

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

SEPTEMBER 1989

Mainly dry generally, but unsettled at mid month

At the beginning of the month a ridge of high pressure covered most of the United Kingdom, although a series of weak fronts affected parts of the far west and north. By the 8th low pressure became established over the near Continent and then drifted slowly northwards to southern England by the 12th. During the same period an anticyclone became established over Scotland, but by the 12th the high pressure moved away eastwards. On the 13th an Atlantic front moved eastwards across all areas. A wave depression moved east-south-eastwards across southern parts of the British Isles on the 14th followed on the 15th by a very intense depression which moved north-eastwards close to north-western parts of Great Britain. By the 16th the associated cold front had become slow moving from the Bristol Channel to The Wash and active waves running along it affected parts of Wales and western areas of England, but during the 17th the front became much weaker. Further fronts moved north-eastwards across the United Kingdom on the 18th ahead of another deep Atlantic depression. On the 19th most of England and Wales and the far east of Scotland came under the influence of high pressure centred over the near Continent. However, active frontal systems crossed much of Northern Ireland and Scotland during the day. A small depression developed late on the 21st and tracked north-eastwards across the United Kingdom on the 22nd, its cold front soon clearing southern areas. High pressure returned on the 23rd and 24th to influence south-eastern areas of Great Britain, though a weak warm front on the 23rd affected mostly western areas. A cold front crossed north-western Scotland overnight on the 24/25th, weakening as it moved southwards across the rest of Scotland and into northern England on the 25th. Further weak fronts crossed all parts on the 26th and 27th. By the 28th the centre of high pressure was to the west of the United Kingdom but during the next few days it drifted slowly eastwards again.

Weather

The weather was generally fairly settled, warm and dry, but less sunny in many areas than over the previous months. However, the period from the 10th to 19th was unsettled with localized severe thunderstorms in the south between the 10th and 13th causing lightning damage and flooding. Areas hit included Kent early on the 10th, Devon and Dorset on the 11th, south Devon and many parts of south-east England on the 12th. Late on the 12th lightning struck and badly damaged houses near Wokingham, Berkshire and at nearby Bracknell. Lightning struck the Ambulance headquarters at Wokingham, cutting their communications for a time. In south and east London flood-water up to half a metre deep forced many motorists to abandon their cars. In Kent lightning left thousands of homes in Faversham and some other places without power and near Herne Bay a man was killed by lightning. Among the buildings struck was the Guildhall Museum at Rochester. Many rail services in Kent were disrupted, while rain caused a landslide on the railway at Ruscombe, Berkshire adding to problems from signal failures.

Wind

The 19th and 20th were windy days in the north

and west; on the 20th mean speed reached gale force in many places and gusts of 60 kn at Blackford Hill, Edinburgh, Charter Hall, Borders Region, Duirinish, Highland Region and Greenock Point, Strathclyde Region. Wind directions were mainly variable for the first week, north-easterly until the 12th, westerly or southerly until the 25th and then variable for the rest of the month.

Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were above normal in England and Wales but near normal in Scotland and Northern Ireland, ranging from 0.5 °C below normal at Abbotsinch, Strathclyde Region to 2.1 °C above normal at Gatwick, West Sussex.

The mean temperature over England and Wales was the highest since 1961, not because daytime temperatures were particularly notable, but rather that night-time temperatures were unusually high. Hampstead, Greater London reported the highest mean maximum since 1964 (19.9 °C), the highest mean minimum since 1961 (12.5 °C), and the highest mean temperature since 1961. Oxford reported the warmest September since 1949 (mean maximum 20.1 °C, mean 15.6 °C, mean minimum 11.9 °C). Northwood reported the highest monthly mean since 1959 and 1961. The temperature of 26.1 °C on the 7th gave Northwood its warmest September day since 1972. Broom's Barn, Suffolk had the highest mean air temperature for 40 years (14.2 °C). Highest temperature during the month was 28.0 °C at Gogerddan, Dyfed on the 17th and the lowest -6.0 °C at Kinbrace, Highland Region on the 11th.

Rainfall

Monthly rainfall amounts were below normal nearly everywhere, apart from Kinloss, Grampian Region and northern parts of Devon and Cornwall, where rainfall was just above average, ranging from 101 per cent at St Mawgan, Cornwall to only 11 per cent at Leeming, North Yorkshire.

Generally it was the driest September only since 1986. However, many places in eastern England had the driest September since 1969, including Hampstead and Northwood, both in Greater

London and Broom's Barn, Suffolk; Durham and Tynemouth in the north-east had the driest September since 1898. Heavy falls included 98 mm at Slapton, Devon on the 11th, 64 mm at Princetown, Devon on the 12th, 58 mm at Bastreet, Cornwall on the 14th, 60 mm at Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire on the 16th, 73 mm at Ardentiny, Strathclyde Region on the 19th and 76 mm at Aber, Gwynedd on the 22nd.

Sunshine

Monthly sunshine totals were above normal in northern and eastern Scotland and north-eastern and central areas of England, and near or below normal elsewhere, ranging from 137 per cent at Lerwick, Shetland to 78 per cent at Marham, Norfolk.

The highest sunshine amount during the month was 213 hours at Guernsey, L'Ancrese, Channel Islands and the most in a day was 12.9 hours at Long Sutton, Hampshire.

Fog

A few early morning fog patches affected central England on the 5th and 7th and there was some patchy overnight fog in central Scotland on the 11th; on the 12th patchy fog affected some places, chiefly in the south-east, towards the end of the night. On the 13th fog was extensive in England, Wales and southern Scotland and thick in places, the thicker fog mostly dispersing by mid morning but it stayed generally misty and hazy over central and eastern England. There were some dawn fog patches over England and Wales on the 24th and 25th and further patches on the 26th in central and southern England. On the 30th northern parts of England and Wales and central Scotland had some early fog patches. Coastal fog formed on the 8th in Kent and east Sussex and on the 9th in east Kent. Hill fog occurred in south-western and central areas on the 14th and 15th and again over south-west England on the 16th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

Table 1 District values

District	Air temperature °C					Mean 30 cm soil temp °C	Rain-days	Rainfall	Sunshine
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	Max.	Min.	Mean				
	Difference from average					% of average			
0 Scotland N	21.3	-3.5	+0.2	-0.6	-0.2	-0.3	-1	78	116
1 Scotland E	21.6	-0.4	+0.1	-0.1	0.0	+0.2	-4	69	102
2 England E & NE	25.8	-0.3	+0.9	+0.7	+0.8	+0.7	-4	35	104
3 East Anglia	27.0	4.8	+1.4	+1.9	+1.6	+1.2	-3	48	87
4 Midland Counties	27.1	3.2	+1.4	+1.0	+1.2	+0.9	-4	56	102
5 England SE & Central S	26.7	4.5	+1.5	+1.7	+1.6	+1.4	-4	45	90
6 Scotland W	19.6	-1.8	-0.1	-0.5	-0.3	+0.3	-4	71	89
7 England NW & Wales N	23.8	2.0	+0.6	+0.7	+0.5	+0.9	-4	32	93
8 England SW & Wales S	26.0	1.9	+1.0	+0.9	+0.9	+1.0	-4	76	88
N Ireland	20.1	2.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	+0.2	-3	54	92
Scotland	21.6	-3.5	+0.1	-0.4	-0.2	+0.1	-3	74	102
England & Wales	27.1	-0.3	+1.1	+1.1	+1.1	+1.0	-4	50	94

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations