

# Monthly Weather Report

## OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

Summary of observations compiled from returns of official stations and voluntary observers

Volume 82 Number 1

Published by HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

© Crown Copyright 1965

### January 1965 — *Mainly cyclonic; cold early and late.*

An anticyclone moving southwards off the west of the British Isles dominated the weather during the first week but troughs of low pressure from the Atlantic moving eastwards across the country gave predominantly cyclonic weather from the 7th until the 25th. The remainder of the month was mainly anticyclonic with high pressure to the north of the British Isles.

The month began sunny and cold with scattered wintry showers in a northerly airstream. Many places in west and south-west England had more than 8 hours of sunshine during each of the first three days, and by the 3rd many north-east coastal areas were covered by 2 inches of snow. Westerly winds from the Atlantic brought milder weather to Scotland on the 4th.

After a generally sunny day on the 5th, mild south-west to west winds became established over most of the country on the 6th and persisted for about a week. The 6th and 7th were dull with widespread rain but the 8th was generally sunny although overnight rain was slow to clear south-east England. The 9th and 10th were particularly wet and stormy days; more than 1 inch of rain was recorded at many places in the north-west and Midlands on the 9th and wind reached gale force locally in the south on the 10th. There were some sunny periods in the west and north on the 11th but frontal rain from the Atlantic reached western districts that evening and continued throughout the night and for most of the next day. The persistent rain caused widespread flooding in Wales and the Lake District from the 10th until the 13th.

The 13th was another very wet and stormy day, an intense depression deepening considerably as it moved eastward across Scotland during the night; rainfall exceeded 1 inch in many districts, the heaviest fall being at Clatteringshaws, Kircudbright, where 2.24 inches was recorded, and wind reached 80 kt at Carlisle and Ronaldsway. As the depression reached the North Sea winds veered towards the north-west and weather became colder. Wintry showers spread to many areas on the 14th, high ground in the north becoming snow-covered; at Malham Tarn snow lay 2 inches deep.

A showery day with local thunderstorms and with snow or sleet in the north, was followed on the 16th by a temporary return to milder weather and rain as the fronts of a deep depression near Iceland approached western districts. A day of squally showers and scattered thunderstorms followed with wind reaching gale force over most of the country; gusts of 83 and 84 kt were recorded at Lizard and Valley respectively.

On the 18th a polar depression off the west coast of Scotland brought rather frequent snow showers to western districts, but on the 19th showers were very scattered with long sunny periods and light variable winds. The next day a vigorous depression moved from south-west Ireland to the English Channel bringing heavy falls of snow to many districts; at Tredegar, South Wales, level snow lay 12 inches deep. The 21st was a generally cloudy day, the cloud thickening and lowering with the approach of a trough of low pressure from the west which brought further falls of snow that night; in parts of the Chilterns level snow lay 5 inches deep.

The weather pattern changed on the 24th as winds became light and variable over the country. Fog developed in many districts that night and persisted for much of the 25th. The next day an easterly airstream associated with a ridge of high pressure extending from Scandinavia to west of the Shetlands cleared most of the fog and brought day temperatures again

below normal. By the 27th frost had become widespread and was moderate to severe, especially in northern districts, during the last few days of the month. Weather during this time was particularly sunny in western districts in contrast with south-east England where it was generally dull with scattered snow showers.

**Pressure and Wind** — Mean pressure was everywhere below the 1921-50 average, the deficit at 9 hr. ranging from 2.4 mb at Stornoway to 5.8 at Gorleston. Surface winds, northerly at first, were mainly south-westerly on the 5th-17th, rather variable but moderate at times on the 18th-25th and easterly during the last six days of the month. Gales were widespread on the 13th and 17th. A gust of 94 kt was recorded at the high level station of Great Dun Fell (2780 ft) on the 14th.

**Temperature** — Temperatures over the month were only a little below average in England and Wales, milder periods in the second and third weeks being offset by cold spells at the beginning and end of the month. The warmest days were around the 11th and the coldest nights in England and Wales around the 3rd/4th; in Scotland night temperatures were below the average during the second half of the month, the coldest night being the 31st.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 14.4°C at Wye on the 5th, -12.2°C at Houghall on the 30th; (Scotland) 13.3°C at Stirling on the 10th, -14.4°C at Camps Reservoir on the 30th; (Northern Ireland) 12.8°C at Tollymore Park on the 7th, -7.2°C at several places on the 29th and 30th.

**Rainfall** — In Scotland rainfall amounts were generally around average but there were local excesses especially near the north-east coasts. In England and Wales rainfall was below average over the East Riding of Yorkshire, over part of Lincolnshire, over most of East Anglia and over the South Midlands and south-east England, apart from south coast districts in Sussex and Kent. It was 50 per cent above the average locally in North Wales and the Northern Pennines.

Snow or sleet fell at one place or another every day in Scotland. In England and Wales there was some snow in northern and eastern districts during the first four days of the month, but the main falls occurred around the 19th-22nd and 26th-28th. Snow was 3-6 inches deep in many parts of the Midlands around the 22nd, and in northern England around the 28th.

Thunder was heard on 11 days in Scotland and on the 14th-19th and 21st (7 days) in England and Wales. Thunderstorms were widespread on the 17th.

**Sunshine** — It was an unusually sunny month, sunshine amounts being considerably above the average in most places, they were more than 190 per cent of the average at Onich and Helensburg in Scotland, and at Ambleside and Huddersfield further south; parts of the London area had more than twice the average sunshine. At Paisley it was the sunniest January since 1895.

**Fog** — In Scotland fog was observed at 9 hr at one place or another on 20 days, and in England and Wales on the 2nd-8th, 10th, 15th, 16th, 18th-22nd and 24th-30th (22 days). It persisted in many areas throughout the 25th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena** — The aurora was visible in Scotland on 4 nights.

TABLE 1—DISTRICT VALUES— JANUARY, 1965

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN FALL.	SUN. SHIN.
	Highest Max.	Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean.	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
	Difference from Average							% of Average		
0 SCOTLAND, N.	10.8	-6.2	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7	-	-	0	120	121
1 SCOTLAND, E.	11.1	-11.1	-0.7	-0.4	-0.5	-	-	+1	98	109
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	11.5	-8.3	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-0.1	+2	97	130
3 ENGLAND, E.	12.2	-6.4	0.0	+0.3	+0.2	-0.6	-0.6	+1	83	131
4 MIDLANDS	11.7	-5.9	-0.1	+0.1	0.0	-0.8	-0.5	+1	101	151
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	12.8	-6.0	-0.1	+0.2	+0.1	-0.6	-0.5	+1	99	134

\*Highest Max. and Lowest Min. of the District Value Stations.

(1908, revised 1928, 1941, 1956 and 1964)

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN FALL	SUNSHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
						Difference from Average				
6 SCOTLAND, W.	11.3	-10.9	-0.5	-0.9	-0.6	-0.6	-0.3	-4	103	171
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	13.3	-8.3	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.7	-0.3	-2	113	125
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	12.2	-6.1	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.7	-0.8	+1	117	127
9 IRELAND	12.3	-6.7	-0.8	-1.4	-1.1	-	-	-1	120	119
SCOTLAND	11.3	-11.1	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6	-	-	-1	102	134
ENG. and WALES	13.3	-8.3	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	-	-	+1	105	133