

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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August 1966 — *Cool; heavy rain at times*

Weather was cyclonic in character for the first two weeks but mainly anticyclonic during the remainder of the month apart from short cyclonic interludes on the 20th-21st and the last three days.

The first week was cool and unsettled with depressions crossing the country on a more southerly track than usual. One such depression brought stormy weather, heavy rain and floods to South Wales and south-west England during the early hours of the 1st. Further rain, heavy at times, spread northwards from southern England during the next few days as a complex area of low pressure moved from southern Ireland to the northern North Sea; on the 3rd some places in eastern Scotland recorded more than 2 inches of rainfall. Over most of England there were long sunny periods on the 4th and 5th with scattered showers in a north-westerly airstream, but in eastern Scotland weather continued dull and wet. Rain associated with a depression moving eastwards across southern England on the 6th-7th brought the first week's total of rainfall at many places on the south coast up to their average for the whole of August.

The unsettled weather, with depressions moving across rather than to the north of the country, continued for most of the second week. After a sunny day on the 8th, the 9th-13th was a particularly wet period in northern districts, culminating in thunderstorms with torrential rain; on the 13th over 3 inches was recorded in parts of northern England and southern Scotland and there was extensive flooding. In south-east England, however, rain was mainly slight after the 9th and temperatures rose above average; the night of the 11th/12th was very close (minimum temperature at Kew 18°C) and temperature exceeded 25°C at a number of places on the 13th.

The weather pattern then changed and dry sunny weather spread over the whole country on the 14th and 15th as a ridge of high pressure developed to the west of the British Isles and moved slowly south-eastwards. By the 16th minor troughs in a westerly airstream brought rain to parts of Scotland, but high pressure became established over England and Wales maintaining fine warm weather for several days. Sunshine in many parts of the Midlands and southern England exceeded 10 hours daily from the 14th to the 20th, and afternoon temperatures increased progressively; 28°C was exceeded at a few places on the 19th and 20th.

The fine warm weather over England and Wales broke in violent thunderstorms on the evening of the 20th as a trough of low pressure moved slowly south-east across central and southern England. At Lynham more than 1.6 inches of rain were recorded in two hours on the 21st.

A week of mainly dry weather began on the 22nd as an anticyclone off north-west Scotland drifted towards Scandinavia and a ridge of high pressure extending southwards from it crossed the British Isles and the North Sea. Most places had long sunny periods especially in the west and north, but with winds northerly at first, later veering to east, temperatures were generally below average, and particularly low at night; air frost was recorded at a number of places in Scotland and Northern Ireland on the night of the 23rd/24th.

Widespread thundery rain and thunderstorms brought the fine weather to an end on the 29th (August Bank Holiday) as low pressure off western Ireland was transferred across the southern part of England; in some places rainfall exceeded 2 inches. Thunderstorms continued in parts of the Midlands and southern England on the 30th and there were floods in many areas. The rain gave place to bright showery weather over most of the country on the last day of the month.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was above the 1931-60 average over Scotland but below the average over most of England and Wales, the deviation at 9h ranging from +3.2 mb in the Hebrides and Orkneys to -1.4 mb at Mount Batten. Surface winds were very variable in direction mainly owing to the passage of small depressions across the country during the first two weeks or to an anticyclone during the third

week. Northerly winds on the 22nd slowly veered to south-east by the 29th. Gales were confined to the first two weeks — on 8 days in England and Wales and 2 days in Scotland. A gust of 62 kt. was recorded at Blackford Hill, Edinburgh on the 10th.

Temperature — Temperatures both day and night were mainly below the 1931-60 average although day temperatures during the third week were above average over most of England and Wales. Nights were mild around the 11th, especially in south-east England, but unusually cold around the 15th and 24th when air frost was reported from parts of Scotland.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 28.9°C at Camden Square on the 20th, -0.6°C at Alwen on the 24th; (Scotland) 22.8°C at Dinneton on the 18th, Kinlochewe on the 25th and at Sloy on the 30th, -1.7°C at Balmoral, Braemar and Cannich on the 23rd, 24th or 26th; (Northern Ireland) 21.7°C at Tollymore Park on the 19th, -1.1°C at Ballymoney on the 15th.

Rainfall — Over the month as a whole rainfall was above the 1916-50 average over most of England, except some southern and western counties, and over southern and eastern Scotland; it was more than twice the average in parts of Yorkshire, the Midlands and central southern England. Rainfall was below average over most of Wales, Northern Ireland and western Scotland; it was less than half the average in coastal areas of Cardigan, in the extreme north of Antrim and over Scotland west of an approximate line from Bute northwards to Eddrachillis Bay (Sutherland).

Thunder was heard on 12 days in England and Wales, mainly during the first two weeks, and on 5 days in Scotland. Thunderstorms in England and Wales were often accompanied by very heavy rain resulting in damaging floods.

Sunshine — A feature of the month was the sunny weather in northern and western Scotland, excesses of over 70 hours occurring in Tiree and Shetland. In England and Wales most stations were within 20 per cent of the average.

Fog. In Scotland fog was observed at 9hr at one place or another on 8 days. In England and Wales it was reported on about 13 days, more particularly on the 11th, 16th-18th and 26th in central and southern England, but it cleared during the morning.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was visible in Scotland on 7 nights.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES, AUGUST, 1966

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN- FALL	SUN- SHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
			Difference from Average							
0 SCOTLAND, N.	20.6	2.6	-0.7	-1.4	-1.0	-	-	-5	76	131
1 SCOTLAND, E.	21.7	2.8	-2.2	-1.1	-1.6	-0.9	-0.7	+2	168	83
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	25.9	5.0	-1.9	-0.7	-1.3	-0.7	-0.6	+3	185	96
3 ENGLAND, E.	27.2	3.9	-1.3	-1.1	-1.2	-0.8	-0.6	+1	130	107
4 MIDLANDS	26.7	4.4	-1.5	-1.0	-1.2	-0.7	-0.5	0	143	100
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	27.8	2.8	-1.1	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-0.6	-1	111	100
6 SCOTLAND, W.	20.3	1.1	-1.3	-1.4	-1.3	-1.0	-0.7	-4	79	105
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	25.4	2.2	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-0.8	-0.5	-3	115	97
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	26.7	8.3	-1.0	-0.9	-0.9	-0.8	-0.3	-1	111	98
N. IRELAND	21.6	1.3	-0.9	-1.6	-1.2	-	-	-3	69	102
SCOTLAND	21.7	1.1	-1.4	-1.3	-1.3	-	-	-2	97	106
ENG. and WALES	27.8	2.2	-1.3	-0.9	-1.1	-	-	0	128	100

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