

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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May 1965 — Often cloudy; warm during the second week

Weather during May was predominantly cyclonic in character except during the second week and again near the end of the month.

The first eight days of the month were rather dull and unsettled with day temperatures about normal. A trough of low pressure over the south-west of the British Isles brought rain to southern and central districts on the 1st and this rain spread north-eastwards to the remainder of the country on the 2nd. A depression, approaching from the Atlantic on the 3rd crossed the British Isles the next day giving rain, thundery locally with winds reaching gale force in some southern coastal areas. The 5th was cooler and showery with north-westerly winds and sunny periods. Two rather wet days followed as troughs, associated with a depression to the south of Iceland, moved eastwards across the country in rapid succession. Heavy thundery rain broke out in the north-west on the 8th, with falls exceeding 1 inch in many places, as the last of these troughs slowly cleared the east coast.

The second week was mostly sunny and warm. An anticyclone over the Bay of Biscay developed slowly northwards on the 9th bringing long sunny periods to most of England and Wales and this fine weather spread to the remainder of the British Isles, except the Shetlands, the next day. On the 11th the anticyclone moved eastwards from southern England towards Germany and southerly winds on its western flank maintained warm sunny weather over most of England and Wales from the 11th until the 13th. Many places had 13 to 14 hours sunshine daily and afternoon temperatures on the 13th and 14th exceeded 27°C. Although the fine warm weather continued in south-east England until the 15th, a small depression off eastern Scotland brought heavy rain to northern districts the previous night heralding the break-up of the fine spell.

On the 16th and 17th rain was widespread and heavy at times, with falls exceeding 1 inch locally on both days, as a depression from the Atlantic moved eastwards across the country. Scattered thunderstorms with hail broke out in the south-east on the 17th but temperatures were about normal.

The next two days were rather cold with a northerly airstream covering much of the country. Many northern districts had showers of sleet or snow and these extended as far south as East Anglia on the 18th and 19th. Ground became snow-covered for a time in the Glasgow-Edinburgh area.

A small anticyclone formed over southern England on the 20th giving a day of prolonged sunshine nearly everywhere and this fine weather continued in the south-east on the 21st, but rain, associated with a depression approaching Ireland spread north-east across most other districts. The depression became slow-moving and remained almost stationary off Ireland during the 22nd to 25th as it filled. Thundery rain or showers fell in most districts, but there were good sunny periods especially in south-east England. Rain was more widespread on the 26th as a small depression moved south-east across Scotland to the southern North Sea.

Northerly winds became established over most of the country on the 27th with high pressure to the west of the British Isles and these winds persisted for the remainder of the month bringing dull cold weather to eastern and central England though there were sunny periods in the west.

Pressure and Wind — Pressure was mainly below the 1921-50 average, the departure at 9 hr. ranging from -2.0 mb. at Leuchars to 0.0 mb. at Scilly. Surface winds south-easterly at first, were mainly westerly on the 4th-10th and rather variable thereafter though they were mainly from a southerly point on the 11th, 12th and 21st-24th and from a northerly point on the 18th and 27th-31st. They reached gale force on 9 days in Scotland and on the 3rd-5th, 8th, 9th, 22nd, 27th and 28th (8 days) in England and Wales. Gales were fairly widespread on the 8th and 9th; on the 8th a gust of 66 kt was recorded at Leuchars.

Temperature — A feature of the month was the warm spell during the second week. Otherwise day temperatures were near average during the first week, except on the 5th, and below average in England and Wales during the last few days of the month.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 28.9°C at Kensington on the 14th, -5.0°C at Alwen on the 20th; (Scotland) 25.6°C at Falkirk on the 14th, -6.1°C at Cairngorm on the 18th and 19th; (Northern Ireland) 24.6°C at Ballykelly on the 13th, -3.3°C at Lislap Forest on the 19th and at Loughermore Forest on the 19th and 20th.

Precipitation — In Scotland rainfall was generally above average in northern and inland areas, with excesses of 50 per cent in parts of the North-West Highlands but was below average in eastern and western coastal areas. In England and Wales rainfall was 50 per cent above average in parts of Denbighshire, Cheshire and in north-east coastal districts, but 25 per cent below average locally, in the Midlands and in Kent.

Thunder was heard on 14 days in Scotland and on the 1st, 3rd-5th, 16th-18th and 23rd-26th in England and Wales. Thunderstorms were widespread in northern England on the 24th and 25th and in the south-east on the 17th.

Snow or sleet was reported at one place or another in Scotland on 23 days and ground was snow-covered in places on the mornings of the 17th and 18th. In England and Wales snow showers were reported as far south as East Anglia on the 18th and 19th.

Sunshine — It was a dull month nearly everywhere. In Scotland deficits of more than 50 hours were almost general. At Inverness and Fortrose May sunshine totals have never been lower since 1911. In England and Wales percentages ranged from 72 at Newport (Shropshire) to 102 at Luton.

Fog — Fog was observed at 9hr at one place or another on 13 mornings in Scotland and on the 1st-12th, 14th-18th and 23rd-31st (26 mornings) in England and Wales.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was seen in Scotland on the night of the 17th.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES— MAY,

1965

(1908, revised 1928, 1941, 1956 and 1964)

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	-1.1	-0.9	+0.1	-0.4	-	-	+2	108	63
1 SCOTLAND, E.	23.9	0.0	-0.6	+0.4	-0.1	-	-	+2	94	69
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	27.0	-0.6	-0.1	+0.7	+0.3	+0.4	+0.1	+3	101	85
3 ENGLAND, E.	27.2	0.6	-0.1	+0.8	+0.3	+0.4	0.0	+4	101	85
4 MIDLANDS	27.2	0.0	-0.3	+0.8	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+4	87	92
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	27.1	-1.2	-0.4	+0.7	+0.2	+0.3	+0.3	+3	89	92

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

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									
6 SCOTLAND, W.	23.0	-3.1	-1.1	+0.7	-0.2	+0.4	-0.3	+2	98	62
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	25.0	-1.7	-0.4	+0.8	+0.3	+0.1	-0.1	0	123	84
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	26.1	-1.7	-0.5	+0.3	-0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+1	97	82
N. IRELAND	24.6	-2.5	-0.3	+0.9	+0.3	-	-	+3	107	69
SCOTLAND	23.9	-3.1	-0.9	+0.4	-0.2	-	-	+2	106	67
ENG. and WALES	27.2	-1.7	-0.3	+0.7	+0.2	-	-	+3	101	87