

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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Wet and very mild. Windy, especially in west and north.

The 1st saw a depression off Ireland pushing fronts across all areas. By midnight on the 2nd it was over Scandinavia, and further Atlantic systems approached. One moved across the south-west towards France on the 3rd, and during the 4th, a warm front crossed the whole country, whilst a high built to the south. This covered much of England and Wales on the 5th and 6th. A front moved south-east during the 6th, positioning along the Channel coast during the 7th by midnight. Pressure remained high until fronts approached during the 8th, crossing all areas by midnight on the 9th. Twenty-four hours later a deep depression was over the western approaches, moving across southern England on the 11th before reaching Denmark by midnight. High pressure built from the west to affect all areas during the 13th, but the next system quickly became complex as troughs affected most parts by midnight on the 14th. During the 15th, the low remained over East Anglia whilst fronts approached from the north-west. These cleared on the 16th, and after a short-lived ridge on the 17th, a deep low off Scotland pushed fronts over the whole country during the 18th. North-westerly winds covered most parts during the 19th, but by the end of the 20th, they were mostly light as a low formed in the Channel. This moved away on the 21st allowing fronts to approach from the south-west. Several systems crossed during the next 4 days including an active low which sped across the south-east during the 25th. A quieter day followed, but further fronts crossed all parts by midnight on the 27th. The 28th saw a short-lived high over southern Britain, as further fronts pushed across the country to clear by midnight on the 30th.

Weather

November was very unsettled. Even so, hail or thunder were not too common. A thunderstorm affected central and southern Scotland on the 2nd, and hail showers crossed the Northern and Western Isles during the 10th. Wintry showers, with hail and thunder affected north-west areas on the 11th, spreading to much of Scotland during the 12th when thunder was also recorded at Manchester. Hail showers fell in Northern Ireland and parts of western Scotland on the 16th, whilst Jersey and London had thunder on the 17th. Thunder was heard at Prestwick on the 18th, and further wintry showers affected central and western Scotland together with North Wales on the 19th, and to a lesser extent on the 20th. Heavy thundery rain affected many southern areas on the 25th, and the final week of the month saw many wintry showers in Scotland, often with hail and thunder. Thunder was heard in Cornwall on the 30th.

Wind

The 2nd was windy, especially in the North, where Leeds reported a gust of 61 knots. Gales affected the Channel Islands and southern England on the 11th, disrupting traffic and shipping. Jersey reported gusts up to 60 knots. The 18th and 19th were very windy with gales in the north-west. Gusts over 45 knots were widespread, and Benbecula, Highland Region, had one of 72 knots on the 18th. Northern Britain again had gales on the 23rd, spreading to Northern Ireland during the 24th. On

the 25th, the strongest winds were over southern England, where Langdon Bay, Kent, had a gust of 70 knots, and fallen trees caused serious traffic disruption. Gusts approaching 50 knots were widespread in many parts of Scotland during the last week of November. Gales in the south-west led to the deaths of three fishermen off the north Cornwall coast on the 30th, just 5 days after two others had perished similarly nearby. Directions were predominantly south-westerly or southerly.

Temperature

The Central England Temperature of 8.1 °C makes this the eighth warmest November this century, and the mildest since 1978. Remarkably, November's C.E.T. was higher than October's for the first time since 1939. Temperatures were above average virtually everywhere, with the largest anomaly at Goudhurst, Kent (2.1 °C above average). The exception was in northern Scotland, where Cape Wrath, Highland Region had a mean monthly temperature of 0.7 °C below average. The highest temperature was 18.5 °C at Torbay on the 6th, which is the highest UK November temperature since 1989. The lowest temperature was -6.8 °C at Paisley, Strathclyde, on the 14th.

Rainfall

This was the wettest November since 1984, and Fort Augustus, Highland Region, had its wettest November since records began in 1884. Apart from a few north-east coastal areas, everywhere had above average rainfall, and parts of south-west England had over 200%. The highest percentage was 230% of average, at Long Ashton, Avon, whilst the lowest was 66% of average at Fyvie Castle, Grampian Region. The highest daily total was 60 mm at Machynlleth, Powys on the 21st, and also at Cwmbargoed, Mid Glamorgan on the 29th. There were several instances of serious flooding following prolonged rainfall. On the 11th, widespread floods hit Jersey and the Thames Valley. Central and northern Wales were badly affected during the 21st to the 23rd, whilst overnight on the 25th/26th, much of southern England had floods. The most serious

occurrence was on the 29th, when parts of Wales had their worst floods for 20 years, causing devastation to roads, railways and homes. English counties, notably Avon, Hereford and Worcester, Gloucestershire, Devon and Wiltshire were also badly hit. At one stage, 28 rivers were on full flood alert.

Snow

Wintry showers on the 12th and 13th brought a little fresh snow to Scottish hills, and more snow fell on the 14th over the highest ground in Galloway, North Wales and over the Pennines. Heavy snow on the 21st brought chaos to central and southern Scotland and north-east England, forcing drivers to abandon their vehicles. Snow was reported over West Country moors during the evening of the 28th.

Sunshine

Eastern areas had the higher percentages of average, the highest being 142% of average at Braemar, Grampian Region, contrasting with some western districts which received less than 50% of average. The lowest value of 37% of average was recorded at Rothesay, Strathclyde Region. The highest daily total was 9.3 hours at Squires Gate, Lancashire, on the 1st, whilst the highest monthly total was 88.7 hours at Leuchars, Fife.

Fog

Extensive fog over south-western coasts and hills on the 4th spread to much of southern England during the 5th and 6th, but was confined again to the south-west by the end of the 7th, largely dispersing 24 hours later. Fog formed over high ground in the south-west early on the 15th. Patches formed over central southern England and the Midlands, the Channel Islands and south-western coasts early on the 21st. On the night of the 28th/29th, mist and fog formed in north-east England, spreading to parts of the Midlands and East Anglia.

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					% of average	
0 Scotland N	16.1	-3.6	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	-0.8	+4	144	79
1 Scotland E	16.8	-6.0	+0.4	-0.3	0.0	-0.8	+3	114	115
2 England E & NE	18.0	-6.0	+1.0	+0.2	+0.6	-0.3	+3	116	110
3 East Anglia	16.7	-4.3	+1.1	+0.4	+0.7	+0.2	+2	142	101
4 Midland Counties	16.5	-3.6	+1.3	+0.6	+1.0	0.0	+4	154	90
5 England SE & Central S	17.0	-2.4	+1.5	+0.9	+1.2	+0.6	+5	162	90
6 Scotland W	16.2	-6.6	+0.3	-0.1	+0.1	-0.8	+7	140	73
7 England NW & Wales N	17.5	-4.7	+0.7	+0.4	+0.5	+0.2	+5	134	80
8 England SW & Wales S	17.7	-3.6	+1.2	+1.2	+1.0	+0.5	+7	157	74
N Ireland	17.1	-2.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	-0.1	+6	123	86
Scotland	16.8	-6.6	+0.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.8	+5	137	89
England & Wales	18.0	-6.0	+1.1	+0.6	+0.8	+0.2	+4	143	91

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations