

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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## Mainly dry for three weeks, then wet and windy; very warm mid-month.

For much of the first three weeks of the month pressure was high over or to the south of the British Isles and low to the north. Fronts crossed all areas at times, but in the south they were mostly weak and after the 12th limited to northern districts. Anticyclones progressed eastwards over northern France on the 3rd and 8th and across the south of Britain on the 11th and 13th. The last high became slow moving over central Europe with a ridge persisting over the United Kingdom until the 17th. On the 5th, however, a complex low moved north-eastwards over the south of Britain while on the 12th a vigorous depression passed close to northern Scotland.

On the 20th a deepening depression moved north-eastwards past the north of Scotland and cold fronts swept from the west over all districts. For the remainder of the month the British Isles lay mostly in the circulation of low pressure over the nearby Atlantic while a succession of frontal systems advanced across all parts. A vigorous secondary depression crossed the south of Britain during the morning of the 21st while another moved up the Irish Sea and over Scotland on the 27th.

### Weather

Over central and southern districts the weather was mainly dry for much of the first three weeks and for a few days from mid-month very warm and sunny after the clearance of overnight fog. Unsettled weather in the north, particularly over northern Scotland, then spread to the rest of the United Kingdom and the remainder of the month was generally wet, rather cool and windy. Thunderstorms were widespread over the Midlands, East Anglia, east and south-east England on the 5th. Otherwise, thunderstorms were mostly confined to the last two weeks of the month when they occurred almost daily, but only on the 25th, 26th and 27th were they at all widespread.

### Wind

Until the 19th winds were mostly only light or moderate in strength over central and southern districts. But in the north and generally during the remainder of the month they were often fresh or strong with gales in places. The gales were severe on the 12th over northern Scotland and also at times later in the month, mainly over western and northern coasts and hills. Widespread damage was reported in the west and north on the 27th when gusts of 69 kn and 80 kn were recorded at Valley on Anglesey and on Great Dun Fell in Cumbria respectively. On the same day, in Gwynedd, six persons were detained in hospital when 50 caravans were wrecked at Conwy and a warehouse extensively damaged at Llandudno Junction, while an empty railway car was blown over on the Great Orme. Wind directions were mostly between south and south-westerly although for about a week at the start of the month they were mainly from a westerly point.

### Temperature

Monthly mean temperatures were within 1 °C of average almost everywhere. Over England, Wales and the Channel Islands they were mainly above average by virtue of above-normal maxima, but over Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man mostly below.

After the cool spell in August temperatures recovered at the start of the month; while it was warm at times in the south-east temperatures were mostly near normal in the north. Much of Scotland, however, was very cool on the 5th and 6th with temperatures failing to reach 10 °C in parts of the north and east. For a few days from mid-month it became very warm except in the far north. Central and southern areas, where temperatures exceeded 26 °C widely from the 16th to the 18th, had one of the warmest short spells for so late in the year this century. The rest of the month was mostly rather cool. Ground frost occurred at times in most parts with air frost in places, mainly in the north during the last ten days of the month; the temperature fell to -2.4 °C at Modamlaght in Co. Londonderry on the 22nd and to -4.0 °C at Fyvie Castle in Grampian Region on the 30th.

### Rainfall

Rainfall totals were above normal for the month over Scotland, the Isle of Man, much of Wales, the Midlands and the eastern half of Northern Ireland, in parts of East Anglia, east and south-east England and at isolated places in the remainder of England. More than 150 per cent of average was recorded over much of northern Scotland and in scattered areas elsewhere. Over the rest of the United Kingdom totals were below normal with less than half the average falling locally in Northumberland and Essex.

Until the 18th there was a good deal of mainly dry weather, particularly from the 11th, except over the north of Scotland. A few places in the south of Britain recorded less than 1 mm during the 19 days from 31 August. Showers or longer periods of rain in the north then spread to the remainder of the United Kingdom for the rest of the month with heavy rainfall at times in many parts and flooding in places. Rainfall was also heavy with local flooding on the 5th, mainly in the east and particularly in Norfolk where 80.0 mm fell at Southrepps near Cromer. On the 27th, when 106.3 mm of rain were recorded at South Barrule Plantation on the Isle of Man, an aquarium and hundreds of

tropical fish, including man-eating piranhas, were washed away at Rushen Abbey near Ballasalla. Snow covered the higher mountain tops of Scotland for a time on the 21st.

### Sunshine

Monthly sunshine totals were above average over much of England except Cornwall and most of Devon, parts of the south and east of Scotland, the south-eastern half of Northern Ireland and in the Channel Islands. More than 125 per cent of average was recorded in parts of east and north-east England and here and there in South Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Hampshire. Elsewhere totals were below normal with less than 75 per cent of average occurring in some western parts of Scotland.

Although sunshine was fairly evenly distributed throughout the month central and southern districts were mostly sunny between the 13th and 18th after the clearance of morning fog and low cloud.

### Fog

Overnight fog formed quite frequently, mostly in central and southern parts of Britain, but except between the 13th and 17th and on the 30th it was patchy. The fog cleared by mid-morning generally although on the 17th it disrupted road and air services for a time over much of Britain. There were also coastal fog patches at times, mainly during the first ten days of the month and between the 15th and 20th in the south-west. Over hills fog occurred on a number of occasions, especially in the north and west.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

Minor tornadoes were reported at Bicester in Oxfordshire, where a warehouse roof was removed and four persons injured, and at Thaxted in Essex at the passage of a marked cold front on the 21st. On the 26th another tornado caused considerable damage to houses and even lifted a laden lorry across the street in North Belfast.

Table 1 District values

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District	air temperature °C					mean 30-cm soil temp °C	rain- days	rainfall	sun- shine
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	max.	min.	mean				
0 Scotland N	18.5	0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	+6	156	84
1 Scotland E	22.8	-2.0	0.0	-0.3	0.0	0.0	+1	141	98
2 England E & NE	27.5	1.9	+1.1	0.0	+0.5	+0.5	-1	83	123
3 East Anglia	27.8	3.1	+1.1	+0.1	+0.6	+0.3	0	94	115
4 Midland Counties	27.8	-0.1	+1.1	0.0	+0.5	+0.4	-2	109	115
5 England SE & Central S	28.3	3.0	+1.5	+0.5	+1.0	+0.5	+1	95	113
6 Scotland W	23.9	-1.0	-0.4	-0.2	-0.3	0.0	+3	141	88
7 England NW & Wales N	26.3	2.3	+0.4	+0.1	+0.2	+0.3	-1	90	100
8 England SW & Wales S	27.9	2.7	+0.5	0.0	+0.3	+0.8	-2	106	96
N Ireland	23.2	1.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	+0.4	0	91	102
Scotland	23.9	-2.0	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	+3	146	90
England & Wales	28.3	-0.1	+0.9	+0.1	+0.5	+0.5	-1	96	110

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations