

# Monthly Weather Report

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## OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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### November 1961 — *Sunny and mainly dry*

The first half of the month was mainly cyclonic with pressure low to the north of the British Isles until the 9th and low to the south from then until the 14th. Thereafter an anticyclone was centred over or near the country until the 18th when it moved eastwards to the Continent. A westerly airstream was re-established on the 23rd and persisted until the end of the month.

The mild wet weather at the end of October continued into November as a vigorous depression, moving eastwards towards Scandinavia, skirted the coast of Scotland giving heavy rain and gales in many northern districts. The 1st was the warmest day of the month over much of the country with temperatures exceeding 17°C in parts of south-east England. Fronts associated with the depression brought rain to most districts of the British Isles on the 1st, but these cleared the country during the morning of the 2nd, giving place to fairer weather with scattered showers in the afternoon. The next day, with pressure low over Scandinavia, cold northerly winds covered the British Isles, and these persisted on the 4th; there were sunny periods but showers were widespread and were occasionally of snow as far south as southern England.

Weather was milder during the next few days with frequent periods of rain and drizzle as winds backed to south-west and a complex frontal system from the Atlantic became slow moving over the British Isles. The system had cleared south-east England by the afternoon of the 8th, but there were thundery showers in all districts as a cold front wave moved northward over the North Sea. That evening winds fell light and by dawn on the 9th fog and frost were widespread, the fog persisting throughout the day locally. The next day a small depression moving eastward along the English Channel brought thundery rain to many southern districts; parts of Hampshire and Dorset had over 1 in. while 1.54 in. fell at Bournemouth.

The situation changed markedly on the 11th as a vigorous depression moved south-east over the Bay of Biscay into France. The thundery rain continued for a time in central and southern England and winds increased from the north-east reading gale force in many parts of southern England during the next three days, gales being particularly widespread on the 13th. Over England and Wales weather was wet and rather dull but parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland had sunny periods.

On the 15th a ridge of high pressure over Scotland and northern England moved southwards to cover the country and this was the beginning of a quiet, mainly dry spell which lasted for about a week. Overnight fog and frost were widespread during the latter part of the week, the fog persisting locally throughout the 22nd.

Winds over the British Isles freshened from the west on the 23rd as a depression near Iceland deepened and moved east. Weather was generally fair with good sunny periods, but with scattered showers and these became frequent on the 24th and 25th falling as snow in parts of Scotland. By dawn on the 26th overnight fog and frost were again widespread and in some persistently foggy areas temperatures failed to rise above freezing all day.

On the 27th a depression over France brought a temporary renewal of north-easterly winds to southern England, but westerly winds, associated with a deep depression over Iceland, returned to the whole

country next day and weather was generally unsettled during the last two days of the month with rain at times and sleet or snow in the north.

**Pressure and Wind** — Mean pressure was generally above average except in southern England, the deviation at 9 hr ranging from +2.8 mb at Eskdalemuir to -0.8 mb at Shoeburyness. Surface winds were south-westerly at first becoming north-westerly on the 3rd and 4th and south-westerly again until the 8th. Two days of light variable winds preceded and followed a spell of north-easterlies on the 11th-16th, but thereafter winds were generally south-easterly until the 22nd and south-westerly for the remainder of the month. Wind reached gale force on 16 days in Scotland and on the 1st, 2nd, 11th-15th, 17th-20th, 22nd, 26th, 27th, 29th and 30th (16 days) in England and Wales. Gales were widespread on the 13th and 30th.

**Temperature** — Mean temperature was generally below the 1921-50 average, the deficit being 0.2°C in England and Wales, 0.6°C in Scotland and 0.4°C in Northern Ireland; it was below the average for the first time since January 1961 at a number of places in south-west England. At Ross-on-Wye it was the coldest November since 1952. There were cold periods around the 4th, 10th and 26th but the month began and ended with mild days.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 17.7°C at Exeter on the 1st, -8.3°C at Caldecott on the 26th, (Scotland) 15.0°C at Dunbar, Scotland -12.2°C at Braemar on the 28th; (Northern Ireland) 15.0°C at Tollymore Park Forest, -5.3°C at Aldergrove.

**Rainfall** — The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the 1916-50 average was 65 over England and Wales and also over Scotland and 81 over Northern Ireland. Less than 25 per cent of the average occurred around Lyme Bay, but the average was exceeded in the Folkestone area, around Cardigan Bay and over much of the Clyde Valley.

Thunder was heard in Scotland on 10 days and in England and Wales on the 2nd, 3rd, 8th-11th, 14th, 28th and 29th (9 days). Thunderstorms were widespread on the 10th and 28th and heavy in southern England on the 10th.

Snow or sleet occurred on 17 days in Scotland and was reported as covering the ground in places on 9 days. It occurred at one place or another in England and Wales on the 3rd, 4th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 24th, 25th, 27th, 28th, 29th (10 days) and was widespread in eastern England on the 4th.

**Sunshine** — The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921-50 average was 110 over England and Wales, 117 over Scotland and 93 over Northern Ireland. Sunshine was 133 per cent of the average in north-west England but below the average in the south-west. At Craibstone it was the sunniest November since records began in 1924. The 4th was an exceptionally sunny day the sunniest at Kew for any November day since records began.

**Fog** — In Scotland fog was frequent, occurring at one place or another on 25 days. In England and Wales it was reported every day of the month except the 3rd, 14th and 29th and was most prevalent from 6th to 10th and around the 22nd.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena** — Auroral displays were observed in Scotland on 13 nights.