

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

MET. O. 869

UDC 551 506 1(41-4)

NOVEMBER 1974

VOLUME 91

NUMBER 11

Wet and often very windy

Active depressions and their associated fronts affected the United Kingdom frequently throughout the month. High-pressure systems were much less in evidence and their influence on the weather over the country was very short lived.

Weather

Wet and very windy weather predominated and outbreaks of heavy rain were sometimes accompanied by hail and thunder. Falls of snow or sleet (snow mixed with rain or drizzle) were mostly confined to high ground in the north and north-west. Hill and coastal fog was widespread at times, usually in heavy rain, and some fog also occurred at night in inland areas.

Wind

Winds blew predominantly from a southerly or westerly point and were often fresh or strong with gales at times, particularly during the second and fourth weeks. On the 11th gales were severe in Scotland where an hourly mean wind speed of 52 kt and a gust of 80 kt were recorded at Tiree (Argyll) but as far south as Dorset two vehicles were reported to have been overturned by strong gusts. A few days later gales swept western and southern coasts of England and Wales and Lizard (Cornwall) had a gust of 77 kt on the 13th. The following day was very squally and there were reports of structural damage in several places in England. The 24th and 25th were very windy in many districts and gales were severe in exposed places in Northern Ireland, Scotland and northern England. On the 26th winds moderated a little but gales were renewed on the following two days. Among noteworthy gusts recorded during the last week was one of 65 kt at Ballypatrick Forest (Co. Antrim) on the 24th and one of 71 kt at Coningsby (Lincolnshire) on the 27th.

Temperature

Monthly mean temperatures were above average in north-eastern Scotland and over most of the Midlands, East Anglia and southern England and below average in all other districts; but departures from normal were less than 1 degC almost everywhere. Generally, the mildest weather occurred during the first half of the month and maxima of 14°C or more were recorded at several places on one or two days. On the 9th the temperature rose to 14.4°C at Elgin (Moray) and on the same day Cannington (Somerset) had a maximum of 15.8°C. During the third week it was particularly cold in central and southern Scotland and northern England; frosts occurred frequently and were severe at times. Maximum temperatures were very low in several places, for example, at Abbotsinch (Renfrewshire) on the 20th the temperature did not rise above 0°C all day.

Rainfall (including melted snow)

Rainfall totals varied from 70 to 100 per cent of average in the extreme east of Scotland, in parts of north-eastern and eastern England and also in a small area of western Wales. It was generally wetter than average elsewhere, indeed, in East Anglia and south-eastern England some places had more than twice their usual rainfall. Showers or outbreaks of rain occurred repeatedly in all districts and the rainfall was often heavy after the first week with hail and thunder at times. During the 24 hours from 09 GMT on the 10th (the 'rainfall day' of the 10th), 111.5 mm of rain fell at Achnagart (Ross and Cromarty) and on the 11th many roads were flooded in the West Country. Between the 19th and 23rd widespread flooding was reported in East Anglia, the Midlands and southern England, and in Scotland a fall of 93.2 mm was recorded at Forest Lodge (Perthshire) during the 'rainfall day' of the 22nd.

Snow

Showers of snow or sleet, mostly over high ground, occurred in Scotland, northern England and North Wales during the second and third weeks and again towards the end of the month when snow showers were also reported in Northern Ireland. On the 19th snowfall was prolonged in places and undrifted depths of 5 to 8 cm were measured in parts of south-western Scotland and in the northern Midlands

but the snow did not lie for more than a few hours. Two days later 12 to 18 cm of snow accumulated on the higher slopes of the mountains of North Wales and some of this snow persisted for two or three days.

Sunshine

It was rather dull in the south-eastern half of England and also in north-western England except the Isle of Man. Sunshine was also a little below average in a few places in northern and western Scotland, western Wales and south-western England but in all other districts sunshine totals ranged from 100 to 140 per cent of average and in parts of Northern Ireland it was the sunniest November this century.

Fog

Most of the fog patches which developed at night in inland areas were reported during the first and third weeks. England and Wales were chiefly affected but fog also occurred at times in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The fog was sometimes freezing and occasionally widespread and persistent particularly in parts of central and southern Scotland and northern England. Widespread hill and coastal fog occurred on a number of days, especially in heavy rain.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

On the 14th a whirlwind was reported at Thorpe (Norfolk). The aurora was observed in Scotland on 10 nights.

Table 1 District values

District	air temperature °C					mean 30-cm earth temp °C	rain- days	rainfall	sun- shine
	Highest Max *	Lowest Min.*	max.	min.	mean				
			difference from average						
0 Scotland N	12.0	−1.6	−0.3	−0.2	−0.2	−0.6	+4	146	91
1 Scotland E	12.9	−1.5	−0.2	0.0	−0.1	−0.4	+3	124	110
2 England E & NE	13.6	−3.6	−0.3	−0.3	−0.3	−0.6	+1	101	104
3 East Anglia	14.4	−2.5	0.0	+0.3	+0.1	−0.3	+6	175	81
4 Midland Counties	14.1	−3.6	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	−0.5	+4	124	101
5 England SE & Central S	14.0	−1.0	+0.3	+0.4	+0.4	−0.3	+8	169	79
6 Scotland W	12.7	−5.8	−0.4	−0.2	−0.3	−0.8	+4	162	100
7 England NW & Wales N	14.8	−5.8	−0.5	−0.2	−0.3	−0.6	+3	121	92
8 England SW & Wales S	14.8	−1.2	0.0	+0.3	+0.1	−0.6	+6	122	99
N Ireland	12.1	−5.4	−0.6	−1.3	−0.1	−1.0	+2	107	129
Scotland	12.9	−5.8	−0.3	−0.1	−0.2	−0.6	+4	144	100
England & Wales	14.8	−5.8	−0.1	+0.1	0.0	−0.5	+5	135	93

*Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations.