

Rather wet and unsettled

At the start of the month an anticyclone was centred over northern France, with a complex area of low pressure to the west of the British Isles, while a deep depression was centred over Scandinavia. The anticyclone moved away eastwards on the 2nd and on the 3rd an Atlantic depression crossed the Irish Sea. This depression moved quickly eastwards into the North Sea on the 4th, its associated fronts moving south-eastwards across England and Wales to clear the south coast by midday. A ridge of high pressure then moved slowly eastwards over the British Isles bringing a few settled days to all parts only to be followed on the 8th by a depression over Scotland with its associated fronts bringing the whole of the British Isles into a strong westerly to north-westerly airstream. For a while on the 12th England and Wales came under the influence of an anticyclone centred over France but, as this anticyclone moved slowly away eastwards, the associated frontal system of an Atlantic low-pressure area moved eastwards across the British Isles and into northern Germany on the 14th. A temporary ridge of high pressure on the 15th and 16th across the British Isles gave way to a further area of low pressure on the 17th to be followed, in turn, by fronts associated with complex Atlantic low-pressure systems. One such system moved across the North Sea on the 24th to leave the British Isles once more under a temporary ridge of high pressure but, from late on the 25th, low pressure again became the major influence for the rest of the month.

**Weather**  
September was a rather wet and unsettled month effectively ending the period of water shortage and becoming the wettest September in England and Wales as a whole since 1981 and in Scotland since 1982. This followed the driest eight-month period in England and Wales since 1976, in Wales alone since 1959, and in Scotland since 1971.

Thunderstorms occurred on 18 days out of the 30, mostly in the south and east, and were occasionally accompanied by widespread hail. An outbreak on the 14th in the north Midlands and central southern England gave hail at a number of places: Monk's Wood, Cambridgeshire reported hailstones between 10 mm and 19 mm in diameter. Further hail was reported on the 21st, 22nd, 24th and 30th. Lightning brought down power lines inland in the south-west on the 9th and killed a boy at Bedford on the 24th. Torrential rain, gales and huge waves caused havoc along the south coast on the 20th.

**Wind**  
Winds were fresh or strong at times during the month, reaching gale force over exposed coasts and hills on several occasions. On the 9th gales occurred mainly in coastal areas and nine workers on a pipe-laying barge were lifted to safety by helicopter as gales lashed the Norfolk coast. A youth was swept off a rock and drowned at Tintagel, Cornwall and trees inland were uprooted by the sudden gusts. In the Solent dozens of boats overturned or went aground when the area was hit by gale-force winds. Gales occurred, mainly over high ground in the north, on the 19th. On the 20th a gust of 60 kn was recorded at the Needles, Isle of

Wight during the late morning. On the 25th six men scrambled ashore to safety when their boat was wrecked in a gale off Porth-yr-Ogof, near Cemaes Bay, Anglesey. Wind directions during the month were mainly westerly.

**Temperature**  
Mean temperatures were near normal for the month in all parts of the United Kingdom except for northern areas of Scotland where they were more than 1 °C below normal.

Daytime temperatures were below normal on many days throughout the month with the highest maxima occurring during the first three days. In Scotland it was generally a cool month with both day- and night-time temperatures below average. The lowest minima in Scotland occurred on the 22nd with -4.6 °C at Grantown-on-Spey, Highland Region and -4.4 °C at Balmoral, Grampian Region. On that day at Aviemore, Highland Region the temperature rose to only 8 °C. The lowest minima in the south were -0.5 °C at Bastreet, Cornwall on the 7th and -0.1 °C at Moel Cynnedd, Powys on the 6th. In Northern Ireland Loughermore Forest, Co. Londonderry reported -1.7 °C on the 26th. The month's highest maximum was 29.1 °C at St Helier, Jersey on the 2nd.

**Rainfall**  
Except for parts of south-east England, east Devon, southern Scotland and the extreme north and west of Northern Ireland, all of which were drier than normal, most of the United Kingdom had above-average rainfall. Areas of England and Wales between Newcastle upon Tyne and Bristol, Avon had more than 150 per cent of average, as did eastern coastal areas of Scotland from Inverness to Edinburgh. Some areas were very wet with over 200 per cent of average, a notably wet area being eastern England, with over 250 per cent in Cambridgeshire: at Wyton rainfall amounted to nearly 280 per cent of normal.

Heavy rain in Scotland on the 2nd gave a total daily fall of 92.5 mm at Lochaline, Highland Region. On

the 3rd Scamston Hall, North Yorkshire had 71.1 mm and many other large amounts were reported from stations in England and Wales. The greatest fall in Wales on that day was 65.0 mm at Cwm Dyli, Gwynedd. Heavy falls in the north and west on the 13th gave nearly 58 mm at Honister Pass, Cumbria and 33 mm at Hartland Point, Devon. The two-day period 19th and 20th was especially wet over Wales and the southern half of England: Cardiff/Rhoose, South Glamorgan had 78 mm of rain over this period (three-quarters of the September average) and many other places had over 50 mm.

**Sunshine**  
Sunshine amounts were below normal nearly everywhere except for isolated areas where the average was just exceeded. These were in the far west of Cornwall, Devon around Torbay, Tyne and Wear, north Shropshire, and parts of Northern Ireland. Kinross, Tayside had 111 per cent of average and Penzance, Cornwall 116 per cent. Otherwise it was a generally dull month with only 60 per cent of average recorded in parts of East Anglia. On the 26th the south-east of England had one of the sunniest days of the month with about nine hours of bright sunshine.

**Fog**  
Overnight fog patches developed in inland areas at times during the month and for a time on the 13th fog was thick in the south and east. Fog patches were widespread on the 16th, except in the south-east, and again on the 29th. There were only a few isolated occurrences of fog on hills and coasts.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena**  
On the 22nd and 24th waterspouts were reported in Cardigan Bay, sweeping up the Mawddach Estuary at Barmouth, Gwynedd, lifting boats and water and, where the shoreline was crossed on the 22nd, sand up to a height of 75 m.

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				
			Difference from average					% of average	
0 Scotland N	19.0	−4.4	−1.0	−0.5	−0.7	+0.1	+7	131	68
1 Scotland E	22.4	−4.0	−1.1	−0.1	−0.6	+0.1	+4	141	77
2 England E. & NE	26.4	2.8	−0.7	+0.8	0.0	+0.6	+5	164	79
3 East Anglia	26.8	4.6	−0.9	+0.6	−0.2	+0.1	+5	175	70
4 Midland Counties	26.7	1.2	−0.4	+0.9	+0.2	+0.5	+3	149	85
5 England SE & Central S	25.9	4.0	−0.3	+0.4	0.0	+0.2	+3	106	76
6 Scotland W	22.2	−0.4	−0.7	−0.1	−0.4	+0.3	+3	114	86
7 England NW & Wales N	25.6	2.4	−0.6	+0.5	0.0	+0.8	+4	141	87
8 England SW & Wales S	26.0	1.6	−0.1	+0.8	+0.3	+0.8	+5	139	94
N Ireland	22.8	0.1	−0.4	+0.1	−0.1	+0.8	+4	107	93
Scotland	22.4	−4.4	−0.9	−0.2	−0.6	+0.2	+5	127	77
England & Wales	26.8	1.2	−0.5	+0.7	+0.1	+0.5	+4	143	82

\*Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations