

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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## Mainly dry and rather warm

For much of the first week pressure was high to the east and low to the west of the British Isles. Fronts moved north-eastwards over all districts although a cold front was delayed by waves between the 4th and 6th. On the 7th a complex depression deepened as it advanced north-eastwards across Northern Ireland and Scotland to Scandinavia. Meanwhile an anticyclone became established to the west of Ireland and a spell of cold north-westerly winds ensued until the high drifted in over southern Britain on the 13th.

The next two weeks were dominated by high pressure, new anticyclones being centred over Scotland and the North Sea between the 16th and 20th and near the west of Ireland from the 23rd to the 27th. However, week fronts affected the north and extreme east from time to time. During the last three days of the month the high pressure withdrew to mid-Atlantic as deep depressions moved from the region of Iceland to Scandinavia, allowing fronts to come south-eastwards across the United Kingdom.

### Weather

For about ten days at the start of the month the weather was changeable with rain or showers at times. Scattered thunderstorms broke out over southern Britain late on the 5th. It became warm over much of the United Kingdom during the first week before turning cold for a few days, including the Easter weekend, with wintry showers in the north and east. By mid-month dry, mainly sunny and warm weather was established except in the far north where it remained rather changeable. Isolated thunderstorms occurred over Scotland on the 23rd. Colder weather, with wintry showers in the north and east, extended southwards to all parts at the end of the month.

### Wind

This was a mostly quiet month with light or moderate winds except over the far north of Scotland where they were often fresh or strong. It was also rather windy at times in most areas on the 7th and during the last three days of the month. Windy periods were also experienced over north-eastern coasts of Britain from the 8th to the 12th, and in the Channel Islands and parts of southern England and South Wales between the 16th and 19th. Gales were reported over exposed areas on a few occasions, particularly in the north of Britain on the 30th when they were severe locally and a gust of 66 kn occurred at Sumburgh (Shetland). Wind directions were predominantly from a southerly point during the first week. Thereafter they were mainly between north-west and north-easterly in the south and between south-west and north-westerly in the north. Sea-breezes developed mainly near southern coasts during the second and third weeks of the month.

### Temperature

Mean temperatures for the month were mostly above average. Below normal temperatures were recorded here and there in Wales, the Midlands, southern and western England and over much of East Anglia. Values ranged from more than 1 °C above average at some places in east Scotland to nearly 1 °C below on the coasts of Essex and Suffolk. In Northern Ireland many places had their warmest April since 1960. After a rather cold start to the month on the 1st temperatures rose steadily with most areas

soon becoming warm. Parts of the south-east were very warm on the 5th when a maximum of 20.9 °C was recorded at Kew Gardens near London. Temperatures then fell sharply, particularly on the 8th, and the next five days were generally cold. The remainder of the month was mostly warm although eastern coastal areas had some cold days. On the 27th the temperature rose to 22.3 °C at Linton-on-Ouse (North Yorkshire), but on the 21st it reached only 7.1 °C at Cromer (Norfolk). The month ended, however, with two rather cold days, a maximum of only 2.8 °C being recorded at Lerwick (Shetland) on the 29th. Night frost occurred in places on several occasions, mainly between the 8th and 21st; on the 19th the temperature fell to -6.5 °C at Lagganlia (Highland Region).

### Rainfall

Rainfall totals were below the monthly average everywhere. Although less than half the average was recorded over much of Northern Ireland, central and southern Scotland, the north, east and south of England, Wales and the Isle of Man it was still not so dry generally as in April 1980. However, Margate (Kent) with 2.5 mm (8 per cent of average) had its driest April since records were first published in 1905, while both Askham Bryan (North Yorkshire) with 4.4 mm (10 per cent) and Armagh with 9.0 mm (16 per cent) had their lowest totals since 1938.

All districts had rain at times during the first week, particularly on the 6th and 7th and rainfall was heavy over parts of south-western Britain on the 6th. Totals included 66.7 mm at Llyn Fawr Reservoir, near Hirwaun, (Mid Glamorgan) and 56.2 mm at Avon Dam, near Buckfastleigh, (Devon), much of this falling overnight. Although the north of Scotland continued to have some mostly slight rain or showers from time to time the rest of the United Kingdom was mostly dry until the last two days. Even then, much of the rain was very slight and many places, mostly in the south-west, completed the month with 22 consecutive days without measurable rainfall.

### Snow

Wintry showers occurred at times over northern and eastern areas, mainly between the 7th and 13th and during the last two days of the month. Slight accumulations of snow were reported at a few places, mostly over the north of Scotland where the higher mountain peaks were snow-covered throughout the month. A little sleet or snow also fell in several parts of Britain, mainly over the higher ground, on the 1st.

### Sunshine

Monthly sunshine totals were above normal over much of the United Kingdom with more than 120 per cent of average being recorded in scattered parts of England, the south-west of Scotland and locally in Co. Down and the Isle of Man. Totals were below average over much of northern and western Scotland, the west of Northern Ireland and at a few places in East Anglia, Lincolnshire, the Isle of Wight and Lothian Region.

After a rather dull first week most parts of the United Kingdom were often sunny, especially during the third and fourth weeks of the month. However, north-eastern Scotland continued to be cloudy at times and the month ended with most areas dull on the 30th.

### Fog

Overnight fog patches were reported occasionally, mostly during the second half of the month over central and southern parts of Britain. Fog banks affected some coastal areas from time to time, mainly during the first seven days, when they were rather widespread in the north-east on the 6th and 7th, and during the third and fourth weeks in the south-west. There were also hill fog patches at times, mostly over north-western areas although between the 5th and 7th they occurred more generally.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

**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					% of average	
0 Scotland N	17.7	−2.4	+0.3	+0.7	+0.5	+0.7	−2	58	76
1 Scotland E	19.2	−3.9	+1.0	+0.8	+0.9	+1.0	−5	51	109
2 England E & NE	21.5	−3.4	+0.7	−0.2	+0.2	+0.9	−8	27	115
3 East Anglia	18.7	−2.2	−0.4	−0.3	−0.4	+0.2	−6	34	105
4 Midland Counties	20.7	−1.9	+0.6	0.0	+0.3	+0.5	−7	51	112
5 England SE & Central S	20.6	−2.6	+0.2	−0.1	0.0	0.0	−8	40	111
6 Scotland W	18.9	−3.9	+1.1	+0.4	+0.8	+0.9	−5	43	106
7 England NW & Wales N	19.3	−1.5	+0.5	+0.2	+0.4	+0.6	−5	35	113
8 England SW & Wales S	19.1	−1.2	+0.4	−0.4	0.0	+0.4	−8	42	116
N Ireland	19.9	−2.0	+1.0	+0.6	+0.8	+1.1	−7	35	103
Scotland	19.2	−3.9	+0.8	+0.6	+0.7	+0.9	−4	51	97
England & Wales	21.5	−3.4	+0.3	−0.1	+0.1	+0.4	−7	38	112

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations