

July 2007

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1961-1990.

UK overview

Mean temperatures generally close to or slightly below average. Maximum temperatures generally below average and around 2 °C below average across some south-western areas of the UK. Rainfall generally well above average, with England & Wales recording over double their average July rainfall, with some stations in the Worcestershire area recording over four times their average July rainfall. Sunshine well below average across the north-east of Scotland, but slightly above average across western areas of Scotland.

England diary of highlights

Another generally unsettled month with a notable rainfall event on the 20th.

1st to 29th: Low pressure was situated close to, or over the British Isles throughout this period giving generally unsettled conditions over England with frequent showers or longer spells of rain. The showers were often very heavy and thundery with some areas experiencing localised flooding due to the intensity of the rain. There were some torrential downpours on the 3rd, with hail and thunder reported in parts of the south-east, and the Wimbledon tennis tournament was abandoned for the day. On the 16th and 17th there were several reports of funnel clouds and tornadoes and further reports of flooding.

By far the most notable event occurred on Friday 20th when some extremely heavy rain affected parts of the south and west. It was at its worst through the morning period when amounts exceeded 25 mm in an hour in many places. This event soon became newsworthy with flooding reported in west and south London, Berkshire, central southern England and the south and west Midlands. Pershore College of Agriculture recorded 120.8 mm of rainfall on the day (157.4 mm in the period 19-20th) with several other sites from west Berkshire into Gloucestershire and Worcestershire recording in excess of 100 mm, much of this rain falling in a fairly short period. As the river systems responded the next few days brought serious flooding to parts of the Severn Valley and upper Thames areas.

30th to 31st: The very last few days of the month brought a change in weather type with high pressure building across from the west and a few dry and sunny days for most places. The maximum temperature reached 24.7 °C in central London on the 31st with many parts above 20 °C but with a few chilly nights.

Wales diary of highlights

Unsettled, with below average temperatures.

1st to 8th: The weather through much of this period was showery, most of the showers during the day as sunshine lifted temperatures. On many days the showers turned heavy and thundery especially in the afternoons with some reports of localised flooding. Longer spells of rain on the 5th held temperatures well down at just 12-14 °C, although for most of the period temperatures were close to normal.

9th to 15th: This period was also changeable but often cloudy with some longer spells of rain, the temperatures often a little below normal as a result. Some sunny spells on a few days but usually with showers, especially on the 15th for example, some of those showers heavy and thundery. On days with some sunshine, temperatures were generally close to or a little above normal.

16th to 22nd: Sunny spells and showers dominated the start of this period, showers again often heavy and thundery with torrential downpours in places and even the odd funnel cloud being reported as well. By the 20th, longer spells of rain developed and these turned very heavy across parts of the south and east during the day. Some of the rain lingered through into the 21st before clearing, but only to be replaced by more showers on the 22nd. Temperatures again depressed on rainy days but otherwise near normal.

23rd to 31st: Rain and showers on the 23rd were very heavy in places but were then followed by a fine dry day on the 24th with plenty of sunshine. Rain on the 25th was followed by showers before yet more rain spread from the south-west on the 26th and this was very heavy with up to 45 mm of rain in places. Very changeable weather continued through the 27th, 28th and 29th with further rain or showers before dry and sunny weather finally arrived for the end of the month.

Scotland diary of highlights

Close to average temperatures, but duller and wetter than normal.

The 1st to the 4th saw a mixture of sunny intervals and showers, occasionally heavy and thundery. Low cloud and murky conditions plagued the east coast and Northern Isles at times. The maxima ranged from 20 °C in the sunshine to 13 °C in the murk.

The 5th was bright with showers in the north, but thickening cloud brought rain up from the south which cleared to brighter conditions with showers on the 6th. Some of the showers were heavy across the south-east. Rain spread southwards across Shetland during the afternoon which continued southwards on 7th, but to the south of a line Aberdeen to Skye it was a case of sunny spells and showers, with the odd rumble of thunder across the south-east. The rain in the north slowly cleared westwards during the 8th becoming confined to Lewis by the end of the day. Elsewhere saw sunny spells and isolated showers, locally heavy in the south-west during the evening.

Much of the 9th was bright or sunny with the temperature ranging from 14 °C in Tiree to 21 °C at Fyvie Castle. On the 10th and 11th, north-westerly breezes brought cool, cloudy and at times drizzly weather to windward coasts and hills. Bright or sunny spells developed to the lee of high ground, with Leuchars reaching 21 °C on the 11th.

After a bright start in the east on the 12th, showery rain moved north-east, with Leuchars recorded a temperature of 21 °C. The north was bright with scattered showers on the 13th, but rain spread northwards through the afternoon and in the south-west, and 20 to 30 mm had fallen by midnight. Heavy rain continued northwards and eased through the early hours of the 14th, while clearing from southern parts, eventually clearing the north of the mainland around mid-morning but persisted across Shetland throughout. Scattered showers followed.

Early mist and fog patches soon cleared as did overnight rain in Shetland on the 15th to leave sunny spells, although showers developed mainly across the south and west during the afternoon. Rain reached the Borders during the evening which continued northwards through the 16th reaching Shetland during the afternoon, by which time it brightened up from the south. Showers developed in the sunshine, some thundery. The temperature ranged from 21 °C in the Borders to 13 °C in Rosehearty and Fair Isle.

The 17th was a day of sunshine and scattered thundery showers, these intense enough to cause localised flooding. The heaviest showers missed the gauges, but Lerwick recorded nearly 22 mm due to steady rain through the afternoon and evening. On the 18th thunderstorms affected the south, with localised flooding again. Saughall in east Ayrshire recording 35 mm, 23 mm of which fell in one hour. The north was cooler and cloudier with some drizzle. Sunshine and scattered thundery showers over the south-west on the 19th. Elsewhere, rather cloudy with drizzly showers down the east coast, although sunshine across the north-west and the Isles did edge southwards. Mainly dry on the 20th, although some rain spread into the far south during the evening.

Dry with sunny spells in the north-west Highlands at first on the 21st before rain, locally heavy, spread up from the south-east. This rain, heaviest in the east, Charterhall reported 34 mm overnight, continued northwards and become persistent across Shetland for much of the 23rd. Bright or sunny spells and heavy thundery showers followed from the south. These showers became confined to the north and east on the 24th with patchy overnight mist clearing to sunny spells across the rest of the country. The temperature reached 21 °C in Bishopston, Charterhall and Threave. Rain did spread into the south-west during the late evening which led to a cloudy morning on 25th with patchy, mainly light rain. Brighter weather and scattered showers followed from west during afternoon with some heavy showers across the west during evening. The temperature reached 21 °C at Leuchars.

Heavy overnight rain gave way brighter conditions and scattered showers on the 26th. Some of the showers became heavy, especially in the north-east during the evening. Sunshine and showers on 27th, these being more frequent over across the west. The showery picture continued on the 28th and 29th, and a brisk north-westerly breeze kept it quite cool in the north and north-east. The showers became confined to the north through the 30th where as the south was bright or sunny. The temperature ranged from 11 °C in Lerwick to 19 °C in Edinburgh.

Rain developed across the north through the 30th with many eastern and southern areas experiencing hazy sunshine. The temperature ranged from 13 °C in Shetland to nearly 23 °C at Dyce.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

Close to average temperatures, above average sunshine, but much wetter than average.

Sunshine and showers to start the month. Some of these showers were heavy and thundery and St Angelo recorded nearly 27 mm of rainfall on the 2nd, most of this during the evening, and flooding was reported during the same evening at Cushendun, North Antrim. The daytime temperature reached 21 °C at Ballykelly on the 4th.

The 5th started dry and bright, but thickening cloud brought rain, heavy at times, which cleared to bright or sunny spells and showers on the 6th. This set the scene for the next two days which started fine after the clearance of overnight mist. Showers developed through the morning which became frequent and locally thundery during the afternoon, but died out during the evening.

Rain spread down from the north on the 9th with cloudy weather and showers following on the 10th. Rather cool with daytime maxima ranging from 13 °C in Ballypatrick Forest to 18 °C in Glenanne.

Much of the 11th was bright and dry temperatures rising to 20 °C at Castlederg. Rain spread from the west in the evening, which cleared during the morning of the 12th to sunshine and isolated showers and the temperature reached 19 °C at Glenanne.

The 13th started dry but outbreaks of rain spread from the south, becoming heavier later, with Aldergrove recording nearly 19 mm. Heavy rain cleared around midnight to leave clear or sunny spells and scattered showers on the 14th, which became heavy, thundery and more frequent in the afternoon, 24 mm falling in 4 hours at Portglenone.

From the 15th to the 22nd the weather followed a similar pattern with overnight mist dispersing after dawn. Showers developed through the morning, these turning thundery and then dying out during the evening. Of note during this period was 21 mm of rainfall recorded at Aldergrove in one hour during the afternoon of the 16th. Funnel clouds were also reported. Portglenone recorded 16 mm in one hour on the 17th. Glenanne and Aldergrove both recorded 14 mm in an hour on the 18th. Funnel clouds were reported at Hillsborough and Belfast on the 19th. Lough Fea recorded an hourly downpour of 23 mm during the evening and the temperature reached 21 °C at St Angelo. Castlederg recorded nearly 15 mm in one hour on the 20th.

Patchy overnight mist cleared after dawn on the 23rd and 24th to sunny spells. However, rain developed during the evening of the 24th, which cleared on morning of 25th to sunny spells and showers, some heavy during the afternoon. The temperature reached 22 °C in Ballykelly. Heavy overnight rain gave way to sunshine and scattered heavy showers on 26th, which eased away during the evening. Further showers on 27th but fewer and lighter with some sunshine, and again much the same on the 28th, 29th and 30th.

The month ended on a bright note and the temperature reached 20 °C quite widely.

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