

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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## Wet in the north, mainly dry elsewhere; mostly dull with average temperatures

A cold front cleared eastern parts late on the 1st, and another crossed all parts except the far north of Scotland on the 2nd. On the 3rd and 4th a trough of low pressure tracked eastwards across the United Kingdom as the strong westerly airstream veered north-westerly. Pressure then rose everywhere on the 5th. During the 6th a succession of fronts crossed all areas, combining into a single front that trailed from North Wales to the Humber Estuary, became slow moving and finally cleared the south coast on the 8th. A temporary ridge of high pressure during the 9th was followed by fronts moving quickly across Scotland and north-west England on the 10th and finally clearing southern England late on the 11th. On the 12th a frontal trough moved rapidly eastwards, while a depression crossed Scotland to the North Sea. With low pressure near northern Scotland on the 13th, a strong south-westerly airstream persisted over all areas. During the 15th and 16th the complex area of low pressure covered most of western Europe; a shallow depression had its centre over the Irish Sea, while frontal troughs approached Cornwall from the west. On the 17th a fresh frontal system crossed south-west England and South Wales from the west, while the associated centre lay to the west of Ireland. During the 18th the centre moved first to northern England, then southwards, crossing the Channel early on the 19th. All areas then gradually came under the influence of a ridge of high pressure lying from the Azores to Iceland. A warm front moved south-eastwards across Scotland and northern England on the 21st, and cleared the south-east early on the 22nd, while the trailing cold front remained to the west of the British Isles. During the 24th a fresh set of fronts approached England and Wales from the south-west, moving erratically across all areas, and becoming slow moving across southern England, before disappearing on the 27th. A further frontal trough edged across western Wales and northern England on the 28th and became slow moving over southern England before returning slowly northwards later in the day, clearing northern Scotland during the following afternoon. Early on the 30th a cold front edged in over western Scotland.

### Weather

During the first fortnight it was generally unsettled with bands of rain affecting most areas, especially the north. The last two weeks of the month were generally quieter, except for the 19th, with some overnight fog. Thunder occurred locally on the 1st and was widespread on the 3rd over England and Wales. Thunder was reported over western Scotland on the 11th, and was widespread over Wales and northern and eastern England between the 11th and 14th. Overnight on the 12th/13th violent thunderstorms were reported over Cumbria.

### Wind

The 1st, 7th, 12th and 19th were windy days over a wide area. On the 12th gusts exceeded 60 kn in many places; during the passage of a squally cold front gusts reached 81 kn at Aberporth, Dyfed, 79 kn at Ronaldsway, Isle of Man and 77 kn at Gwennap Head, Cornwall. Botwnnog School,

Gwynedd reported extensive structural damage caused by the 'ferocity of the gale'. Wind directions were mainly southerly or westerly.

### Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were normal over Northern Ireland and slightly above normal over the rest of the United Kingdom ranging from about 1 °C above normal in parts of northern Scotland to 0.5 °C below normal at Lowestoft, Suffolk.

The month started warm, with temperatures reaching 16 °C in places on the 1st, but it soon became colder, with the minimum temperature down to -3 °C at Glasgow on the 5th and a widespread frost on the 6th. A milder spell was followed by more frosts in the middle of the month, notably over Scotland on the 17th. On the 19th temperatures reached about 10 °C, but after a widespread frost on the 21st it became milder, with temperatures reaching 13 °C or 14 °C in many places. The highest temperature was 16.4 °C at Heathrow, Greater London on the 1st and the lowest was -8.4 °C at Grantown-on-Spey, Highland Region on the 17th.

### Rainfall

Monthly rainfall amounts were generally above normal north of a line from Preston, Lancashire to Scarborough, North Yorkshire, apart from some places around the Firth of Forth, the Firth of Tay, and Tyneside, Tyne and Wear, where rainfall was below normal. South of the line most places except South Wales, the south Midlands, and parts of East Anglia and Kent were generally dry. Amounts ranged from 198% of normal at Prestwick, Strathclyde Region to only 56% at Sparsholt, Hampshire.

The 10th was particularly wet over southern Scotland with 72 mm measured at Clatteringshaws, Dumfries & Galloway. Most of the United Kingdom had little or no rain during the last ten days of the month, although western Scotland continued to have some spells of heavy rain. Other heavy falls included 67 mm at Isle of Rum, Highland Region on the 20th and 63 mm at Brodick Castle, Strathclyde Region on the 12th.

### Snow

Sleet was reported over Fair Isle, Shetland on the 2nd, and snow as far south as South Wales on the 3rd, when 3 cm of snow lay on the Pennines. Further sleet and snow on the 4th over Scotland and northern England gave 2 cm of level snow on the higher parts of the Pennines. Scotland had sleet and snow for a time on the 6th and wintry showers on the 7th. On the 8th there were further outbreaks of snow and sleet over Scotland and northern England giving a dusting of snow lying. On the 13th sleet and snow fell in many areas as far south as Devon and Cornwall. During the 16th sleet was reported in places as far apart as Aberdeen and Merthyr Tydfil. On the 17th there was sleet and snow for a time over high ground in Scotland and northern England.

### Sunshine

Monthly sunshine amounts were below average nearly everywhere apart from a few locations in southern and eastern Scotland and northern England and ranged from 124% at Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway and Buxton, Derbyshire to only 50% at Aberporth, Dyfed.

Sunshine was often plentiful between the showers during the first three weeks in the south, and it was only the last ten days of the month that sunshine became less frequent in southern areas. Most sunshine in a day was 9.3 hours at Keele, Staffordshire on the 5th and the most in a month was 75.8 hours at Ventnor Park, Isle of Wight.

### Fog

Overnight fog was widespread on the 17th, 21st, 24th and 27th over England and Wales, mainly in eastern areas. Fog patches were frequent during the second half of the month, with hill fog over northern and western high ground and coastal fog in the south-east on the 22nd and 28th.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

A tornado was reported at Dullingham, Cambridgeshire during the evening of the 12th.

**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			
0 Scotland N	13.6	-8.4	+0.4	+0.3	+0.3	-0.2	+4	157	74
1 Scotland E	14.2	-5.7	+0.2	+0.4	+0.3	+0.1	+2	124	93
2 England E & NE	15.2	-4.7	+0.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	+1	108	96
3 East Anglia	15.9	-3.2	+0.1	+0.3	+0.1	+0.5	0	95	82
4 Midland Counties	15.4	-4.1	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.5	-1	94	85
5 England SE & Central S	16.4	-2.4	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.4	-1	87	81
6 Scotland W	12.6	-8.0	0.0	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+5	146	101
7 England NW & Wales N	15.0	-3.8	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.6	+3	121	87
8 England SW & Wales S	15.2	-2.7	+0.1	+0.5	+0.1	+0.1	0	87	75
N Ireland	13.4	-4.1	+0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	+7	133	103
Scotland	14.2	-8.4	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	0.0	+4	147	89
England & Wales	16.4	-4.7	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.3	0	99	84

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations