

Monthly Weather Report

Met.O. 763

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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April 1965 — Cool and showery after a warm start

Weather during the month was mainly cyclonic in character apart from anti-cyclonic spells during the first week and on the 22nd-24th.

The fine warm weather at the end of March continued into April. In southern England many places recorded more than 10 hours of sunshine on each of the first three days, and afternoon temperatures reached 20°C locally on the 3rd.

The dry spell, which had lasted about a week, ended on the night of the 3rd/4th as a cold front, associated with a deep depression to the west of Ireland, moved slowly across the country. Rain was slow to clear south-east England on the 4th, due to a wave development on the front, as also was a second rain-belt which, following a sunny day on the 5th reached western districts during the afternoon of the 6th.

Weather during the second week was dominated by a large and vigorous depression which deepened considerably as it moved north-eastwards from the mid-Atlantic and passed slowly between Scotland and Iceland. Fronts associated with this depression gave widespread and at times heavy rain on the 9th and 10th—many places in South Wales recorded more than 1 inch on the 9th—but this degenerated into thundery showers on the afternoon of the 10th, and cool showery weather with occasional snow in the north continued until the 13th.

A frontal system crossing the country from the Atlantic gave dull wet weather the next day with periods of heavy rain in Scotland, but the rain gradually died out on the 15th giving place to a generally sunny day on the 16th though rain from the west reached most districts during the evening. A generally wet night was followed by a stormy day with frequent rain or showers as a depression moved south-east from off northern Scotland into the North Sea. Strong to gale force north-westerly winds maintained showers on the 18th and these were heavy at times and of snow in the north; scattered thunderstorms occurred in the south-east. Winds veered towards the north on the 19th bringing snow showers to most eastern districts, but the showers gradually died out during the next two days.

A small centre of high pressure gave many parts of south-west England more than 11 hours of sunshine on the 22nd, but there was some slight rain in Scotland and this rain spread slowly southwards over England and Wales during the night. Small disturbances moving around a large anticyclone in our South-West Approaches brought dull wet weather to south-western districts on the 24th and 25th and there was occasional rain with broken sunshine in most other areas. Two showery, rather cold days followed with north-westerly winds veering to north as a depression moved southwards over the North Sea. The depression reached the Low Countries on the 27th and showery thundery weather gradually gave place to occasional rain in east coast districts on the 28th as winds veered further towards the east. The last two days of the month were generally sunny with rapidly rising day temperatures.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure at 9 hr was below the 1921-50 average everywhere, the deficit ranging from 2.4 mb. at Dyce to 0.4 mb.

at South Farnborough. Surface winds, mainly light and variable at first, freshened from the south-west on the 9th and thereafter were mostly between west and north-west apart from northerlies on the 19th-21st and 27th and easterly or variable winds during the last three days of the month. Winds reached gale force in Scotland on 13 days and in England and Wales on the 1st, 9th, 11th, 12th, 17th-21st, 26th and 27th (11 days). Gales were widespread on the 17th. Gusts of 72 kt and 69 kt were recorded at Lowther Hill (2,412 ft) and at Tiree respectively on the 18th.

Temperature — Day temperatures were generally above the 1931-60 average during the first week and then mainly below except around the 15th in southern England and on the 29th and 30th in Scotland. The coldest nights were during the first week and around the 20th. On the 1st screen temperature ranged over 22°C at a number of places in Scotland; at Braemar from minus 6.7°C to 17.8°C.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 21.7°C at Huddersfield on the 3rd, -6.7°C at Kielder Castle on the 2nd; (Scotland) 19.4°C at Kinlochewe on the 1st, -7.2°C at Buddon Ness on the 22nd; (Northern Ireland) 17.5°C at Ballykelly on 1st, -3.9°C at Lisnafillan on the 21st.

Rainfall — In Scotland rainfall amounts in some areas of the east and south were below the average, but in many parts of the west and north rainfall was more than 150 per cent of the average. In England and Wales it was below average over much of the South and Midlands, but exceeded 150 per cent of the average in parts of Norfolk, Suffolk, Lancashire, Cheshire, the North Riding of Yorkshire, Cumberland and Cardigan.

Thunder was heard on 11 days in Scotland and on the 5th, 7th, 8th, 10th-13th, 17th-19th, 23rd and 26th-28th (14 days). Thunderstorms were widespread on the 17th and 26th-28th.

Snow or sleet was reported at one place or another in Scotland on 23 days; ground being snow-covered locally on the 12th and 19th. In England and Wales snowfall was mainly confined to the 18th-20th, but parts of the Midlands had 10 days. Dates included the 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th-13th, 17th-20th and 26th-27th (14 days) and ground was snow-covered in parts of north-east England and the Midlands on the 19th.

Sunshine — In Scotland sunshine amounts were above average in all areas. At Perth there has not been a sunnier April since 1942 although April 1962 was as sunny. In England and Wales, although some of the sunniest parts of the country were to be found in the north-east, weather was generally dull in the east and south-east; sunshine was generally above the average in the west.

Fog — In Scotland fog was observed at 9 hr at one place or another on 11 days and in England and Wales on 21 days where it was most frequent in the south.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was visible in Scotland on 9 nights.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES—

APRIL

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							% of Average			
0 SCOTLAND, N.	16.1	-2.3	+0.1	-0.6	-0.2	-	-	+1	128	109
1 SCOTLAND, E.	17.2	-3.3	+0.5	-1.0	-0.2	-	-	+2	107	122
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	18.4	-3.2	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	+0.3	-0.1	+3	119	107
3 ENGLAND, E.	18.3	-1.1	-0.6	-0.3	-0.4	+0.1	-0.1	+4	125	75
4 MIDLANDS	19.5	-1.7	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+1	86	98
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	20.0	-3.4	-0.4	-0.2	-0.3	+0.1	+0.1	+4	70	80

*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.	16.5	-5.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.3	+0.3	-0.3	+3	118	112
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	18.1	-2.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	+5	123	105
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	20.0	-2.8	-0.2	-0.7	-0.4	+0.3	+0.1	+2	74	100
N. IRELAND	17.5	-2.7	0.0	-0.3	-0.2	-	-	+5	125	98
SCOTLAND	17.2	-5.2	+0.2	-0.7	-0.2	-	-	+2	120	114
ENG. and WALES	20.0	-3.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-	-	+3	104	94