

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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Mainly dry, mild and dull, but wet briefly late in month.

Rather unusually for November this was mainly an anticyclonic month. For about a week at the start a ridge of high pressure extended north-westwards to the British Isles from central Europe although fronts occasionally affected all parts. Between the 8th and 11th a large anticyclone advanced from Iceland to Scandinavia, while on the 14th it returned westwards to become slow moving to the west of Scotland. Although a cold front came south-eastwards across all districts during the 19th and 20th another anticyclone followed on the 22nd.

For a few days from the 24th frontal systems advanced eastwards across all areas with depressions crossing the north of Scotland on the 25th and 28th, while during the night of the 26/27th a particularly vigorous low crossed southern England. Pressure then rose and the month ended with an intensifying anticyclone moving south-eastwards over the North Sea.

Weather

Apart from a short period of very wet weather late in the month it was mainly dry but dull. After a warm start, with some fog at times, it became colder towards mid-month with frost becoming widespread and, in the north and north-east, a little snow around the end of the third week. Milder weather then returned for a few days.

Wind

This was a mostly quiet month with light or moderate breezes. In the far north, however, and around mid-month in the extreme south winds were fresh or strong at times, while it was rather windy, generally, between the 24th and 28th. On some occasions gales, severe locally, occurred in exposed areas, particularly over southern coasts during the night of the 26/27th, when gusts of 75 kn and 72 kn were recorded at Gwennap Head, Cornwall, and Guernsey Airport, respectively; a young couple and their baby were killed in their car by a falling tree near Lewes, East Sussex. Winds were mostly from a southerly direction during the first week, from the east during the second and from a northerly point during the third week. After a few days with south-westerlies, between the 23rd and 26th they gradually veered, and the month ended with mainly south-easterly winds.

Temperature

Mean temperatures were generally above the monthly average and by more than 1 °C over much of Northern Ireland, parts of Scotland, mainly in the Central Lowlands, the Highlands and the Western Isles, and in parts of England, mostly in the Midlands, east and central southern England, Norfolk and Greater London.

Until the 11th most parts were warm at times with temperatures reaching 16.9 °C at Kelso, Borders Region, on the 1st and at Ballynacor, Co. Armagh, on the 7th, 18.5 °C at Pen-y-Ffridd, Gwynedd, on the 8th, 18.1 °C at Wye, Kent on the 9th and 18.2 °C at Eskmeals, Cumbria, on the 10th. The subsequent rather cold period was followed by an even colder spell between the 21st and 24th with widespread moderate and, in places, severe night frost. Low minima included -11.4 °C at Carnwath, Strathclyde Region, on the 22nd and -11.5 °C at

St Harmon, Powys, -10.2 °C at Preston Wynne, Hereford and Worcester, and -8.9 °C at Annaghmore, Co. Armagh on the 23rd. It then became generally very mild for a few days before becoming colder again, particularly in the north-east, with the temperature falling to -9.9 °C at Braemar, Grampian Region, early on the 30th.

Rainfall

Generally, this was the driest November in Scotland and the driest equal with 1957 in Northern Ireland since 1945. Over England and Wales only 1973, by a small amount, has been drier on the whole since 1956. Rainfall totals ranged from less than half the average on the Isle of Man, in much of Scotland and Northern Ireland, and in parts of the north and south of England, the Midlands and the Channel Islands to about normal locally in East Anglia and Shetland.

Much of the month's rainfall occurred in a short, very wet period between the 24th and 27th, the rainfall being particularly heavy over much of England and Wales on the 25th and 26th. Large daily totals on the 25th included 93.2 mm at Honister Pass, Cumbria, and 87.7 mm at Treherbert (Tyn-y-Waun), Mid Glamorgan, while on the 26th more than 25 mm were recorded over much of East Anglia, east and south-west England. Otherwise, there was a good deal of dry weather, except in the far north of Scotland where showers or longer periods of rain occurred at times although amounts were mostly fairly small, while on the 2nd or 3rd most areas had outbreaks of rain. Because of the dry conditions farmers made good progress with autumn ploughing and sowing.

Snow

Wintry showers were reported occasionally from around mid-month over Scotland and eastern districts of England as far south as East Anglia but, except on the 20th, 21st and 29th in the north-east of Scotland, they were few and far between. Slight falls of snow were reported in places, mainly in the north-east with 5 cm lying at Kinbrace, Highland Region, and Craibstone, Grampian Region, on the 21st.

Sunshine

Monthly sunshine totals were below normal in most parts of the United Kingdom with less than 75 per cent of average being recorded in much of East Anglia, the Midlands, south-west England and Northern Ireland, in parts of north Scotland and at a few places elsewhere in Great Britain. In Orkney, Shetland, the west of Northern Ireland and locally in Cornwall there was less than half the average with Kirkwall, Lerwick, Armagh and Falmouth having their dullest November since records began in 1927, 1921, 1880 and 1881, while on the Isle of Wight, Sandown had its lowest total since opening in 1906. Totals were above normal over much of southern and central Scotland, at a few places in south-east and north-west England and Dyfed, and in Jersey with more than 125 per cent of average occurring in Edinburgh.

While most parts, except in the far north and north-west, were quite sunny on the 14th and from the 21st to the 23rd it was particularly dull between the 24th and 27th.

Fog

Fog occurred rather frequently during the first two weeks of the month, especially over southern, central and north-eastern hills, but only occasionally thereafter and mainly during the last week. Overnight fog was widespread in central and southern parts of England at times, particularly between the 4th and 10th, and was slow to clear in places. On the 6th a section of the M6 near Gailey, Staffordshire, was closed for five hours by a multiple crash involving six coaches and four other vehicles in thick fog; 14 persons were detained in hospital. On the 23rd a few patches of freezing fog in the south of England persisted throughout the day. Fog was also reported widely over south-western coasts during the first three days.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

A fall of diamond dust, which covered the ground to a depth of 4 to 5 mm, was reported at Trowbridge, Wiltshire, between 0845 and 0920 GMT on the 23rd during freezing fog. The temperature was -4.9 °C and the sky visible.

Table 1 District values

| District                 | air temperature °C |                |                         |      |      | mean<br>30-cm<br>soil<br>temp °C | rain-<br>days | rainfall | sun-<br>shine |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------|------|----------------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|
|                          | Highest<br>Max*    | Lowest<br>Min* | max.                    | min. | mean |                                  |               |          |               |
|                          |                    |                | difference from average |      |      |                                  |               |          |               |
| 0 Scotland N             | 15.7               | -5.1           | +0.7                    | +1.1 | +0.9 | +0.9                             | -2            | 49       | 60            |
| 1 Scotland E             | 16.0               | -10.4          | +0.8                    | +1.1 | +1.0 | +1.3                             | -8            | 26       | 112           |
| 2 England E & NE         | 17.2               | -5.5           | +0.7                    | +1.4 | +1.1 | +0.8                             | -5            | 48       | 76            |
| 3 East Anglia            | 17.2               | -7.2           | +0.7                    | +1.2 | +0.9 | +1.3                             | -7            | 77       | 75            |
| 4 Midland Counties       | 16.8               | -9.0           | +0.8                    | +1.0 | +0.9 | +1.2                             | -9            | 54       | 70            |
| 5 England SE & Central S | 17.2               | -7.8           | +0.8                    | +1.2 | +1.0 | +1.0                             | -8            | 51       | 82            |
| 6 Scotland W             | 15.7               | -10.4          | +1.1                    | +0.8 | +0.9 | +1.3                             | -8            | 33       | 91            |
| 7 England NW & Wales N   | 17.0               | -7.0           | +0.7                    | +0.7 | +0.7 | +0.9                             | -9            | 47       | 91            |
| 8 England SW & Wales S   | 18.0               | -6.5           | +0.2                    | +0.9 | +0.6 | +1.1                             | -8            | 50       | 78            |
| N Ireland                | 14.8               | -6.4           | +1.1                    | +1.1 | +1.1 | +1.4                             | -7            | 38       | 60            |
| Scotland                 | 16.0               | -10.4          | +0.9                    | +1.0 | +0.9 | +1.2                             | -6            | 36       | 88            |
| England & Wales          | 18.0               | -9.0           | +0.7                    | +1.1 | +0.9 | +1.1                             | -8            | 55       | 79            |

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations