

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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## Unsettled; generally dull and wet, with average temperatures

A succession of fronts crossed all areas of the United Kingdom between the 1st and 6th, associated with a deepening depression that crossed Scotland early on the 5th. During the 7th a slow-moving front trailed along the Bristol Channel to the parent Atlantic depression. Early on the 8th a disturbance on the front moved rapidly across England and Wales, reaching the east coast by midday, while the front trailed back from the Thames Estuary to the Mersey to the Western Isles. An area of high pressure developed to the south of the British Isles covering south-west and southern England and South Wales later on the 8th. With high pressure established to the south of Great Britain the Atlantic depression and its associated fronts moved north-eastwards across western areas of Wales and Scotland during the 9th. Later on the 9th the anticyclone centred over western Germany hindering eastward movement of the fronts over Scotland and Ireland. A low centre formed over western Wales on the 12th. Early on the 13th pressure rose to the west of the British Isles, bringing persistent high pressure over the next few days. Fronts over the far north of Scotland during the 14th dissipated on the 15th and all parts of the United Kingdom came into a cold northerly or north-easterly airstream over the next few days. A southward-moving cold front cleared the far south of England later on the 18th. As the anticyclone drifted southwards on the 21st, a succession of fronts moved southwards across all areas. After a transient ridge of high pressure on the 23rd and 24th, a trailing cold front edged gradually forwards over western areas on the 25th, but later began to dissipate, and pressure began to rise over all parts of the United Kingdom. On the 28th and 29th the fronts of an Atlantic depression moved over western parts of the United Kingdom; the low centre then crossed southern England and Wales and moved over Germany, leaving part of the British Isles in a cold northerly to north-easterly airstream at the end of the month.

### Weather

The weather was unsettled at the beginning of the month with rain or showers during the first week, and some sunny intervals. Rain was often prolonged and heavy over western areas. The second half of the month brought a wintry mixture of hail, sleet and snow showers, with longer periods of rain and a few sunny intervals. On the 12th thundery outbreaks occurred over parts of central and south-eastern England. On the 18th and 19th England and Wales had heavy and prolonged wintry showers, sometimes with thunder, although Wales and south-west England had some good sunny spells. Thunder occurred over Essex on the 21st. There were scattered hail showers on the 22nd and 23rd. Rain in the west on the 25th gave way to thundery showers, while in the north and east it remained dry. Further thundery outbreaks occurred over Wales, the Midlands and Cornwall on the 26th.

### Wind

April was a generally quiet month, but with winds fresh or strong on six days. Early on the 4th there were gusts of more than 60 kn in exposed places in the west, including 63 kn at Kilkeel,

Northern Ireland and two gusts of 60 kn at Cudrose, Cornwall. On the 6th a gust to 60 kn was measured at Camborne, Cornwall. Gusts of between 50 kn and 60 kn were recorded at a number of places in Scotland on the 11th. Wind directions were mainly southerly or westerly although at mid month and during the last week they were northerly or easterly.

### Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were generally near to the monthly normal and ranged from 0.6 °C below normal at Sandown, Isle of Wight to 1.2 °C above normal at Kinloss, Grampian Region.

A large diurnal range of air temperature at inland sites is a characteristic of spring in Scotland, amply demonstrated by the maximum and minimum temperatures of 16.5 °C and -14.2 °C recorded at Tummel Bridge, Tayside on the 14th. Temperatures rose over a large area on the 8th, and exceeded 21 °C in parts of the south and east on the 11th. Early on the 21st a damaging frost occurred in parts of south-east England as temperatures dropped as low as -4 °C. The highest temperature during the month was 23.5 °C at Elmstone, Kent on the 12th and the lowest was -7.1 °C at Leadhills, Strathclyde on the 20th.

### Rainfall

Monthly rainfall totals were above normal everywhere except over eastern Scotland and much of northern England, and ranged from more than twice the normal in parts of western Cornwall and western Scotland to less than half the normal in north-east England and around the Moray Firth.

Heavy rain gave falls of 72 mm at Inverinan, Highland Region on the 1st and 81 mm at Isle of Rhum, Highland Region on the 10th, the latter having its wettest April day since records began there in 1958. Late on the 28th rain became prolonged and persistent everywhere except northern parts of Scotland. Heavy rain during the 29th and 30th doubled the month's totals in parts of the south-east, with some places having their wettest

April day this century on the 29th, the wettest day over England and Wales as a whole since the very wet Bank Holiday, 25 August 1986. Other heavy falls included 96 mm at Llanymawddwy, Gwynedd on the 1st.

### Snow

During the 18th, 19th and 20th there were wintry showers over eastern parts of England and Scotland. On the morning of the 20th when the cold spell was at its height, 17 cm of level snow lay at the Cairngorm Carpark.

### Sunshine

Monthly sunshine amounts were generally above average in eastern areas but below average in western areas, ranging from 129% of average at Edinburgh, East Craigs, Lothian Region to a rather dull 73% of average at Stornoway, Western Isles.

Stornoway recorded its dullest April since 1975 whereas Lerwick with 122% of its normal April amount had its sunniest April since 1970. Most sunshine during the month was 194 hours at Hemsby, Norfolk and Leuchars, Fife Region and most in a day was 14.3 hours at Folkestone, Kent on the 28th.

### Fog

Overnight fog formed quite widely in southern and eastern England between the 9th and 13th, and over southern and central Scotland on the 14th. Areas of fog developed over central and eastern areas of England and Wales on the 26th and 27th. East Anglia and the north-east coast had some fog patches on the 29th. Coastal fog occurred in west Wales on the 8th, on southern and western coasts on the 9th, persisting all day on the south coast and west Wales, in south-west England and west Wales on the 11th and in the west later on the 29th. Some hill fog occurred over Wales and southern England on the 1st, 11th and 30th.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

**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	18.5	−5.1	+0.3	+0.8	+0.5	+0.6	−2	131	99
1 Scotland E	18.7	−4.3	0.0	+0.8	+0.4	+1.0	−2	113	113
2 England E & NE	20.4	−2.5	0.0	+0.4	+0.1	+0.9	−2	83	106
3 East Anglia	22.1	−3.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.8	0	116	110
4 Midland Counties	21.5	−2.5	0.0	+0.2	+0.1	+0.7	−1	125	100
5 England SE & Central S	21.0	−3.8	−0.2	+0.1	−0.1	+0.6	−1	129	106
6 Scotland W	18.4	−5.4	−0.4	+0.5	+0.1	+0.7	+1	195	101
7 England NW & Wales N	18.8	−3.3	+0.1	+0.7	+0.3	+0.9	+1	119	97
8 England SW & Wales S	22.1	−3.5	−0.2	+0.3	0.0	+0.1	+2	153	93
N Ireland	15.4	−2.5	−0.6	+0.9	+0.1	+0.6	+1	181	99
Scotland	18.7	−5.4	0.0	+0.7	+0.3	+0.8	−1	152	104
England & Wales	22.1	−3.8	0.0	+0.3	+0.1	+0.7	0	124	102

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations