

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

## SEPTEMBER 1983

VOLUME 100

NUMBER 9

### Unsettled, rather cool and windy; mainly dry and warmer later.

On the 1st a cold front moved steadily eastwards across all parts of the United Kingdom heralding a complete change from the anticyclonic conditions that had been dominant for much of the summer. For the next three weeks or so a succession of fronts followed with depressions moving in an east or north-easterly direction over northern districts on the 2nd/3rd, 4th/5th, 8th/9th and 15th/16th, over southern areas on the 9th/10th and 21st and past the north of Scotland on the 18th/19th and 23rd. The lows on the 2nd and 18th were particularly intense while that on the 9th/10th remained over the North Sea until the 12th. Anticyclones, passing eastwards over northern France on the 6th/7th and 22nd briefly interrupted the sequence.

Pressure rose strongly as a large anticyclone advanced south-eastwards across the British Isles on the 24th and 25th to be over central Europe by the 27th. During the remainder of the month a front became slow moving over northern districts while a ridge of high pressure extended south-eastwards over the North Sea.

#### Weather

For about three and a half weeks the weather was generally unsettled, rather cool and windy with showers or longer periods of rain at times. Thunderstorms occurred on a number of occasions, but only early on the 1st over England and Wales were they at all widespread. Thereafter, it was mainly dry and quieter with some very warm days, especially in the south-east, but over central and southern areas overnight fog was rather widespread. In Scotland, however, there was some further rain with the east becoming cool during the last few days.

#### Wind

Until the 23rd winds were fresh or strong at times with gales in places, mainly over exposed coasts and hills. On some occasions the gales were severe and reached storm force locally, particularly in the south on the 2nd and 3rd, with gusts of 73 kn at Dover, Kent, and 75 kn at Gwennap Head, Cornwall, and over Northern Ireland, the south of Scotland and northern England during the night of the 4th/5th, with gusts of 74 kn at Machrihanish and 92 kn on Lowther Hill, both in Strathclyde Region. On the first occasion two sea-anglers were lost off St Agnes, Cornwall, a yachtsman perished off the Isles of Scilly, a driver was killed when a tree fell on to his lorry at Chippenham, Wiltshire, the QE2 was delayed from docking at Southampton for more than 24 hours, and the bumper crop of apples in East Anglia and south-east England was considerably reduced. On the second occasion extensive damage was caused to small boats in the Firth of Clyde while on both occasions power lines were brought down in places and ferries delayed or cancelled. Subsequently, winds were lighter generally although it continued to be rather windy in the north with gales locally, particularly on the 29th and 30th. Wind directions were predominantly from the south-west quarter, but between the 10th and 12th they were mainly between north-west and north and during the last three days from an easterly point.

#### Temperature

Except in parts of southern England, the

Midlands, East Anglia and locally in Lincolnshire, where monthly mean temperatures were slightly above average, values were generally below normal and by rather more than 1 °C in scattered areas of western and northern Scotland.

For about three weeks from the start of the month temperatures were mostly below normal, especially by day, with the period 10th to 13th being particularly cool. Temperatures rose on the 23rd and the next few days were very warm at times, especially in the south-east, with maxima of 27.1 °C at Rumleigh, Devon, and 26.2 °C at St Helier, Jersey, on the 24th, 23.6 °C at Culterty, Grampian Region, on the 26th and 21.8 °C at Knockarevan, Co. Fermanagh, on the 27th. The last two or three days were cooler and whilst the south remained quite warm the north-east was cool. Slight frost occurred locally on a few occasions, mainly in Scotland where the temperature fell to -3.5 °C at Grantown-on-Spey, Highland Region, Bonchester Bridge, Borders Region, and Carnwath, Strathclyde Region on the 25th.

#### Rainfall

In most parts of the United Kingdom rainfall totals were above the September average with scattered areas in Great Britain, mostly in the eastern half of Scotland, central and south-western parts of England, and North Wales having more than 150 per cent of average. Below-normal totals were recorded mainly in parts of south-eastern and north-western England, the west of Scotland and Northern Ireland; less than 50 per cent of average occurred locally in the north-east of Kent.

For three and a half weeks all districts had showers or longer periods of rain at times, although in some eastern areas amounts of rainfall were small during the first week of the month. The last six days were mainly dry although parts of Scotland had further rain at times and south-western areas of England and Wales had rain late on the 30th. The rainfall was heavy in places on several occasions, particularly in Wales on the 2nd when 154.9 mm fell

at Capel Curig, Gwynedd. Flooding and landslips were reported locally in North Wales on the 3rd and 10th.

#### Sunshine

Monthly sunshine totals were below normal almost everywhere with parts of Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, and scattered areas in the south, west and far north of Great Britain having less than 75 per cent of average. In some parts it was one of the dullest Septembers this century while at Armagh the total was the lowest since sunshine records began there in 1880. Only at a few sheltered locations in Grampian Region, Tyne and Wear, South Yorkshire and Shropshire was there slightly more sunshine than usual.

After a bright start to the month, with all parts except Shetland having sunny periods at times, the second week was mostly cloudy. Subsequently, the best of the sunshine occurred in eastern districts although the month ended dull in most areas.

#### Fog

Apart from patches on the 1st and 22nd there was little overnight fog until the last week when it formed widely over central and southern districts, particularly between the 26th and 29th, but except over higher ground, mostly in the south-west, it lifted generally by late morning. Coastal fog was reported on several occasions, mostly in the north-east and south-west, being rather persistent in places in the latter area between the 25th and 30th. Patches of hill fog also occurred at times throughout the month, especially in northern and western areas.

#### Miscellaneous Phenomena

At 1255 GMT on the 15th a tornado occurred at Quernmore Mill Farm, about 2½ km to the north-east of Hazelrigg, Lancashire, at the passage of a sharp trough. Four buildings sustained moderate damage while along a track of 1.2 km, from south-west to north-east, trees were stripped of their branches but not uprooted. Cloud was visible at ground level within the vortex.

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	21.5	-0.3	-1.3	-0.5	-0.9	+0.1	+4	126	65
1 Scotland E	22.3	-1.9	-1.2	-0.1	-0.6	+0.3	+4	133	91
2 England E & NE	24.1	1.7	-0.6	+0.2	-0.1	+0.3	+2	119	91
3 East Anglia	25.1	4.0	-0.7	+0.4	-0.1	0.0	+3	121	81
4 Midland Counties	23.1	3.1	-0.8	+0.4	-0.2	+0.3	+2	134	88
5 England SE & Central S	24.4	3.9	-0.3	+0.4	+0.1	+0.1	+2	99	79
6 Scotland W	20.1	-1.9	-0.8	-0.4	-0.5	+0.3	+4	114	78
7 England NW & Wales N	22.7	3.6	-0.8	+0.3	-0.3	+0.1	+2	116	75
8 England SW & Wales S	24.9	3.6	-0.5	+0.2	-0.1	+0.3	+4	133	84
N Ireland	21.0	1.0	-0.5	+0.2	-0.1	+0.7	+1	104	73
Scotland	22.3	-1.9	-1.1	-0.3	-0.7	+0.2	+4	124	78
England & Wales	25.1	1.7	-0.6	+0.3	-0.1	+0.2	+3	120	83

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations