

## June 2006

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1961-1990.

### UK overview

A very warm, dry and sunny month across the majority of the UK. Mean temperatures generally 1 to 2 °C above average. Rainfall ranging from close to average across western Scotland, to exceptionally below average across the Midlands. Sunshine levels well above average across southern England.

Central London recorded a maximum temperature of 32.4 °C on 12th. Altnaharra recorded a minimum temperature of -1.4 °C and Kinbrace -1.7 °C on 26th (both Highlands).

### England and Wales diary of highlights

**A warm, very dry and sunny month.**

**1st to 10th:** High pressure dominated the weather through this period, centred off southern Ireland on the 1st but migrating over the North Sea by the 5th. Many places stayed dry with good spells of sunshine, Tenby (Pembrokeshire) recording 14.5 hours on the 2nd, but thundery showers developed over the Midlands and southern England on the 4th and the 7th. Temperatures were generally on the warm side, reaching 25.3 °C at Southampton (Hampshire) on the 4th and 27 °C in Ross-on-Wye (Herefordshire) on the 8th. Onshore winds made it cooler on the east coast at times, the temperature only reaching 10 °C at Lowestoft (Suffolk) on the 1st and 12.6 °C at Loftus (Redcar and Cleveland) on the 5th. The night of the 5th/6th recorded a ground frost across parts of Norfolk and Lincolnshire.

**11th to 15th:** A more unsettled spell as a cold front slowly moved across the area and became stationary over south-east England on the 13th and 14th. This brought some welcome rain to most places, over 25 mm falling in parts of Devon on the night of the 11th/12th. On the 12th temperatures hit 32.4 °C in central London and the heat in the south and east set of thunderstorms across the Midlands and Yorkshire. 30 mm of rain fell at Folkestone (Kent) on the 14th with temperatures at Margate (Kent) only reaching 13.4 °C. The same day behind the cold front Falmouth (Cornwall) was sunny with a temperature of 20.6 °C.

**16th to 18th:** A ridge of high pressure built in behind the cold front to bring a return to dry and sunny weather for southern England and south Wales, 15.3 hours of sunshine at Torquay on the 16th and a high of 28.7 °C in London on the 17th. However during this period northern England and north Wales were cloudier with some light rain or drizzle at times.

**19th to 22nd:** A deep area of low pressure developed in the Atlantic on the 19th in association with ex-tropical storm Alberto. This produced some unusually strong winds for June with Capel Curig (Gwynedd) recording a gust of 54 knots on the 20th and gusts generally 40-45 knots across Wales and northern England on the 21st and 22nd. On the night of the 22nd, noctilucent cloud was reported widely across central and southern England.

**23rd to 27th:** Most places saw some rain during this period as a low pressure area became centred over south-west England. The main rain occurred on the 25th and 26th when heavy thundery showers developed, 10.6 mm of rain falling in one hour at Camborne (Cornwall) and 11.0 mm in one hour at St Athan (Vale of Glamorgan) on the 26th. There were reports of localised flooding in the Penzance area, with a local report of over 75 mm falling in Penzance on 26th. A well defined funnel cloud was photographed near Princetown on

Dartmoor, and the rain caused a virtual washout of the first day of Wimbledon. North-easterly winds on the 26th held temperatures down at 12 or 13 °C over eastern England.

**28th to 30th:** High pressure kept southern and eastern counties of England dry, very warm and sunny, temperatures reaching 29.2 °C in central London on the 30th. In contrast it was cloudier at times further north and west as a waving cold front ran across Ireland and sent showery outbreaks of rain over north-west England and north Wales, with temperatures only reaching 19 °C on Anglesey.

## Scotland diary of highlights

**Anticyclonic, dry and sunny, apart from cyclonic spell in third week.**

For the first eight days a large anticyclone covered the British Isles but over Scotland a weak front affected parts of the north and east at times. The front brought a band of cloud and slight rain that depressed temperatures so that on the 3rd the maximum at Loch Glascarnoch was 11 °C. However, over much of central, southern and western Scotland it remained dry and warm with plenty of sun and on the 6th the temperature rose to 26 °C at Leuchars.

From the 9th to the 11th the anticyclone was over the North Sea and south to south-easterly winds covered Scotland. There was haar near the east coast but elsewhere it was hot and sunny with the temperature reaching 28 °C on the west coast on the 10th. During the preceding and following nights the minimum temperature was 18 °C at South Uist and Aultbea respectively.

On the 12th and 13th the fine weather broke down as an Atlantic depression brought a band of rain and gusts reached 54 m.p.h. at Loch Glascarnoch and Baltasound. However, pressure soon recovered from the south so that fair weather was renewed on the 14th and 15th.

Warm and humid air brought cloud and light rain on the 16th and 17th. On the 18th a depression advanced east towards the north of Scotland, pushing a band of rain east across the whole country, with Port Ellen on Islay receiving 31 mm. The next low was even deeper and rain associated with its front crossed the country on the 20th before returning in its rear the next day. Kinlochewe recorded a two-day rainfall total of 95 mm and gusts reached 56 m.p.h. at Barra. It was very cool with the temperature reaching only 12 °C at Lochranza on the 21st.

There was a slow recovery in the weather during the next few days as the wind eased, but it remained mostly cloudy with some showers. On the 22nd the maximum temperature at Loch Glascarnoch was 11 °C.

On the 25th high pressure built to the west of Scotland and moved slowly east, bringing four days of fair weather to much of the country, especially the west. The air in the circulation of the anticyclone was of cold origin and on the 26th the temperature at Altnaharra fell to -1 °C.

A front with its attendant belt of cloud and light rain moved slowly east across Scotland on the 29th and 30th.

## Northern Ireland diary of highlights

**Very dry and warm, even hot during the first ten days. Unsettled and much cooler for a time during the third week.**

The fine spell, established by the end of May continued for much of the first two weeks of June. Sunny skies dominated many areas and there was no measurable rain anywhere until the morning of the 12th.

Temperatures rose into the low twenties during the first 5 days and the period between the 6th and the 11th was very warm or even hot with temperatures frequently and widely reaching 25 or 26 °C. The highest value of the month, 27 °C occurred at Derrylin in Co Fermanagh on the 8th.

Apart from some well scattered showers in the west on the 12th the dry, often bright and sometimes sunny weather continued until the 17th. Temperatures had cooled somewhat but were still above average, frequently between 18 and 21 °C.

The most unsettled period of the month occurred between the 18th and 23rd when a deep area of low pressure tracked to the north-west of Ireland. This brought showers or longer periods of rain and unusually windy weather for mid-summer with westerly winds reaching gale force around the 21st/22nd.

Quieter weather returned between the 24th and 28th with some pleasant days and it was mainly dry once again. Some showery rain developed on the 29th and early on the 30th but the last day of the month brightened up with warm sunshine to end the month and temperatures again lifted to around 22 °C in places.

The month was notably dry in many areas and at Armagh, the monthly rainfall total of 14.6 mm made it the driest June since 1942.

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