

Monthly Weather Report

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OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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October 1962 — *Dry and quiet for much of the month*

The outstanding feature of the month was the generally dry anti-cyclonic weather which lasted, with little interruption, from the 3rd until the 24th. The last week was mainly cyclonic with troughs of low pressure crossing the country from the west.

A deep depression south of Iceland on the 1st gave showery weather over most of the country in a fresh to strong south-westerly airstream which reached gale force at times in the west and north. Winds moderated, and showers became less frequent, on the 2nd as an anti-cyclone off the coast of Portugal intensified and moved north-eastwards. The next day a ridge of high pressure covered most of the country and weather was generally fine and sunny, except in the extreme south where a small depression over northern France gave rather more cloud. The 4th, too, was a generally sunny day, but a trough of low pressure moving eastwards from Ireland gave widespread rain during the night, though amounts were mainly small, except in the north west. This rain had cleared most districts by noon the next day.

Behind the trough an anticyclone developed covering southern England, northern France and Germany, and in its circulation a warm airstream from low latitudes spread to all parts of the British Isles. From 6th to 9th as the anticyclone drifted slowly eastwards, weather was fine and warm nearly everywhere after patches of early morning fog had cleared; afternoon temperatures rose to 21°C (70°F) at places as far apart as Kinloss and Thorney Island.

On the 10th the anticyclone over western Russia declined, while another developed to the north of Scotland. Winds slowly backed, and a light airstream from the North Sea brought temperatures nearer the average. From 11th to 14th the anticyclone moved slowly southwards over the British Isles; winds, during this time, were light and variable, or from a generally north-easterly direction, and weather mainly cloudy but dry, although there were sunny periods most days, especially in the south and west.

The 15th to 20th was a foggy period with the anticyclone centred over southern England. Widespread overnight fog was often dense and slow to clear, but the sun broke through by mid-day in most districts giving fine but hazy afternoons. In parts of west Lancashire, however, the fog only thinned, to thicken again at night.

The anticyclone moved to the southern North Sea on the 21st, where it remained until the 23rd, maintaining generally dry, mild weather, with a good deal of morning fog over most of the country; frontal activity however in the north-west gave a little rain in Scotland.

The weather pattern changed on the 24th as a deep and complex Atlantic depression approached western Scotland. Associated fronts gave widespread rain on the night of the 24th/25th, and as the fronts became slow-moving the rain persisted over a wide area for nearly two days; many places in south-east England had more than 1 in. of rain on the 25th. The night of the 26th/27th was fine with fairly widespread air-frost, but a vigorous depression moving south-east from Iceland brought gale force winds to exposed western districts the next day; associated frontal rain was heavy in many southern and central districts, and thundery, with hail and sleet at times in the north.

The depression moved to southern Scandinavia on the 28th and winds veered to north bringing an airstream from Arctic regions over the British Isles; the day was generally sunny but with scattered showers, which were of sleet or snow over higher ground in Scotland and Wales. The 29th was another wet day. Rain, associated with a

complex depression near Iceland spread across most districts and was heavy in the west and north; some places in Wales had more than 2 in. The rain cleared south-east England during the morning of the 30th and the month ended with two generally showery days with moderate to fresh west to north-west winds reaching gale force at times, the showers being frequent and thundery with scattered thunderstorms and hail in places on the 30th.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was above average everywhere, the excess at 9 hr ranging from 4.7 mb at Lerwick to 7.7 mb at Eskdalemuir. Surface winds were south-westerly for the first two days but became mostly light and variable until the 23rd. Thereafter, winds were south-westerly over the whole country on the 24th and 25th, north-easterly on the 26th, and generally between west and north-west for the remainder of the month. Wind reached gale force on 15 days in Scotland and on the 1st, 18th, and 26th-31st (8 days) in England and Wales. Gales were widespread on the 30th. Gusts of 75 kt and 64 kt were recorded at Benbecula and Tiree respectively on the 27th and of 61 kt at Bidston and Stornoway on the 28th.

Temperature — Mean temperature everywhere was above the 1921-50 average, the excess being 0.5°C in England and Wales (where it was the sixth successive October with mean temperature above average) 1.1°C in Scotland and 0.9°C in Northern Ireland. During the last six days of the month temperature was below the average with widespread air frost during the early hours of the 27th and 29th.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 22.8°C at Gillingham, Kent, on the 2nd and at Bryn Adda on the 8th, -5.6°C at Lincoln on the 29th; (Scotland) 21.7°C at Gordon Castle on the 8th, -6.1°C at Carnwath on the 27th and at Glentress on the 29th; (Northern Ireland) 18.4°C at Ballykelly on the 6th, -1.1°C at Pubble Forest on the 29th.

Precipitation — The general rainfall expressed as a percentage of the 1916-50 average was 40 over England and Wales, 48 over Scotland and 45 over Northern Ireland. More than 50 per cent of the average rainfall occurred, however, in central southern England, coastal districts of Sussex, the Thames Estuary, the east Midlands, East Anglia and in parts of Snowdonia, Cheshire, Lancashire, and the Lake District. Less than 25 per cent was recorded in the Exeter and Birmingham areas, in Monmouthshire, and in north-east England.

Thunder was heard in Scotland on 7 days and in England and Wales on the 1st, 2nd, 19th, 28th, 30th and 31st (6 days). Thunderstorms were widespread on the 30th.

Snow or sleet fell at one place or another in Scotland during the last 8 days of the month and in England and Wales during the last six.

Sunshine — The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921-50 average was 109 over England and Wales, 97 over Scotland and 110 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland sunshine was about or above the average near the Forth Clyde Valley and further south. At Worthing it was the sunniest October, except 1959, for 40 years.

Fog — Fog was reported at one place or another in Scotland on 18 days, and in England and Wales on the 3rd-12th, 14th-20th, 22nd-23rd, and 25th-29th (24 days). It occurred at many stations in the Midlands on 9 days and at Buxton on 12 days. It was widespread on the 9th-10th, 15th-17th, and 22nd-23rd.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was visible in Scotland on 17 nights.