

Monthly Weather Report

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SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS

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June 1947—Unsettled; very warm spell 1st–3rd.

The month was mainly unsettled and rather warm, the first three days being unusually hot. Rainfall exceeded the average on the whole, but was below the average over a large part of the English Midlands. It was sunnier than usual over east and south-east England, and dull in the west and north of the British Isles. Thunderstorms occurred fairly frequently, and some were severe.

During the opening days pressure was high to the north and south-east of the British Isles, while a depression on the Atlantic, south-westward of Ireland, moved slowly east and became less deep. Meanwhile, shallow secondaries moved north over our western districts. Very hot weather prevailed, with good sunshine records, particularly in the eastern half of England: there were local thunderstorms. On the 4th a shallow depression, centred over the mouth of the English Channel, moved rather quickly north causing widespread thunderstorms; temperature fell considerably. On the 5th and 6th a trough of low pressure over Ireland moved east; rain occurred generally and there was a further fall of temperature. On the 7th and 8th a deep depression south-west of Iceland moved slowly east, while associated troughs moved more quickly east across the British Isles; rain occurred in most areas and there were a few scattered thunderstorms. Strong winds prevailed at exposed stations on the 8th.

Subsequently an anticyclone off our south-west coasts and a wedge westward of the British Isles moved east-north-east; fair weather prevailed over most of England, Wales and Ireland on the 9th and 10th and over practically the whole country on the 11th.

Unsettled weather was resumed in south-west districts late on the 12th when a trough of low pressure over the English Channel and north France moved slowly north. On the 14th a depression approached our south-west coasts and thereafter moved north-east across England. Rain, heavy locally, fell generally in England and Wales on the 13th and 14th. On the 15th, this disturbance moved north-north-east up the North Sea and became less deep; there were scattered showers, chiefly in eastern districts. A ridge of high pressure moved east over the British Isles on the 16th, and was followed by a slow-moving trough of low pressure on the 17th and 18th. Rain was reported in western districts on the 16th and 17th, and in most areas on the 18th. On the 20th a depression over north Ireland moved north-east across Scotland and subsequently east-south-east to Denmark; rain fell fairly generally and there were local thunderstorms. On the 23rd and 24th a ridge of high pressure moved slowly east over the British Isles and thereafter pressure was high over Europe, while a complex low pressure system covered the north-east Atlantic. Temperature rose and mainly fair weather prevailed in eastern districts, but some rain occurred in the west. By the 27th a shallow depression was situated off our south-west coasts and subsequently it moved north-east and then north; thunder conditions prevailed during the rest of the month and temperature continued high until the 29th, when it fell considerably.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean temperature was below the average, the deficiency, broadly speaking, increasing from east to west. The deviation from the average at 9 h. ranged from -3.8 mb. at Armagh to -1.3 mb. at Gorleston. On the whole the month was quieter than usual, the total run of the wind being below the average. A mean hourly velocity of more than 38 m.p.h. was registered at Lizard on the 6th and 12th and at Pendennis Castle on the 12th. A heavy squall accompanied a severe thunderstorm in east and south-east England on the 27th. Among the highest speeds recorded in gusts were 63 m.p.h. at Shobern on the 4th, 56 m.p.h. at Pendennis Castle and Lizard on the 6th, 56 m.p.h. at Aberporth on the 8th, and 73 m.p.h. at Croydon, 57 m.p.h. at Mildenhall and 64 m.p.h. in London (Kingsway) on the 27th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average by 2.6°F . in England and Wales, 1.3°F . in Scotland and 1.7°F . in Northern Ireland. The deviations for the districts ranged from $+1.0^{\circ}\text{F}$. in Scotland, N. to $+3.6^{\circ}\text{F}$. in England, E.

The first three days were exceptionally hot, particularly over much of England. On the 3rd, temperature reached or exceeded 90°F . at a large number of stations in the eastern half of England; at some stations in this area it was the hottest June day on record, for example, at Kew Observatory and Oxford, places with long meteorological records. The nights, too, were very warm during this spell; at Oxford, the minimum temperature was above 60°F . on each of the first four days, a condition unprecedented there in June.

During the next three weeks temperature was, on the whole, not very different from the average, but another warm spell occurred in the last week. The mean minimum temperature for the month was unusually high; at Wakefield it was the highest on record for June, and at Ross-on-Wye it was the highest for June in the present century.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 94°F . at Waddington and in London (Camden Square and Kensington) on the 3rd, 35°F . at Santon Downham on the 10th; (Scotland) 80°F . at Wolfelee on the 2nd and Prestwick Airfield on the 28th, 32°F . at Strathy on the 13th; (Northern Ireland) 75°F . at Armagh on the 1st, 37°F . at Ballykelly on the 16th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 112 over England and Wales, 147 over Scotland, and 159 over Northern Ireland. Less than the average occurred over east Aberdeenshire, locally near the coast over north-east England, over a part of East Anglia and in an extensive area covering mid-Wales, much of the Midland counties, and part of southern England. More than twice the average was received over a small area in the Fens, in the Scilly Isles, around Garvagh (County Londonderry), over a small area in Perthshire, and at Kelso.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours or less were:—

5th 2.90 in. at Drummur Castle (Banffshire), 2.40 in. at Lhanbryde (Morayshire) and 2.20 in. at Keith (Banffshire).
27th 2.08 in. at March (Cambridgeshire), 1.57 in. in 45 minutes at Braughing (Hertfordshire) and 1.59 in. in 30 minutes at Ashwell (Cambridgeshire).

Thunderstorms occurred rather frequently, mainly from the 1st–4th, 6th–8th, 20th–21st, and 27th–31st, and were severe at times, notably in the south-eastern counties on the 27th.

Sunshine.—Generally speaking the month was dull, the percentage of the average sunshine being 91 in England and Wales, 68 in Scotland and 82 in Northern Ireland. In east and south-east England, however, it was somewhat sunnier than usual. In Scotland the deficiency was marked and at Leuchars it was the dullest June since observations were started in 1922, and at Dundee the total sunshine was the lowest in June for at least 30 years.

Fog.—Fog occurred at times, most frequently on the south-west, west, north and north-east coasts; it was reported mainly from the 1st–5th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 19th–21st and 27th–29th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 12 days. A small tornado was reported at Earl's Colne on the 27th; it caused considerable damage and was accompanied by thunder and heavy rain.