

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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Cool, dull; wet in the north and west, but mainly dry in the east

A frontal trough clearing eastern areas early on the 1st was replaced by a temporary ridge of high pressure, but later on the 2nd a fresh system began to move rapidly across all areas, clearing south-east England later on the 3rd. A trough became slow moving during the 4th, trailing back from eastern Scotland to Northern Ireland. A disturbance formed on the front later, and crossed the United Kingdom during the 5th; pressure rose behind the front, remaining high in the south during the 6th, while a fresh succession of fronts moved across Scotland. Early on the 7th further fronts crossing England and Wales became slow moving over central England. Early on the 9th high pressure extended south-eastwards and the remains of the front dissolved; however, further fronts continued to affect southern areas of England and Wales during the rest of the day. During the next five days low pressure over Biscay extended northwards across southern England and Wales, and on the 14th a series of fronts crossed northern areas. After a temporary rise in pressure over all areas on the 15th, fronts associated with a rapidly deepening depression passing to the north of Scotland crossed all areas, clearing eastern districts early on the 17th; however, Scotland was affected for a time by a front moving around the centre. An Atlantic anticyclone became the dominant feature by the 19th, and remained so over the next few days, apart from a little frontal activity to the far north. Fronts affected the east coast on the 23rd and 24th, while the anticyclone drifted eastwards and was centred over the Continent by the 25th. On the 27th a depression moved northwards over the Channel, before filling, while further fronts moved steadily eastwards on the 28th and 29th, clearing eastern areas during the 31st.

Weather

Apart from a settled period from the 20th to 29th, the weather was generally rather unsettled. The most significant rainfall of the month at some places in south-east England was during the last two days: on the 31st, Winterbourne (Birmingham University), West Midlands reported serious local flooding on roads in Birmingham City Centre and Bidston, Merseyside reported torrential rain with flooding. Thundery activity was reported over Manchester on the 1st, Orkney and Shetland on the 3rd and 4th, and east Devon on the 8th, 9th and 11th and in the south-west on the 18th. Hail was reported on the 3rd at Cape Wrath, Highland Region and was widespread between the 16th and 19th.

Wind

Gales occurred in northern areas on the 1st, when many places in south-east Scotland and north-east England had gusts exceeding 60 kn. Some exposed places in the north and west had gusts of more than 60 kn on the 16th and 17th, including a gust of 75 kn at Butt of Lewis, Western Isles, on the 16th and 71 kn at Orlock Head, Co. Down on the 17th. Further gusts over 70 kn were measured at Kilkeel and Killough, both in Co. Down, on the 30th and 31st respectively. Wind directions were westerly or southerly until the 7th, easterly until the 12th, westerly from the 16th to

20th, and mainly variable until the strong southerlies on the 30th and 31st.

Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were below normal nearly everywhere and ranged from 0.4 °C above normal at Penkridge, Staffordshire to near normal in parts of the far north to 1.6 °C below normal at Castle Archdale, Co. Fermanagh.

The month began with temperatures around 18 °C in places in the south-east, but some 8 °C colder in the north-west. Maximum temperatures were around 20 °C in many areas on the 10th, but returned slowly to near normal values. By the 20th nights were cold, with widespread ground frost and some air frost. On the morning of the 21st Bedford recorded its lowest October temperature since its records began in 1957. The highest temperature during the month was 24.2 °C at Sellafield, Cumbria on the 11th and the lowest was -3.5 °C at Brooksby Hall, Leicestershire on the 21st.

Rainfall

Monthly rainfall amounts were above normal in the west and in the north-east, but below normal in central Scotland and in central and eastern England, ranging from 166% at Braemar, Grampian Region to as little as 30% at Greenwich, Greater London.

Over England and Wales rainfall was frequent in western areas, while some places in the east, especially away from the coast, had very little rain: several places in East Anglia, for instance, measured less than 20 mm during the month. One or two places in eastern areas, including Gatwick, West Sussex and Ulcombe, Kent had a small amount on the 16th and then remained dry until the 28th. Among heavy falls were 75 mm at Cassley, Highland Region on the 16th and 67 mm at Tredegar, Bryn Bach Park, Gwent on the 7th.

Snow

Sleet fell at Wick, Highland Region on the 3rd and over Orkney on the 16th. Snow fell over higher ground over northern England and southern Scotland on the 16th. On the 18th Fair Isle,

Shetland reported sleet, while Aviemore, Highland Region reported snow and sleet, with a trace of snow lying. Further falls of sleet were reported in north-east Scotland on the 19th and 20th.

Sunshine

Monthly sunshine amounts were below average nearly everywhere, except for eastern Kent and parts of the Midlands where sunshine was just above average, and ranged from 106% at Keele, Staffordshire and Nottingham to less than 50% at Kinlochewe, Highland Region.

October was a dull month in nearly all areas, notably so near northern and eastern coasts. The most sunshine in a day was 10.6 hours at Everton, Hampshire on the 2nd, and the most in the month was 132 hours at Folkestone, Kent.

Fog

Patchy fog formed frequently overnight between the 9th and 16th and 21st and 29th, and was widespread over England and Wales on the 13th and 14th, although some western parts remained clear. Fog was dense in south-east England and East Anglia on the 9th, in some central and eastern parts of England on the 11th, over Scotland and inland areas of England on the 22nd, and over Scotland on the 23rd and 24th. Hill fog occurred over the Grampians and the Lincolnshire Wolds on the 8th, in central areas on the 12th, eastern areas on the 13th, on the Pennines on the 20th, in western areas on the 26th and the south-east on the 28th. Coastal fog occurred in north-east England and southern Scotland on the 9th and in eastern areas on the 12th and 13th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

Places as far apart as Essex and Merseyside reported coloured dust deposits after rain on the 11th. Several places reported a deposit of brownish-yellow dust after overnight rain on the 12th/13th. On the 18th Guernsey Airport received an aircraft report of a waterspout at 1658 GMT, in the direction 020°, 12 miles from Alderney; the cloud base was 2000 ft (600 m) and the weather showery, the showers heavy at times.

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			
0 Scotland N	18.0	-2.1	-0.6	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4	-1	107	70
1 Scotland E	17.1	-2.8	-1.0	+0.2	-0.4	+0.1	+1	123	81
2 England E & NE	19.5	-2.9	-0.8	+0.4	-0.2	+0.2	+1	90	83
3 East Anglia	21.4	-1.6	-0.7	-0.1	-0.4	+0.3	-2	46	85
4 Midland Counties	20.9	-2.3	-0.8	+0.4	-0.2	+0.3	0	82	82
5 England SE & Central S	21.3	-0.2	-0.8	-0.2	-0.5	+0.1	-1	69	86
6 Scotland W	20.3	-2.4	-0.7	-0.3	-0.5	+0.1	-2	114	82
7 England NW & Wales N	21.0	-1.4	-0.7	+0.1	-0.3	+0.7	0	110	86
8 England SW & Wales S	19.6	-1.1	-0.9	-0.1	-0.6	+0.1	+3	122	92
N Ireland	16.5	0.2	-1.0	-0.4	-0.7	0.0	+2	106	90
Scotland	20.3	-2.8	-0.8	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-1	115	78
England & Wales	21.4	-2.9	-0.8	+0.1	-0.4	+0.3	0	96	86

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations