

# Monthly Weather Report

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SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS

VOL. 68 No. 4

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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INCREASE IN PRICE: Owing to increased costs the price of this report will be increased to 1s. 6d. net (annual subscription 21s. post free) as from May, 1951 issue

### April, 1951 - Cool and unsettled but sunny; wet on the whole in Great Britain

The weather of the month was cool and unsettled, though sunny. It was wet over most of Great Britain but drier than usual in Northern Ireland. Snow or sleet showers were frequent for the time of year.

On the 1st a depression to the west of Scotland moved south-south-east and then turned east across northern England causing general rainfall in England and Wales, and scattered rain in Scotland and Northern Ireland. From the 2nd to the 5th a depression south-west of Iceland moved east to the west of Norway, while troughs or secondary depressions crossed the British Isles; rain fell generally on the 3rd, heavy in the west, while rain or showers occurred on the 4th. On the 6th another depression south of Iceland moved south-south-east to our south-west coasts, while a secondary disturbance off south-west Ireland moved east-north-east over England and, on the 7th, the main depression moved east-north-east across southern England. Rain was general on the 6th and rain, sleet or snow occurred on the 7th, while thunderstorms were recorded locally in the south-east on the 7th. Thereafter another depression west of Scotland moved south-east to England and a secondary moved quickly across southern England to Denmark; fairly heavy rainfall was registered in the south of England on the 8th and 9th and wintry showers were widespread on the 10th. Subsequently a deep depression south of Iceland moved to south-west Norway, while troughs crossed the British Isles. Heavy rain occurred locally in the northern half of the country on the 11th and appreciable rain in the south on the 12th. Widespread strong winds and gales were recorded on the 12th. In the rear of the main depression a spell of north-westerly winds prevailed, accompanied by wintry showers, local thunderstorms and long sunny periods. On the 15th and 16th another deep depression south of Iceland moved east-south-east to southern Norway; further precipitation occurred, chiefly in northern districts and there were gales in the northern half of the country.

Subsequently an anticyclone off our west coasts moved across England to Germany, while a trough moved east across Scotland. Precipitation occurred in north-west and north Scotland on the 17th but mainly fair, sunny weather prevailed elsewhere. By the 19th a belt of high pressure extended from Greenland across the British Isles and, on the 20th, a separate high over the Faroes moved south-south-east to the North Sea where it remained almost stationary until the 23rd. The period from the 19th to the 23rd inclusive was generally dry and sunny on the whole. Temperature rose considerably in most places on the 23rd and the only really warm spell of the month was experienced from about the 23rd to the 25th. During the 25th a small depression south of Iceland moved east and in its rear a cold northerly air-stream covered the British Isles causing a rapid fall of temperature on the 26th. Thereafter an anticyclone centred south of Iceland moved slowly south and became almost stationary westward of the British Isles, while pressure was relatively low eastward of the country. Cold weather prevailed, with wintry showers and long sunny periods, though it was rather dull in places, including parts of east and south-east England. In the closing days of the month a shallow depression over the North Sea moved slowly south-west and turned west along the English channel giving showers of rain, sleet, snow and local thunder, chiefly in eastern districts on the 29th, and over much of England on the 30th.

**Pressure and Wind**—Broadly speaking mean pressure was somewhat below the average in Scotland and north-east England and a little above the average elsewhere. Winds of a northerly origin were rather frequent and the total run of the wind was somewhat above the average. Gales occurred at times at exposed stations chiefly in the west and north, mainly on the 1st, 3rd-5th, 7th, 11th-12th,

15th-17th, 24th and 27th, the most widespread being on the 12th and 16th. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 74 at Scilly on the 7th, 65 at Bell Rock Lighthouse and Tiree on the 12th and 71 at Stornoway on the 16th.

**Temperature**—Mean temperature was below the average for the period 1906-35 by 1.4°F. in England and Wales, 2.4°F. in Scotland and 1.6°F. in Northern Ireland. It was the coldest April over Scotland since 1922 and over England and Wales since 1941. The only warm spell occurred from about the 23rd to the 25th. Even during this period the highest temperature reached in both Scotland and Northern Ireland was only 64°F., but 70°F. was reached or exceeded at a large number of places in England on the 24th and 25th. Temperature in the screen fell to 32°F. or below rather frequently for the time of year and ground frosts were numerous.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 79°F. in London (Camden Square) on the 25th, 23°F. at Houghall on the 22nd; (Scotland) 64°F. at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, North Berwick and Lundin Links on the 24th, 18°F. at Glenlivet on the 11th; (Northern Ireland) 64°F. at Armagh on the 24th, 27°F. at Garvagh on the 11th and 19th.

**Precipitation**—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 135 over England and Wales, 150 over Scotland and 71 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland an excess was almost general except in the extreme south-west. More than twice the average occurred in an area covering part of Sutherland and extending southward over the estuary of the Moray Firth and the neighbouring part of Inverness-shire, while more than 275 per cent. of the average was received at Garthbeg, near the southern shore of Loch Mhor. In England and Wales less than the average occurred over most of Lancashire and along the north coast of Wales, in much of north-east England and the adjacent part of the northern Midlands, in south Devon and at a few places elsewhere while less than 50 per cent. of the average was registered at Pontefract. On the other hand more than twice the average was received in Norfolk, north Suffolk and Cambridgeshire and locally in the London area and north-east Hampshire and more than 250 per cent. locally in Norfolk and Suffolk. In Northern Ireland there was a general deficiency.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

3rd. 2.50 in. at Borrowdale (Cumberland) and 2.28 in. at Glen Etive (Argyll).

11th. 2.25 in. at Borrowdale and Glen Etive.

12th. 2.18 in. at Bod-Talog (Montgomeryshire).

Thunderstorms occurred rather frequently, mainly on the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 6th-10th, 12th-14th, 16th, 26th, 27th, 29th and 30th. They were rather widespread on the 13th and 30th.

Snow or sleet showers occurred frequently, particularly on high ground in the west and north. At Glenlivet snow lay to a depth of 4 in. on the 9th and 17th.

**Sunshine**—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1906-35 was 125 in England and Wales, 114 in Scotland and 111 in Northern Ireland. An excess was practically universal; the sunniest weeks were, for the most part, those ending on the 21st and 28th.

**Fog**—Fog occurred locally at times but was infrequent on the whole; it was most widespread on the 23rd-25th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena**—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 19 nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on nine days. Water-spouts were seen at Llandudno in the morning and at West Kirby in the evening of the 27th.