

# Monthly Weather Report

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

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### January, 1952 - Sunny and cold with frequent snow

The month was cold, particularly in the northern half of the country, and unusually sunny for the time of year. Snow or sleet showers were frequent and snow lay on high ground for long periods. A widespread, severe gale occurred on the 15th, reaching hurricane force in the Orkneys.

In the opening days a complex depression was situated over Scandinavia, while a secondary disturbance crossed the British Isles; rather cold west to north winds prevailed with wintry showers, and long bright periods in many places, particularly on the 1st and 3rd. On the 4th a trough of low pressure crossed the country giving precipitation generally, mainly in the form of rain. From the 4th to the 6th a very deep depression moved from mid Atlantic to the north-east of Greenland and a milder south-westerly air stream prevailed over the British Isles, with some fog and slight drizzle, and rain later in the north. Meanwhile pressure became high in a belt from the Azores across France to Germany. On the 8th a deep depression over Iceland moved east and turned north-east, while an associated trough moved east over the British Isles causing general rain, but conditions continued mild. Colder westerly winds brought a fall in temperature on the 9th, with wintry showers, the snow being heavy locally in the north of Scotland. These colder conditions persisted in the north but a trough of low pressure moving south-east across the southern half of the country was associated with a temporary rise in temperature in this area, the 10th being the mildest day of the month in parts of England. Rainfall was heavy in some areas on the 9th and 10th. During the next few days rather cold, northerly winds prevailed with showers and bright periods but on the 14th-15th a deep depression moved east-north-east along our northern seaboard and associated troughs moved south-east across the country. Temperature rose and widespread strong winds or gales occurred, the gale being very severe in the north of Scotland. Subsequently a depression moved from west of Iceland to Germany. Cold northerly or north-westerly winds prevailed reaching gale force locally on the 17th and 18th, with widespread snow. Thereafter a belt of high pressure lay across the British Isles joining anticyclones over Scandinavia and the Azores. Cold dry weather prevailed in most parts from the 19th to the 21st, with long sunny periods on the 19th and 20th. On the 22nd and 23rd a small disturbance moved from the Hebrides across Ireland to the Bay of Biscay. Temperature continued low and the weather was dull with some precipitation. Subsequently pressure was low eastward of the British Isles and high to the westward and a spell of very cold weather ensued with widespread sleet or snow, though the snow cover was thin over a wide area in the south-east. On the 28th a trough of low pressure moving rather quickly north-east across the country caused more precipitation, chiefly in the form of snow but rain in the south. In the closing days a deep trough moved east giving further precipitation.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure was below the average, the deficiency being least in the west and greatest in the east; at 9h. the deviation from the average ranged from -2.3 mb. at Newquay and Armagh to -6.4 mb. at Lerwick and -6.8 mb. at Gorleston. Winds were mainly from south-west through west to north, with frequent incursions of polar air. Gales occurred frequently at exposed stations in the west and north, mainly on the 1st, 2nd, 6th-11th, 13th-18th and 30th-31st. The gale on the 15th was very severe in the north of Scotland, reaching hurricane force locally; great damage occurred in the Orkneys. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 94 at Stornoway, 89 at Lerwick and 70 at Millport and Tیره on the 15th and 69 at Lizard on the 17th.

**Temperature.**—Mean temperature was below the average for 1906-35 by 2.3°F. in England and Wales, 4.8°F. in Scotland and 4.1°F. in Northern Ireland. In Scotland it was the coldest January since the very cold January of 1945. It was mild from the 6th to 8th

and 14th to 15th and in England and Wales also on the 10th. It was very cold from the 17th to the 31st. Among low maxima were 17°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 2nd and 19°F. at Braemar on the 20th. Air temperature fell to 4°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 2nd, 2°F. at Shawbury on the 27th and at Glentress (Peebles) on the 28th, and 1°F. at Logie Coldstone on the 30th. At Eskdalemuir temperature remained continuously below 32°F. from the 22nd to the 28th inclusive.

Extreme temperatures included:—(England and Wales) 56°F. at Cannington, Poole, Dawlish and Teignmouth on the 10th, at Prestatyn and Colwyn Bay on the 14th and Southampton on the 15th, 2°F. at Shawbury on the 27th; (Scotland) 55°F. at Forres, Gordon Castle and Perth on the 6th, 1°F. at Logie Coldstone on the 30th; (Northern Ireland) 53°F. at Castlerock on the 6th and 14th, at Garvagh on the 14th and at Armagh on the 15th, 18°F. at Garvagh on the 21st.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 113 over England and Wales, 110 over Scotland and 147 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland more than the average occurred in the north, south and coastal areas in the west, while less than the average was received in the south-east and over much of a large central area north of the Clyde-Forth Valley. More than 150 per cent. was registered locally in Wester Ross and the Southern Uplands. In England and Wales more than the average occurred over most of the western half of the country, in an area extending over Sussex, Kent and East Anglia and in much of north-east England north of Flamborough Head. On the other hand somewhat less than the average was received in a large irregular area extending from Dorset to London and northward across the east Midlands and Lincolnshire to north-west of the Humber. Less than the average occurred also over part of the south-west Midlands, locally in south Cumberland and Westmorland and at Newcastle and Berwick-on-Tweed. In Northern Ireland an excess was general, percentages of the average ranging from 109 at Seaforde, County Down to 191 at Garvagh.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

- 10th 2.14 in. at Gam (Montgomeryshire) and 2.10 in. at Cwm Dyli (Snowdon).
- 13th 2.43 in. at Borrowdale (Cumberland).
- 30th 2.12 in. at Lephinmore, Loch Fyne and 2.06 in. at Ystalyfera (Glamorgan).

Thunderstorms occurred locally at times, mainly on the 1st-3rd, 8th-9th, 11th-12th, 15th-18th, 25th-26th and 31st; they were rather widespread in England, on the 2nd, 9th and 17th.

Snow fell frequently particularly on high ground in the west and north. At some places it lay on the ground from the 16th onwards; at Braemar it lay on every day except the 6th-8th and 15th. At Bwlchgwyn (1267 ft.), Denbighshire, snow lay 10 in. deep on the 27th increasing to 14 in. by the 31st, with drifts up to 4ft. on the 27th. In the north of Scotland heavy snow fell on the 9th; snow 1 ft. deep was reported at Dalwhinnie about the 10th. There was a general fall of snow on the 28th; roads were blocked in some areas.

**Sunshine.**—The duration of bright sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1906-35 was 150 in England and Wales, 134 in Scotland and 102 in Northern Ireland. At numerous places including Kew Observatory, Oxford, Lympne, Birmingham, Ross-on-Wye and Southport it was the sunniest January on record.

**Fog.**—Fog occurred at times, chiefly on the 4th-6th, 10th, 13th and 19th-30th; it was rather persistent and dense at times in the Clyde area from the 19th to 21st and rather widespread and thick in places on the 30th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 15 nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 12 days.