

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

AUGUST 1988

VOLUME 105

NUMBER 8

Generally unsettled; wet in the west and dry in the east

The month began unstable in the north behind a slow-moving front which was lying across southern England and Wales on the 1st. A developing ridge of high pressure across northern areas of the United Kingdom moved slowly southwards over the next few days and formed a small anticyclonic centre over the English Channel on the 5th. The anticyclone moved over the North Sea on the 6th and 7th, as a weakening cold front encroached on western and northern areas of Scotland, and then slipped away northwards on the 8th, allowing further fronts from an Atlantic low-pressure area to move eastwards across most parts of Great Britain. The first front weakened and cleared eastern areas on the 9th, while further fronts approached western areas of Great Britain during the next 24 hours. Low pressure affected most of Great Britain from the 10th to 15th with depressions crossing Scotland on the 12th and 14th. The associated fronts moved eastwards and weakened on the 14th as a ridge of high pressure approached from the west and crossed the United Kingdom during the 15th and 16th. On the 17th fronts associated with a large depression in the eastern North Atlantic affected western areas from the Isles of Scilly to Strathclyde. Over the next two days the frontal system slowly crossed most areas of the United Kingdom. A ridge of high pressure to the west of the British Isles brought a north-westerly airstream across all areas during the 20th and 21st before moving across the United Kingdom and collapsing on the 22nd as yet more fronts associated with Atlantic depressions west of Ireland moved eastwards during the last eight days.

Weather

The month began rather unsettled with occasional rain chiefly in northern areas. It was very wet on the 12th in parts of northern England and in central and northern Scotland, particularly around Glenmore and the Moray Firth. Most places in northern and western areas of Great Britain had wet days on the 14th and 18th. The unsettled weather persisted for the rest of the month, with rain falling on almost every day in some western areas of England. There were further large falls over Cumbria on the 29th and in many places on the 30th and 31st. There was further heavy rain in parts of South Wales and south-western England on the 31st. Thunder, sometimes with hail, occurred around the Firth of Forth and the coast of north-east England on the 1st, and across central and eastern parts of England on the 2nd; scattered thunderstorms occurred in western Scotland on the 14th, central Scotland on the 18th, eastern England on the 19th and 20th, and east and south-east England on the 28th and 31st.

Wind

Winds were strong over Scotland on the 15th with mean speeds reaching 35 kn at Kirkwall, Orkney and Wick, Highland Region, and 45 kn at Fraserburgh, Grampian Region; highest gusts reached 51 kn, 50 kn and 61 kn respectively. Further strong winds on the 27th gave a mean speed of 36 kn at Butt of Lewis, Western Isles and a gust of 53 kn. There was a mean wind speed of 38 kn at Gwennap Head, Cornwall on the 31st, with a gust to 65 kn. Wind directions were mainly south-westerly during the month.

Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were below normal nearly everywhere in the United Kingdom, ranging from above normal in some eastern parts to more than 1 °C below normal in parts of north Devon.

Many parts of Great Britain were hot between the 5th and 10th, especially in eastern areas. The warmest days were the 6th, 7th and 8th, with the highest temperature of the month, 30.2 °C, being reached at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, on the 7th. Norfolk had a hot day on the 14th, when the temperature at Cromer reached 26.0 °C. It was very warm in central and eastern England on the 17th with a temperature of 26.9 °C reached at Heathrow; on the following day south-east England and East Anglia quickly became hot, Margate reaching 27.7 °C, but the hot spell did not last the afternoon. The lowest temperature during the month was 0.0 °C at Crannich, Highland Region on the 22nd.

Rainfall

Monthly rainfall totals were above normal in most of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and parts of north-west and south-west England and below normal elsewhere, ranging from half the normal in the coastal areas of East Anglia and Kent to more than twice the normal at Tiree, Strathclyde Region.

Around the Firth of Forth and the coast of north-east England on the 1st, and across central and eastern parts of England on the 2nd, there were falls of rain up to 15 mm. Further falls in western Scotland late on the 9th and on the morning of the 10th included a heavy daily fall of 51 mm at Stronachullin, Strathclyde Region. General rain on the 11th gave falls exceeding 20 mm around Snowdonia, south-west Scotland and Tiree, Strathclyde and a fall of 76 mm at Dingwall, Highland Region. In heavy rain over Northern Ireland on the 31st daily falls of 95 mm and 79 mm were measured at Trassey Slievenaman and

Bryansford respectively, both in Co. Down; the rain started late in the evening so most of it actually fell during the night or early on the following morning. Among other heavy daily falls were 54 mm at Cassley, Highland Region on the 14th, 58 mm at Holme Moss, West Yorkshire on the 18th and 59 mm at Princetown, Devon on the 31st.

Sunshine

Sunshine amounts were generally above normal in England and Wales east of a line from about Rhyl on the coast of North Wales to about Southampton on the south coast, but below normal elsewhere, ranging from more than 120 per cent in places in north-east England and on the Suffolk coast to less than 60 per cent in western Scotland.

The 6th was a sunny day over England and Wales, many places measuring 14 hours of sunshine; the following day was sunny over most of the United Kingdom. Between the 15th and 17th there was a spell of sunny weather in most places, with many places in England and Wales having more than 13 hours sunshine on the 16th. The highest daily sunshine amount was 14.9 hours at Morecambe, Lancashire on the 7th. The highest monthly sunshine total was 243 hours at Folkestone, Kent.

Fog

Overnight fog patches formed in northern England and southern Scotland on the 1st and 2nd, over southern England on the 6th and was fairly widespread in eastern areas on the 8th, 9th and 10th. Further patchy fog formed on the 16th, 17th and 18th, mainly in south-west England, and on the 28th, over southern England. Patchy sea fog affected the coast of East Anglia at times on the 7th and mainly western coasts on the 19th and 23rd. Hill and coastal fog occurred on the 5th in western areas and on the 26th and 27th in the south-west.

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	28.1	0.8	-0.1	+0.1	0.0	+0.1	+7	141	75
1 Scotland E	26.7	3.7	+0.1	+0.3	+0.2	+0.5	+4	121	103
2 England E & NE	27.4	3.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.3	+1	92	119
3 East Anglia	28.5	5.4	+0.4	-0.1	+0.2	-0.3	-1	70	114
4 Midland Counties	30.2	2.8	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	0	86	107
5 England SE & Central S	29.1	6.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	0	77	106
6 Scotland W	27.3	1.7	-0.8	+0.1	-0.3	+0.2	+5	165	96
7 England NW & Wales N	28.7	5.0	-0.8	+0.4	-0.4	0.0	+3	123	98
8 England SW & Wales S	28.2	3.1	-0.9	-0.3	-0.6	-0.1	+3	132	89
N Ireland	24.5	3.3	-0.8	+0.2	-0.3	-0.3	+5	131	84
Scotland	28.1	0.8	-0.3	+0.2	0.0	+0.3	+5	145	91
England & Wales	30.2	2.8	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	+1	102	105

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations