

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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Very wet in northern areas; warmer and thundery in the south

At the beginning of the month an anticyclone moved eastwards across southern England while northern and western areas were crossed from west to east by a series of fronts. An area of low pressure moved northwards from Spain to affect southern England on the 5th. After the passage of a cold front later on the 5th southern areas again became anticyclonic, although during the following week Scotland and Northern Ireland continued to be crossed by a series of fronts which at times also affected northern and western areas of England and Wales. High pressure declined on the 12th and moved away from southern areas, allowing further frontal activity in those areas during the next three days. On the 17th a depression was centred to the north-west of the British Isles and fronts crossed all parts, with further fronts crossing southern districts during the 18th and 19th. Another sequence of fronts with the associated depression moved eastwards over all parts during the 21st and 22nd, leaving all areas temporarily under the influence of a ridge of high pressure. By the 25th a complex area of low pressure covered the British Isles, moving slowly eastwards to lie over the North Sea by the end of the month.

Weather

After a dry start to the month, the passage of a cold front on the 5th gave rise to some heavy thundery outbreaks over East Anglia and south-east England. The period from the 6th to 12th was more settled in the south, although Scotland and Northern Ireland had showers from time to time. From the 12th until the end of the month it was generally unsettled with all areas having showers or longer periods of rain. Thunder occurred on 12 days in the month. The outbreaks on the 5th were fairly localized in East Anglia and south-east England. Coltishall and Cromer, both in Norfolk, reported hailstones of over 20 mm in diameter. Damage to the amount of £20 000 was reported to have been caused by flooding in the Theatre Royal in Norwich. The most noteworthy thundery activity was the widespread storms of the 25th/26th, which affected all parts of the United Kingdom except south-west and central southern England. In Northern Ireland they were particularly severe and lightning was observed almost continuously between 05 GMT and 09 GMT. Hailstones associated with this thundery activity were 20 mm to 30 mm in diameter locally at Trassey, Co. Down in the foothills of the Mourne Mountains and were some of the largest on record to fall over Northern Ireland.

Wind

Winds were mostly light to moderate, but, mainly in western coastal areas moderate to fresh at times. A severe thunderstorm at Coltishall, Norfolk on the 5th gave a record gust for July for that station of 65 kn. What was particularly unusual was that the mean wind over the hour was only 6 kn: after the passing of the storm the wind was calm for the rest of the hour — about 40 minutes. The gust direction was 210 degrees, almost the reciprocal of the mean direction of 360 degrees. There is a report of a Norwich-bound express train crashing into a tree blown down across the track at Swainsthorpe, south of Norwich. The only low-level station with a mean wind greater than 34 kn was Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire with 35 kn on the 22nd and a maximum

gust of 50 kn. Bristol Weather Centre recorded a maximum gust of 50 kn on the 22nd and there were gusts of 53 kn and 55 kn on the 17th at Duirinish, Highland Region and Edinburgh Royal Observatory respectively. Directions during the month were mainly westerly.

Temperature

Over the United Kingdom as a whole mean temperatures were near average. Differences ranged from 1.2 °C above normal in Kent and 1.1 °C above normal in Shetland to 0.5 °C below normal in parts of south-west Scotland and south-west England. England and Wales were generally warmer than Scotland.

The highest temperature of the month was 30.1 °C at St Helier, Jersey on the 13th. In England and Wales the highest was 30.0 °C at Southampton on the 25th, the same day that Exeter Airport reached 29.7 °C. Aldenham School, Hertfordshire had a highest temperature of 29.2 °C on the 13th. In Scotland the highest was 27.6 °C at Motherwell, Strathclyde and in Northern Ireland Shaw's Bridge measured 25.1 °C, both on the 4th. The lowest temperature in the United Kingdom was 0.9 °C at Kinbrace, Highland Region on the 24th.

Rainfall

Rainfall amounts were above normal everywhere north of a line from the Humber to the Mersey and in western and southern areas of Wales. Most other parts of England and Wales were below normal. Amounts ranged from twice the normal in parts of western and southern Scotland to less than half the normal in parts of Cheshire, the Thames Estuary and the south-west peninsula.

Many long-term rainfall records were broken in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Edinburgh (Turnhouse) Airport had its wettest July since 1948 and at Fort William, Highland Region it was the wettest for over 50 years. In Scotland as a whole it was the wettest July for 20 years, and in Northern Ireland the wettest for 25 years. Amounts in England and Wales varied considerably from place to place because nearly all the rain came from thundery

activity. On the 5th, for instance, about 20 mm was measured in several places around Merton, Surrey when the rain at Wimbledon was described as 'torrential', while London/Heathrow Airport had less than 2 mm. At Honington, Suffolk nearly 41 mm fell in 90 minutes. The greatest amount for the day was 81 mm at Romford, Greater London. In Northern Ireland, during the severe thundery activity on the 25th/26th rainfall totals ranged between 50 mm and 85 mm in comparatively short periods. At Dungannon Park, Co. Tyrone 83 mm fell in just over 9 hours. At Glarryford, Co. Antrim 33 mm fell in 24 minutes, a very rare event.

Sunshine

Amounts were below normal north of a line from North Yorkshire to North Wales and above normal everywhere south of that line apart from Devon and Cornwall where sunshine was about average. Parts of the south-east had more than 125 per cent of average sunshine and Writtle, Essex had 140 per cent. The dullest areas were part of western Scotland, with only about 60 per cent in the Glasgow area, and part of Northern Ireland. The sunniest day was the 6th with many places having about 15 hours of sunshine; the longest duration on that day was 15.7 hours at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire. The dullest day generally was the 12th; the most sunshine recorded on that day was 6.6 hours at St Helier, Jersey.

Fog

Overnight fog formed mainly in the first and last weeks of the month and then mostly in central and southern areas of England and Wales. Sea fog occurred throughout the month mainly on western and northern coasts and was persistent at times; eastern coasts were also affected during the first and last weeks of the month. There was frequent fog on high ground in northern and western areas.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

On the 5th following evaporation of the rain-water from a slight shower, a white sandy deposit was noted on car windscreens in the Worcester area. On the 13th there was a report of a fall of dust at Guernsey, Channel Islands.

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	24.9	4.3	+0.2	+0.8	+0.5	+0.2	+7	137	80
1 Scotland E	26.3	3.0	−0.3	+0.5	+0.1	+0.3	+7	151	75
2 England E & NE	25.8	5.3	+0.4	+0.6	+0.5	+0.2	+3	132	99
3 East Anglia	28.2	5.7	+0.7	+0.5	+0.6	+0.1	+2	96	115
4 Midland Counties	28.2	4.3	+0.3	+0.4	+0.3	+0.2	0	91	111
5 England SE & Central S	29.8	7.6	+0.7	+0.4	+0.6	+0.3	+3	96	121
6 Scotland W	25.8	2.1	−0.6	+0.6	−0.1	0.0	+6	189	73
7 England NW & Wales N	27.9	4.8	−0.2	+0.9	+0.3	+0.3	+3	114	94
8 England SW & Wales S	29.4	4.0	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.6	+1	102	102
N Ireland	24.6	4.7	−0.1	+0.6	+0.2	+0.1	+4	145	76
Scotland	26.3	2.1	−0.2	+0.6	+0.2	+0.2	+7	159	76
England & Wales	29.8	4.0	+0.3	+0.5	+0.4	+0.3	+2	107	107

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations