but it became drier, brighter and less windy during the day. The 24th was cloudy with mainly light rain, and fresh or strong south-westerly winds. The 25th was showery with gales, severe at first in the north-west.

26th to 30th: Clear or sunny spells and showers on the 26th, the showers most frequent in the west. Sunny spells but a few showers during 27th. The 28th was bright, although mist and fog were slow to clear in places. Mainly dry and bright on the 29th, but showery over County Down and windy along the Irish Sea coast. Following a frosty night, with Katesbridge (County Down) dipping to -5.2 °C, the 30th was mainly sunny, though with showers in the north-west.

Last updated: 27 February 2013