

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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June 1968 — *Fine mid-month, otherwise unsettled*

Although the country often lay in a col area, weather was predominantly cyclonic in character on the 1st-7th and 18th-28th, but mainly anticyclonic at other times.

During the first three days of the month the British Isles lay between anticyclones to the north-east and south-west of the country and depressions south of Iceland and over France. Weather was generally warm and sunny on the 1st but, on the 2nd and 3rd there were outbreaks of thundery rain and scattered thunderstorms, heavy at times, as the shallow depression over France moved a little northwards. 83 mm of rain fell in 2 hours 20 minutes near Ely, Cambridgeshire on the 3rd; rainfall of such intensity can only be expected about once in 160 years. Other noteworthy falls were also recorded. The storms led to flooding in parts of the Midlands and eastern England.

On the 4th fronts associated with the depression near Iceland moved eastwards across the British Isles. These fronts gave some light rain in southern England and scattered thunderstorms in eastern Scotland; they were followed by cooler weather in all districts. On the night of the 5th/6th a small depression moving across southern England gave outbreaks of heavy rain and, although the 6th was a fairly sunny day, further rain from the Atlantic spread across the country on the 7th and continued in south-east England for much of the 8th.

The anticyclone off our south-west coasts then drifted slowly northwards across the country to the North Sea, and from the 9th until the 13th the weather, under the influence of the anticyclone was dry and warm with long sunny spells in all districts. Scotland had an unusually hot spell with afternoon temperatures in many central districts exceeding 25°C during several days of unbroken sunshine. On the 14th thunderstorms spread from France to southern England, but over most of the country weather remained dry and sunny until the 17th.

A westerly type of weather was re-established on the 18th, with depressions from the Atlantic moving east, first over the northern part, and later over the southern part, of the British Isles. These depressions maintained generally cool unsettled weather for about ten days until the 28th. Periods of rain alternated with heavy thundery showers which were accompanied by hail on the 20th, 21st and 23rd. Rainfall was particularly heavy over southern England on the 27th with falls in parts of the south-west exceeding 40 mm. Widespread flooding was reported on the 27th and 28th in the Midlands and also in southern and eastern England.

On the 29th a ridge of high pressure developed over the British Isles and weather became dry and sunny with temperatures returning to normal. The last day of the month was very warm in southern England with temperatures reaching 27°C during the afternoon, but thunderstorms broke out during the evening.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was below the 1931-60 average everywhere the deficit at 0900 GMT ranging from 0.1 mb at Kilnsea to 2.0 mb at Benbecula. Surface winds were light and variable at first and then mainly westerly until the 28th apart from a period of light, variable or easterly winds from the 9th until the 17th. Winds were southerly during the last two days of the month. Gale force winds occurred on 4 days in Scotland and from the 20th to 28th in England and Wales. Gusts of 49 kt were recorded at Kirkwall and Portland Bill on the 26th and 27th respectively.

Temperature — In Scotland the first week and last ten days of the month were cool, but the intervening period, the 8th to the 17th, was sunny and warm with day temperatures exceeding 25°C in places. In England and Wales, on the other hand, day temperatures were above average during the first and last few days of the month and also from the 9th until the 19th. Extremes included: (England and Wales) 28.9°C at Wellesbourne on the 30th, -0.6°C at Alwen on the 9th;

(Scotland) 27.8°C at Faskally on the 10th, and at Achnashellach and Kinlochewe on the 11th, 0.0°C at Cairngorm on the 6th and 24th, and at Balmoral on the 28th; (Northern Ireland) 27.0°C at Strabane Convent on the 16th, 1.1°C at Loughmore Forest on the 29th.

Rainfall — Most of the rain fell during the first week and during the last ten days, but the month's rainfall was above the 1916-50 average almost everywhere except over the northern part of Northumberland, over Cumberland and Anglesey. It was more than twice the average over Cornwall, Devon, Glamorgan, Dorset and Hampshire and more than three times the average locally in south-east Devon and near Norwich. In Scotland a moderate excess in the northern counties and Northern Isles contrasted with less than half the average over a large area in the south.

Thunderstorms were more frequent than usual during the month. In Scotland they occurred on 14 days and were widespread on the 3rd, 4th and 20th. In England and Wales thunderstorms were reported on 16 days and were widespread over much of the Midlands, east and south-east England on the 2nd and 3rd, and over southern England on the 14th.

Sunshine — Sunshine was below the 1931-60 average in eastern and southern England but above average elsewhere. A feature of the month was the prolonged sunshine in Scotland from the 8th until the 17th when there were several consecutive days of unbroken sunshine which brought totals in many districts to 40-50 hours above average. In England and Wales percentages ranged from 73 at Wye to 124 at Tynemouth.

Fog — In Scotland morning fog was reported on 12 days mainly around the middle and towards the end of the month. In England and Wales, sea fog patches affected many coastal areas from the 14th until the 17th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The Aurora was not seen during the month.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES, JUNE, 1968

| DISTRICTS | AIR TEMPERATURE °C | | | | | EARTH TEMP. °C | | RAIN Days | RAIN- FALL | SUN- SHINE |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------|------|------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | *Highest Max. | *Lowest Min. | Max. | Min. | Mean | Mean 30 cm. | Mean 22 cm. | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Difference from Average | | |
| 0 SCOTLAND, N. | 24.4 | 2.9 | +0.6 | 0.0 | +0.3 | +0.7 | +0.2 | -2 | 111 | 105 |
| 1 SCOTLAND, E. | 25.0 | 3.3 | +0.4 | +0.1 | +0.3 | +0.5 | 0.0 | 0 | 84 | 111 |
| 2 ENGLAND, N.E. | 26.1 | 3.9 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.8 | +0.5 | +1 | 113 | 109 |
| 3 ENGLAND, E. | 26.7 | 5.0 | -0.3 | +0.3 | +0.1 | +0.1 | +0.2 | +6 | 155 | 79 |
| 4 MIDLANDS | 26.9 | 4.4 | +0.2 | +0.7 | +0.4 | +0.7 | +0.4 | +2 | 149 | 102 |
| 5 ENGLAND, S.E. | 26.8 | 4.4 | -0.4 | +0.5 | +0.1 | -0.4 | -0.1 | +5 | 147 | 82 |
| 6 SCOTLAND, W. | 26.7 | 3.5 | +0.6 | 0.0 | +0.3 | +0.4 | -0.2 | -2 | 60 | 113 |
| 7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales | 26.4 | 3.9 | +0.8 | +0.5 | +0.6 | +0.3 | -0.1 | -1 | 126 | 108 |
| 8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales | 26.7 | 2.8 | +0.1 | +0.4 | +0.3 | -0.5 | -0.3 | +4 | 205 | 95 |
| N. IRELAND | 26.1 | 3.9 | +1.0 | -0.7 | +0.1 | - | - | 0 | 114 | 122 |
| SCOTLAND | 26.7 | 2.9 | +0.5 | 0.0 | +0.3 | - | - | -1 | 80 | 110 |
| ENG. and WALES | 26.9 | 2.8 | +0.1 | +0.4 | +0.3 | - | - | +3 | 159 | 96 |

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

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