

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

Summary of observations compiled from returns of official stations and voluntary observers

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July 1969 — Sunny, dry spells but some notable falls of rain

Although high pressure predominated in many areas for most of the month troughs of low pressure often affected western and northern districts. However, cyclonic interludes with strong winds occurred in the south around the 6th and 28th.

Weather — The outstanding features of the month were the long dry, warm spell in southern districts when some places had no measurable rainfall from the 9th to 27th and the exceptional rainfall in south-west England which terminated it on the 28th. The 24-hour period ending 0900 GMT on the 29th was the wettest 'day' in the Plymouth area since before 1876. Fortunately, flooding was only temporary although much inconvenience was caused. There were also some brief dry spells in the north but the weather there was generally changeable.

Wind — Gales were reported locally on 5 days in England, 4 days in Scotland and 1 day in Wales. Gales occurred in exposed places in the north on the 4th and 5th and a gust of 50 kt was recorded at Lossiemouth (Moray) on the 4th. Winds reached gale-force on the 6th and 7th at places as far apart as the Channel Islands and East Anglia and reached severe gale in places along the south coast; a gust of 57 kt occurred at Jersey Airport on the 6th. A gust of 60 kt was reported at Eskdalemuir (Dumfriesshire) on the 19th. Gusts approaching 50 kt occurred in South Wales and the West Country on the 28th and 29th causing slight damage to property.

Temperature — Monthly mean temperature was slightly below average in north and west Scotland and in a few places in south-west England. Elsewhere it was rather above average with a few places more than 1 degC warmer than the normal.

It was generally warm in southern districts for much of the month and a number of very warm or hot days occurred. On the 16th temperatures exceeded 30°C in a number of places in the Midlands, East Anglia and southern England. Further north, temperatures rose well above average around mid-month and again around the 22nd. Among the maxima recorded during the month were: 32.5°C at Wittering (Northamptonshire) on the 16th; 29.4°C at a number of places in Wales and 28.3°C at Grangemouth (Stirlingshire) on the 15th; 28.8°C at Strabane Convent (Co. Tyrone) on the 14th.

Cooler periods occurred in many areas at the beginning of the second week and during the last few days. Excluding upland stations (over 200 m high) minima for the month included: 1.7°C at Dundough (Kirkcudbrightshire) on the 30th; 2.4°C at Knockmany Forest (Co. Tyrone) on the 24th; 3.3°C at Ceinws (Montgomeryshire) on the 4th, at Warsop (Nottinghamshire) on the 18th and at Grendon Underwood (Buckinghamshire) on the 30th.

Rainfall — In spite of the long dry spell in England and Wales and the heavy rains on the 6th and 28th/29th ensured that some areas had above average rainfall. More than twice the normal fell in parts of Devon and Cornwall and on the Kent and Essex coasts. On the other hand many areas had less than half the average rainfall notably most of Wales and parts of northern England. Less than one quarter of the normal amount fell in Anglesey and on the Cumberland coast and it was the driest July at Valley (Anglesey) since records began in 1946. Less than half the average rainfall occurred over large areas of east and south Scotland, and at Dumfries it was the driest July since 1913. At Douglas (Isle of Man) it was the driest July since 1934. In Northern Ireland, except for some east coast areas, rainfall was well below average and was as low as 15 per cent of normal in parts of Co. Fermanagh.

On the 6th rain was heavy in southern England and flooding occurred in the south-east and also in East Anglia. A 'daily' fall of 82 mm

was recorded at Highsted pumping station, near Sittingbourne (Kent) and falls of over 60 mm occurred in a number of places. The Channel Islands, too, had falls of over 60 mm. Heavy rain fell in west Scotland and north-west England overnight on 18th/19th and 56 mm were recorded on the Isle of Rhum (Inverness-shire) during the 24-hour period ending 0900 GMT on the 19th.

The outstanding event of the month was the exceptional frontal rainfall in England and Wales on the 28th/29th. In the 24-hours ending 0900 GMT on the 29th a number of falls of rain classified as 'very rare' occurred. These included 145 mm at Ellbridge, near Plymouth and 144 mm at North Hessary Tor, on Dartmoor. Numerous 'daily' falls in excess of 100 mm were recorded in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall and falls of more than 50 mm occurred widely in South Wales and the south and west Midlands.

Thunderstorms occurred on 14 days in England, 12 days in Scotland but on a few days only elsewhere. They occurred most frequently in south-east England where they were reported locally on 6 days in Kent — this is about twice the July average in this area. Storms were widespread in southern and eastern England on the 8th and 9th and in Scotland on the 16th when lightning damaged property in Inverness. On the same day thunder occurred in the south Midlands and hailstones fell in Northamptonshire which, according to the Press, were 'nearly two inches (5 cm) across'. Many places in south-east England and East Anglia had thunderstorms on the 28th/29th and in Kent these storms produced 'daily' rainfall amounts of over 60 mm.

Sunshine — The month was generally sunnier than average except in a few coastal areas. A number of places had their sunniest July for 10 years or more. Sunshine was particularly abundant in the south from the 11th to 18th and, on the 12th, Ross-on-Wye (Herefordshire) recorded 15.7 hours sunshine which is the highest for a July day since records began in 1915.

Fog — Hill and coastal fog occurred frequently in western districts from the 11th to 22nd often encroaching well inland during the night. Shipping was seriously hampered by thick fog in the Channel on the 13th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — A well-defined funnel cloud was observed at Lydd (Kent) on the 6th. The aurora was seen on two nights in Scotland and noctilucent clouds were observed on the 17th at Stornoway (Hebrides) and Abbotsinch (Glasgow).

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES, July 1969

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE °C					EARTH TEMP. °C		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUNSHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 30 cm.	Mean 122 cm			
	Difference from Average					% of Average				
0 SCOTLAND, N.	23.9	3.8	+0.6	-0.2	+0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-1	89	98
1 SCOTLAND, E.	26.7	6.7	+1.4	+0.6	+1.0	+0.4	+0.1	-5	43	121
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	31.7	3.9	+0.8	+0.1	+0.5	+0.5	+0.3	-4	98	126
3 ENGLAND, E.	31.7	6.7	+0.9	+0.6	+0.7	+0.7	+0.2	-4	118	109
4 MIDLANDS	31.7	6.3	+1.2	+0.4	+0.8	+1.0	+0.5	-5	99	129
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	30.4	5.5	+1.4	+0.5	+1.0	+0.5	-0.1	-6	111	112
6 SCOTLAND, W.	26.5	2.7	-0.3	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-2	63	105
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	28.0	5.0	+(0.6)	+0.2	+0.4	-0.2	-0.1	-5	44	113
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	28.9	5.0	+0.6	+0.2	+0.5	-0.3	-0.1	-8	136	111
N.IRELAND	26.1	3.9	+0.9	+0.2	+0.5	-	-	-6	54	121
SCOTLAND	26.7	2.7	+0.6	+0.1	+0.4	-	-	-3	69	108
ENG. and WALES	31.7	3.9	+0.9	+0.3	+0.7	-	-	-5	91	117

*Highest Max. and Lowest Min. of the District Value Stations.