

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS.

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Unsettled; very warm and thundery at first, becoming cool by mid-month.

For about a week at the start of the month pressure was high to the north of the British Isles and mostly low over the nearby continent. During the 4th and 5th a shallow depression came slowly eastwards over south-west England and the English Channel while another drifted from the Netherlands to eastern England. Next day, however, the complex area of low pressure began to move away to the east and on the 7th a ridge of high pressure crossed all districts.

During the rest of the month depressions, some of them deep, moved north-eastwards at times, mostly between Scotland and Iceland, while a succession of frontal systems advanced across the United Kingdom. The depressions which crossed Northern Ireland and Scotland during the night of the 17/18th and passed just to the north of Scotland on the 24th were particularly deep and both became slow moving near Shetland for about three days. Only on the 10th and 28th did significant ridges of high pressure cross the British Isles.

Weather

This was an unsettled, rather windy month with showers or longer periods of rain at times. After a first week of very warm, humid and thundery weather it became less warm, particularly in the north and west, before becoming generally cool, almost autumnal, over the last two and a half weeks of the month. Thunderstorms occurred at times in most parts, becoming widespread over the south of Britain on the 3rd and 4th and in the north on the 5th and 6th. They also occurred widely over central areas on the 13th and 19th and in the south on the 26th.

Wind

During the first week of the month winds were rather variable in direction, mainly from the north-easterly quarter, and mostly light in strength. Sea-breezes developed in places on most days. Thereafter, south-westerly winds, often fresh in strength, prevailed although they veered to north-westerly on some occasions. Gales occurred at times over exposed areas, mostly in Scotland, north-west England and along the southern coast of England. The gales were severe locally in the north, particularly on the 11th, 12th, 24th, 25th and 30th. Gusts of 63 kn were recorded at Ardrossan (Strathclyde Region) on the 20th and of 78 kn at the high-level station on Snaefell (Isle of Man) on the 30th.

Temperature

Mean temperatures for the month were within 1 °C of average everywhere. In most areas they were above normal, but over the Channel Islands, much of Wales and north-west England, parts of west and north Scotland and at a few places in the Midlands, south-west England, North Yorkshire, Co. Fermanagh and on the Isle of Wight they were a little below.

Until the 6th it was very warm generally, even hot at times with maxima exceeding 27 °C, especially in the south-east. On the 3rd the temperature reached 30.7 °C at Morley St Botolph in Norfolk while on the 4th it rose to 29.9 °C at Inverailort in Highland

Region. From the 3rd maxima exceeded 20 °C at Lerwick Observatory in Shetland on three consecutive days for the first time since records began there in 1922 with the reading of 21.5 °C on the 5th being the highest on record in August. Nights were also very warm with minima of 15 to 17 °C being recorded in most parts. Although the next six days were cooler, particularly in the west and north, the temperature still reached 25.0 °C at Lisnaskea in Co. Fermanagh on the 11th while the south-east was mostly very warm. Temperatures fell again on the 12th and the rest of the month was mostly cool with occasional ground frost in places and a touch of air frost locally in the north. The temperature fell to -1.4 °C at Kinbrace in Highland Region on the 15th and to -2.1 °C at Carnwath in Strathclyde Region on the 28th while it rose to only 10.6 °C at Helensburgh, also in Strathclyde Region, on the 19th.

Rainfall

Monthly rainfall totals were below normal over the Channel Islands, much of southern and eastern England, the south-east of Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man, and in scattered areas elsewhere. Less than half the average fell in some south-eastern parts of Scotland and here and there in southern England. Over remaining parts of the United Kingdom, in particular much of the north and west of Scotland, north-west and central England, and Wales rainfall was above normal. More than twice the average was recorded at a few places in Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and the far north of Scotland where the total of 203.3 mm at Stornoway (Western Isles) was the highest in the area for August in more than 100 years of records.

Throughout the month there were showers or longer periods of rain at times which were particularly frequent in north-western areas. The rainfall was heavy on a number of occasions, especially over parts of East Anglia, the northern Midland counties and Lincolnshire on the 4th and 5th, parts of north-eastern Scotland on the 6th, South Wales on the 13th, North Wales and north-west England during the night of 17/

18th and over Northern Ireland, the west of Scotland and the Isle of Man early on the 24th. Early in the month thundery downpours caused local flooding with Todmorden in West Yorkshire being severely affected on the 4th. Among many heavy falls were 123.6 mm in the three hours from 1800 GMT at Ely (Cambridgeshire) on the 4th and daily totals of 80.7 mm at Ruskington (Lincolnshire) on the 5th, 77.7 mm at Braemar (Grampian Region) on the 6th and 109.5 mm at Llydaw Intake in Snowdonia on the 17th.

Sunshine

Sunshine totals were near or below the monthly average over the western half of Britain, Northern Ireland except Co. Down, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and in scattered areas in the east including Orkney and Shetland, but above normal elsewhere. Values ranged from less than 75 per cent of average in parts of Highland Region, Co. Londonderry, Devon and Cornwall to about 120 per cent at a few places in Grampian and Tayside Regions and South Yorkshire.

In a month when sunshine was rather variable the best of it occurred between the 9th and 19th and during the last week, particularly in the south. Shetland, however, was brilliantly sunny on the 3rd and 4th but often dull during the last two weeks.

Fog

In most districts fog patches occurred each day during the first week of the month, being widespread and thick over central and southern areas at first on the 2nd, over north-eastern coasts from the 2nd to the 4th and at times over hills in the south-west and north-east. During the rest of the month fog was less frequent, forming mainly over high ground in the west and in isolated patches elsewhere, mostly overnight between the 26th and 29th and from time to time over south-western coasts.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

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				
0 Scotland N	29.0	3.3	+0.1	+0.3	+0.2	+0.5	+8	140	90
1 Scotland E	28.7	−0.3	+0.5	+0.5	+0.5	+0.6	+3	96	112
2 England E & NE	28.0	2.1	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.9	+3	93	105
3 East Anglia	28.5	6.0	+0.5	+0.5	+0.5	+0.4	0	83	105
4 Midland Counties	28.5	4.4	0.0	+0.4	+0.2	+0.6	+3	92	101
5 England SE & Central S	27.6	6.4	+0.3	+0.6	+0.5	+0.4	−1	77	104
6 Scotland W	29.0	−0.3	−0.1	+0.3	+0.1	+0.5	+5	118	91
7 England NW & Wales N	28.9	3.4	−0.3	+0.4	0.0	+0.1	+6	112	92
8 England SW & Wales S	27.0	4.2	−0.3	+0.2	−0.1	+0.4	+1	88	86
N Ireland	24.0	0.4	−0.3	+0.1	−0.1	+0.4	+4	89	89
Scotland	29.0	−0.3	+0.2	+0.4	+0.3	+0.5	+5	118	98
England & Wales	28.9	2.1	+0.1	+0.4	+0.3	+0.5	+2	91	99

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations