

October 2009

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1971-2000.

UK overview

Mean temperatures were generally above the 1971-2000 normal for October, typically by between 1.0 and 1.5 °C. This was largely due to a very mild last 10 days. Rainfall was below average across most of the UK, with parts of England and Wales recording less than 75% of normal. In contrast it was wetter than average across north-east Scotland, with nearly 175% of normal in Aberdeenshire. Sunshine was generally close to, or somewhat below, normal.

A maximum temperature of 21.2 °C was recorded at Coningsby (Lincolnshire) on 6th. A minimum temperature of -4.0 °C was recorded at Tyndrum (Perthshire) on 17th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 on 22nd, 113.4 mm of rainfall was recorded at Bridge of Dye (Kincardineshire). Wind gusts of 70 mph were recorded at Rosehearty (Aberdeenshire) and Tain Range (Highland) on 3rd.

England diary of highlights

The month saw variable weather, with periods of fine, sunny conditions but also rain at times. There were plenty of very mild days and mean temperatures were generally between 1.0 and 1.4 °C above the 1971-2000 normal. Rainfall was mostly near or rather below average, with counties from south-east England through the Midlands to north-west England recording 50 to 75% of normal. Sunshine totals were generally close to or slightly below normal.

1st to 7th: The month started with a north-westerly flow bringing rather cloudy conditions with some bright or sunny spells and a few showers. Solent (Hampshire) recorded a high of 19.7 °C on 1st. Winds turned westerly on 2nd and 3rd with gusts of 60 to 70 m.p.h. over northern hills, and spells of rain in the north. On 4th, most central and eastern areas had a dry day with sunny intervals but there was cloud and showers elsewhere. Rain spread across the south on 5th, and then northwards on 6th, but it remained warm with daytime temperatures reaching 20 °C quite widely and 21.2 °C at Coningsby (Lincolnshire). On 7th ex-Tropical Storm Grace brought heavy rain across southern areas with gales in the English Channel; 34.4 mm was recorded at St Catherine's Point (Isle of Wight).

8th to 14th: Rain cleared southwards early on 8th with high pressure building. Solent (Hampshire) reached 17.8 °C, but it was frosty overnight with Leeming (North Yorkshire) recording -0.6 °C. Dry at first on 9th, but cloud and rain spread from the south and west later. This cleared on 10th to leave dry, sunny weather with St James's Park (London) reaching 19.4 °C. Rather cloudy and mild on 11th but brighter spells developed later with Hurn (Dorset) reaching 18.3 °C. Most places were dry and bright on 12th and 13th, with temperatures peaking close to 16 °C across the south (17.7 °C at Solent on 12th) but it was chilly overnight with a slight ground frost. Some rain in the north and east on 14th, but otherwise dry. Chilly overnight in Kent, otherwise it turned milder.

15th to 21st: Rather cloudy with some patchy rain on 15th. A weak band of rain spread southwards on 16th, followed by a chilly night with ground frost in many areas. Dry on 17th, and again in southern areas on 18th, but cloud and rain spread to the north later. On 19th cloud and rain spread northwards with a southerly wind bringing dry weather to all parts and daytime maxima up to 15 °C. The 20th was a wetter day with 35.8 mm in 4 hours at Chivenor (Devon) resulting in some local flooding in places. Rain lingered in the east on 21st, with Bridlington (East Yorkshire) recording 24.2 mm, but there were brighter conditions and showers further west.

22nd to 31st: Many places were dry and bright on the 22nd and 23rd, but with showers across western areas, spreading eastwards later, and further rain in the west. Mild on 23rd with temperatures close to 17 °C across the south; 17.8 °C at Writtle (Essex). Cloud with rain and strong winds across most parts on 24th, then brighter later. A breezy day on 25th, with gusts over the Pennines reaching 60 m.p.h. It was drier in the south, but with heavy rain across northern hills. Generally cloudy on 26th and 27th with rain at times, but some brighter spells too. Northern and western areas became drier on 28th as rain and cloud continued in the south-east. However, temperatures were again well above normal, reaching 19.6 °C at Gravesend (Kent) on 27th and 19.1 °C at Pershore College (Worcestershire) on 28th. Dry in most places on 29th and 30th with a very mild southerly flow, before some rain spread eastwards later. This cleared eastern areas during the morning of 31st to leave another fine, mild day.

Wales diary of highlights

The month saw variable weather, with periods of fine, sunny conditions but also rain at times. There were plenty of mild days, and mean temperatures were generally between 1.0 and 1.4 °C above the 1971-2000 normal. Rainfall was below average, with many areas recording around 75% of the normal amount. Sunshine totals were generally slightly below normal.

1st to 7th: The month started with a north-westerly flow bringing rather cloudy conditions with some bright or sunny spells and a few showers. Winds turned westerly on 2nd and 3rd with gusts to 50 or 60 m.p.h. over northern hills, and a little rain too in the north. This rain spread southwards overnight into 4th. Dry on 5th with Mumbles Head (West Glamorgan) reaching 17.1 °C. Rain then spread northwards on 6th but it remained mild. Early on 7th ex-Tropical Storm Grace spread heavy rain across the south with Sennybridge (Powys) recording 36.6 mm in 24 hours to 0900.

8th to 14th: Rain cleared southwards early on 8th with high pressure building. Dry at first on 9th, but cloud and rain spread from the south and west later, which cleared on 10th to leave dry, sunny and warm weather. Rather cloudy and mild on 11th with occasional light rain or drizzle, but brighter spells later. Dry and bright on 12th with daytime temperatures reaching 18 °C in the south. Chilly overnight, with a slight ground frost, followed by a largely dry day with some brightness on 13th. Rain or drizzle in places on 14th, but otherwise dry and mild.

15th to 21st: Rather cloudy with some patchy rain on 15th. Pembrey Sands (Carmarthenshire) reached 15.5 °C. A weak band of rain spread southwards on 16th, followed by a cool night with ground frost in many areas; the temperature at Sennybridge fell to -1.4 °C. All places were dry on 17th, and southern areas stayed dry too on 18th, but cloud and rain spread to the north later. On 19th cloud and rain spread northwards with a southerly wind bringing dry weather to all parts and highs of up to 15 °C. The 20th was a wetter day with some local flooding in places in the south. Rain lingered in the east on 21st with brighter conditions and showers further west, Valley (Anglesey) reaching 16.2 °C.

22nd to 31st: Many places were dry and bright on 22nd and 23rd, but with showers across western areas, spreading eastwards later; Valley reached 16.6 °C on 22nd. Some rain reached the west later on the 23rd, with further cloud and rain accompanied by strong winds across most parts on 24th, then brighter later. Aberdaron (Gwynedd) recorded a gust of 67 m.p.h. and Capel Curig (Conwy) received 35.0 mm of rainfall. A breezy day on 25th with strong gusts and heavy rain across northernmost hills, although drier in the south. Generally cloudy on 26th and 27th with rain at times. Northern and western areas became drier on the 28th. Dry in most places on 29th and 30th with a southerly flow, then rain edged eastwards later. This cleared on 31st to leave showers in the west but a largely fine, mild day elsewhere.

Scotland diary of highlights

A mainly unsettled month, but mild. Mean temperatures for the month were typically 1.0 °C above the 1971-2000 normal, but those in the Northern Isles were closer to average. Rainfall ranged from slightly below normal in the west and south to well above in the north-east, with nearly 175% in Aberdeenshire. At Dyce (Aberdeen)

it was the third wettest October since records began there in 1947. Sunshine totals were generally close to normal.

1st to 4th: On 1st, the south was mainly dry and bright with sunny spells, while showers in the north merged into longer spells of rain in the evening. Cloud and rain in the west gradually spread east on the 2nd with a strengthening westerly wind. The 3rd was very windy with widespread westerly gales, a gust of 70 m.p.h. being recorded at Tain Range (Highland), and the west and north also saw blustery showers. The 4th started with strong north-westerly winds and frequent showers, heaviest in the north, these diminishing through the day.

5th to 14th: A chilly start to 5th, the temperature at Aboyne (Aberdeenshire) falling to -3.3 °C; mainly dry and bright, with rain across the northwest later. The rain spread south overnight clearing during the 6th with mainly sunny conditions following. Following a ground frost, the 7th was dry and sunny but with showers in the north and west. Dry with sunny spells on 8th but showers in the north and west. Cloudy with rain on 9th with south-easterly winds becoming strong. On 10th rain in the north-east cleared to leave sunny spells and showers, mainly in the north. The 11th saw frequent showers across the north, heavy at times, becoming confined to the north-east and east coast. The 12th was mainly dry and bright although rain reached the north in the afternoon. The 13th and 14th were cloudy with occasional rain, mostly in the north.

15th to 31st: Mostly cloudy on 15th with patchy rain, but mild with the temperature reaching 18.0 °C at Strathallan (Perthshire). Dry and sunny on 16th and 17th with light winds. Rain moved south-eastwards during 18th with mainly dry, brighter weather following. After early frost in the north, the 19th was mostly cloudy with occasional rain. The north and east were mainly dry and bright on the 20th, but rain reached the south-west in the morning and moved north-eastwards later. On 21st rain became prolonged in Angus and Aberdeenshire, with 90.3 mm at Durris (Aberdeenshire) and 61.6 mm at Dyce (Aberdeenshire) in 24 hours to 0900 on 22nd. Further heavy rain on 22nd, with strong to gale-force south-easterly winds across the north-east gradually easing, but mainly dry and sunny elsewhere. Showers on 23rd, some heavy over the southern Highlands. Heavy rain moved north during 24th with 15.4 mm in 2 hours at Dyce. Cloudy on 25th with showers, heavy and prolonged at first in the west, with gales at first in south and Shetland. Cloudy on 26th with a few showers in the Northern Isles. Rain edged across the country on 27th, becoming slow-moving over the far north. A little patchy drizzle in the west on 28th, with good cloud breaks in sheltered spots; Fyvie Castle (Aberdeenshire) reached 18.3 °C. On 29th the north-east stayed dry and bright, elsewhere there was some rain. Dry but mainly cloudy at first on the 30th but rain in the west. The 31st saw sunny intervals but also showers, heavy with hail in the west.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

A mainly unsettled month, but many mild days resulting in the mean temperature for the month being 1.4 °C above the 1971-2000 normal. Rainfall was mostly near average and sunshine totals were generally slightly below normal.

1st to 6th: The 1st was dry and bright with some sunshine, but the 2nd brought rain and strengthening winds. The 3rd continued very windy with showers. Bright on the 4th with showers. Mainly dry and bright again on the 5th, but rain in the north later. Rain cleared southwards early on the 6th followed by a sunny afternoon.

7th to 10th: Clear skies overnight led to a chilly start on the 7th, with ground frost in many areas; -3.1 °C was recorded at Katesbridge (County Down). This was followed by a bright day with showers in the north. Mainly dry on 8th with some sunshine. Cloudy with some heavy, showery rain during the 9th and strong south-easterly winds. The 10th was mainly dry with bright or sunny spells and winds decreasing.

11th to 31st: The 11th was cloudy with scattered showers, mainly in the north and east, followed by a mild night. The 12th was mainly fine but with some early mist. The 13th, 14th and 15th were mild and cloudy with occasional rain or patchy drizzle. On both 16th and 17th, early mist and fog cleared to leave sunny spells and light winds. The 18th to 20th were cloudy with rain; the 20th was also windy but brightening in the west later.

Sunshine and heavy showers followed on the 21st and 22nd. The showers were heaviest in the west, with 20.8 mm recorded at St Angelo (County Fermanagh). The 23rd was mainly dry but with heavy showers later. Heavy rain continued on the morning of the 24th, followed by a brief interlude before further heavy rain and gales arrived later. Still quite windy and cloudy on the 25th with scattered showers. Cloudy but dry on the 26th, with rain later, this clearing on the morning of the 27th to leave brighter conditions before further rain later. The 28th was rather cloudy but dry and mild, with Helens Bay (County Down) reaching 17.9 °C. Mild but rainy on 29th and 30th, the rain heavy at times in the west. Sunshine and showers on the 31st, some of the showers heavy with hail.

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