

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

JUNE

1982

## Exceptionally wet and thundery, but very dry in the far north; hot at first, then cool.

During the first ten days of the month pressure was high over or to the north-east of the British Isles, although on the 6th a trough of low pressure moved from the south-west across all parts except the north and east of Scotland. During the 10th and 11th a cold front advanced north-eastwards to southern Scotland where a depression formed and moved away over the North Sea. For the next two weeks further fronts and depressions crossed southern and central districts, notably on the 15th, 18th, between the 21st and 23rd and on the 25th, while pressure remained high to the north. The last low became complex over Scotland between the 26th and 28th before a ridge of high pressure crossed all districts on the 30th, but more fronts reached the west late in the day.

### Weather

This quite remarkable month, particularly regarding rainfall, opened with a spell of hot, humid weather and, while it was sunny at times, severe thunderstorms developed daily, mainly over inland parts of Britain. In marked contrast the remainder of the month was often very cool and dull, especially in the north-east, with periods of heavy rain and further thunderstorms at times, mostly over England, Wales and Northern Ireland while the far north of Scotland remained very dry. Hail fell in some of the storms, causing damage in places; on the 18th hailstones lay at least 10 cm deep in the Speedwell district of Bristol. Thirteen deaths were reported by drowning, either during the heat-wave or, in the case of four boys, swept away in flooded streams, while a further ten persons were killed by lightning, all in England and mostly in separate incidents. Early in the month 12 of Dartmoor's ponies, suffering from the effects of the heat and lack of water, had to be destroyed, while reservoirs in Cornwall and Devon contained less water than at the same time in 1976.

### Wind

Winds were particularly light until the 8th, with sea-breezes developing daily, but became fresh or strong at times mainly during the second half of the month. Gales were reported at a few exposed places on the eastern coast of Northern Ireland on the 15th and along the southern coast of England during the fourth week. Towards the end of the first week directions backed from southerly to between north and east over northern districts while in the south they became variable. Late in the month westerly winds spread from the south.

### Temperature

Mean temperatures for the month were above average in most parts of the United Kingdom. Values were a little below normal over much of the eastern half of Scotland, the extreme north-east of England and at a few places in west Scotland and the Isle of Man. Mean temperatures were more than 1°C above average in the Channel Islands, much of the southern half of Britain and in some north-western parts of Scotland.

Early in the month it was very hot and on the 5th temperatures reached 30°C at isolated places in Scotland and central England. On the 6th it became somewhat cooler, especially in the north, although it was the 10th before temperatures fell to near-normal values generally. Thereafter, it was very cool at times, particularly over north-eastern parts of Britain where

in many coastal areas the temperature remained below 15°C from the 9th to the 27th. Slight frost occurred at a few places in the north of Scotland around mid-month; minima of -2.5°C were recorded at Fyvie Castle (Grampian Region) on the 15th and 17th.

### Rainfall

This was the wettest June in England and Wales since 1879 and over Northern Ireland this century, but the driest since 1941 in the far north of Scotland and for more than 100 years over Shetland. More than twice the average rainfall was recorded over much of England and in parts of Wales, Lothian and Borders Regions, Counties Down and Antrim, the Isle of Man and Jersey. In parts of South and West Yorkshire more than four times the average fell; at Weetwood in Leeds 292.4 mm (over six times the average) were recorded. But over central and northern Scotland and in isolated areas elsewhere rainfall was below normal with less than 10 per cent of average falling at a few places in the extreme north.

Until the 9th thunderstorms developed daily, mainly over inland parts of Britain, being particularly widespread over England and Wales on the 2nd and 3rd and from the south-west of Scotland to south-east England on the 5th and 6th. From the 10th there were longer periods of rain and further thunderstorms at times, the period from the 17th to the 28th being exceptionally wet over central and southern districts of Britain, although the northernmost parts of Scotland remained dry until the 28th. The storms were violent on a number of occasions, causing severe flooding locally. Among the many heavy falls of rain were 90.2 mm in two hours at Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire on the 2nd, 82.4 mm in 70 minutes out of a total of 92.0 mm at Cheshunt in Hertfordshire on the 4th, 96 mm in five hours at Skipton in North Yorkshire on the 6th, 54 mm in 40 minutes at St Helier on Jersey and 70.2 mm in four hours at Woodburn North in Co. Antrim during the night of the 9/10th, and 83.2 mm at Stanton Prior, near Bath, in Avon on the

18th. Rainfall was prolonged over much of the northern half of England on the 21st and 22nd, with 102.7 mm at Weston Park in Sheffield over the two days and 94.2 mm at Silpho Moor in North Yorkshire on the 22nd, and also over the south of Scotland on the 25th and 26th. After so much rain part of the M62 in West Yorkshire was blocked by walls of mud up to 3 m high on the 26th. Fresh falls of snow were observed on the Cairngorm Mountains on the 11th and 12th.

### Sunshine

Monthly sunshine totals were near or below normal in most parts with less than 75 per cent of average being recorded over much of east Scotland, northern and central England, the west of Northern Ireland and at some places in west Scotland and North Wales. On the other hand north-western Scotland was sunnier than usual with more than 125 per cent of average in some parts.

All districts were sunny at times until about the 9th. The rest of the month was often dull, the south-east of Scotland and north-east England hardly seeing the sun during the third and fourth weeks. Cockle Park (Northumberland) had ten consecutive sunless days from the 17th to the 26th and with five other such days earlier in the month this was the dullist June there since 1912.

### Fog

Patches of fog formed rather frequently both inland overnight and around coasts, especially during the first week or so, the former being widespread on some occasions, mainly in the south-west, while the latter were persistent at times, mostly in the south-west and north-east. Except in the south-east hill fog developed on many occasions, being particularly widespread at times during the fourth week over central and northern districts.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

Table 1 District values

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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	28.0	2.3	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+1.3	−9	27	113
1 Scotland E	27.8	0.8	−0.8	+0.5	−0.2	+0.7	−3	77	71
2 England E & NE	29.5	5.0	−0.3	+1.4	+0.6	+1.3	+7	224	71
3 East Anglia	28.2	5.4	+0.3	+1.9	+1.1	+1.1	+7	207	80
4 Midland Counties	30.0	3.4	+0.6	+1.7	+1.1	+1.2	+7	242	70
5 England SE & Central S	29.3	4.1	+0.9	+1.9	+1.4	+1.0	+6	166	92
6 Scotland W	29.6	2.9	+0.3	+0.6	+0.4	+0.5	−3	89	88
7 England NW & Wales N	28.5	3.3	+0.7	+1.1	+0.9	+0.7	+4	143	80
8 England SW & Wales S	27.4	2.5	+0.7	+0.8	+0.7	+0.8	+5	179	86
N Ireland	26.8	2.3	+0.4	+0.8	+0.6	+0.5	0	155	79
Scotland	29.6	0.8	−0.1	+0.4	+0.1	+0.8	−5	64	91
England & Wales	30.0	2.5	+0.5	+1.5	+1.0	+1.0	+6	193	80

\*Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations