

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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Mild, dull and wet generally

A complex area of low pressure, with centres over northern Scotland and south-east England on the 1st, was replaced by an active Atlantic frontal system crossing all parts on the 3rd. Another deep depression approached from the west on the 4th, and its associated fronts swept eastwards across the country on the 5th, while the low centre drifted across southern Scotland. By the 7th pressure was rising over Scandinavia, and much of the United Kingdom lay under a col. During the next few days, fronts made slow progress north-eastwards, with the main low pressure centres remaining to the south-west and west of the British Isles. There was little change from the 11th until the 14th, and pressure remained high over Scandinavia and low over France and the south-west approaches, while old fronts slowly died out over the Midlands. A ridge of high pressure from Norway to the Azores slowly drifted southwards during the 15th and 16th as Atlantic fronts swept eastwards across Northern Ireland and Scotland. These fronts moved more leisurely southwards on the 17th to become stranded over the Midlands on the 18th as pressure remained obstinately high over France. During the 19th and 20th, active fronts continued to affect northern and western parts of the country, whilst only their weak remnants drifted away south-eastwards. On the 23rd, however, the main frontal activity moved into eastern England, though the old low centre persisted to the north-west of Ireland. Between the 24th and 26th, the centre of low pressure transferred southwards to France, pressure rose over northern Britain, and frontal activity became confined to southern England. High pressure over northern Scotland, and low pressure over France then maintained a north-easterly flow over England and Wales almost to the end of the month. However, on the 30th the situation changed into a rather slack area of low pressure covering the whole country.

Weather

There were long periods of moderate or heavy rain in the south-eastern half of England on the 1st, and again over many parts of the country on the 3rd and at first on the 4th; the rain turned to sleet for a while on the 3rd in parts of Northern Ireland. There was further rain throughout the country, with sleet and snow in the Southern Uplands, on the morning of the 5th, followed by widespread showers in the afternoon and on the 6th except in the extreme south. The 7th and 8th were damp, drizzly and misty days in many parts, although more substantial rain fell in parts of Scotland and north-eastern England later on the 8th. Rain became widespread on the 9th, and further rain spread northwards from Cornwall to the Midlands during the 10th and 11th, followed by scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. These became more widespread over England and Wales on the 12th before dying out. The next three days were largely dry until rain spread into

much of Scotland during the 15th. This rain moved southwards across England and Wales on the 16th, becoming lighter as it did so, to be replaced by showers in places. Later on the 17th persistent, locally heavy rain reached Northern Ireland and Scotland from the west, and this spread to much of southern Scotland, northern England and north Wales on the 18th. The rain then moved northwards during the next twenty-four hours. On the 20th and 21st there was a mixture of showers or outbreaks of rain and drizzle in western and northern parts of the country, whilst south-eastern parts remained largely dry. By the 23rd, much heavier outbreaks of rain had developed widely, with thunderstorms during the evening in East Anglia and south-east England, and these outbreaks continued in this area on the 24th, before spreading back to much of the country for a while on the 25th. Further rain spread into southern counties the next day, moving northwards into the Midlands and East Anglia later, where there were thunderstorms by evening. Over the next two days the weather gradually dried up, and the last two days of the month were dry everywhere, but with extensive mist and fog night and morning. However, on the 30th, isolated thunderstorms were reported in the Orkney Islands, over the Scottish/English border and the Pennines during the late afternoon and evening.

Wind

In general, the only significantly windy days of the month were the 5th, 6th and 20th, and it was on the 5th that the highest gust of the month, 80 knots, was reported at Cairngorm, Grampian. It was also on the 5th that the highest gust at low levels was recorded, 65 knots at Tieve, Strathclyde. In England and Wales the highest reported gusts of the month were 57 knots: on the 4th at Aberporth, Dyfed and on the 6th at High Bradfield, South Yorkshire. In Northern Ireland the highest reported gust was 60 knots on the 5th at Killough, Down.

Temperature

Monthly mean temperature was 1 °C or more above average throughout much of the United Kingdom, except in eastern Scotland where it was only 0.9 °C above. Values ranged from 2.5 °C above average at Levington, Suffolk to only 0.4 °C above at Edinburgh East Craigs, Lothian. The highest temperature reported was 25.0 °C: on the 29th at Bargrennan, Dumfries and Galloway, and on the 30th at Norwich Weather Centre, Norfolk. The lowest temperature reported during the month was -4.0 °C at Carnwath, Strathclyde on the 2nd.

Rainfall

Monthly total rainfall was well above average in most parts of the United Kingdom, though north-eastern parts of Scotland and the extreme

east of East Anglia received less than the normal amount. Values ranged from 46% of average at Glenlivet, Grampian, to 310% of average at Kindrogan, Fife. The highest reported daily rainfall of the month was a total of 67 mm on the 9th at Durris, Grampian. The highest daily fall in Northern Ireland was 60 mm at Trassey Slievenaman, Down, on the 3rd whilst the highest daily fall in England and Wales was 51 mm on the 5th at Widdybank Fell, Durham.

Snow

A little sleet was mixed in with rain in parts of southern England on the 1st and in Northern Ireland on the 3rd, whilst snow fell for a while over the Southern Uplands of Scotland on the morning of the 5th, though no depths were reported.

Sunshine

It was generally a dull month over most parts of the country, with monthly totals ranging from 62% of average at Cheltenham, Gloucester to 111% of average at Baltasound, Shetland. The highest daily total of the month was 13.7 hours at Fair Isle, Shetland on the 28th, whilst the highest monthly total was 174.0 hours at Folkestone, Kent.

Fog

There was patchy fog in parts of England and Wales on the morning of the 3rd, and in Northern Ireland on the 4th. Coasts and hills in Wales and south-west England were affected by fog for much of the day on the 7th, and by the morning of the 8th valley and hill fog had formed in parts of northern and eastern England as well. Further fog was reported on the morning of the 9th around the coasts of south-west England and Wales; over the next few days fog patches formed overnight in some inland locations. Whilst the night of the 14th was fog-free, that of the 15th was not in many central and western parts, and there were some dense patches in the Midlands. A little coastal fog developed around south-west England and Wales late on the 16th, and this persisted for much of the 17th. Coastal fog was reported in the English Channel on the morning of the 21st, with a few patches drifting into central southern England the following morning. Coastal fog patches affected western coasts of Britain early on the 23rd, and the Orkney and Shetland Isles on the 24th. Fog patches developed in a number of places in the United Kingdom towards dawn on the 25th, but these cleared quickly, though sea fog affected North Sea coasts from The Wash northwards later. On the remaining mornings, fog was reported in various parts, especially on the 30th.

Miscellaneous phenomena

Five reports were received of sandy rain, all in the Birmingham area.