

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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August 1967 — Unsettled until the 19th, then mainly fair or fine

Weather was mainly cyclonic in character except on the 5th and from the 19th to the 28th when pressure was high over the British Isles and the North Sea or to the south of the country.

During the first four days of the month a depression moved from the Atlantic, across Scotland, to the northern North Sea. Although weather over south-east England was warm and close on the 1st, with afternoon temperatures reaching 30°C locally, it was rather cool over most of the United Kingdom during these four days, with occasional rain on the 1st and 2nd giving place to thundery showers and long sunny periods on the 3rd and 4th.

The 5th was dry and sunny for most of the day as a ridge of high pressure moved across the country, but a belt of frontal rain spread into western districts from the Atlantic during the evening. Temperature rose above average during the next few days, as further frontal rain-belts associated with a deep depression approaching the west of Ireland, moved eastwards across the British Isles. On the 8th, violent thunderstorms accompanied by torrential rain, broke out in north-west England on one of these fronts. Falls exceeding 75 mm in 3 hours reported from parts of Lancashire during the late afternoon and evening resulted in considerable structural damage and widespread flooding.

Thunderstorms continued in many parts of the country on the 10th and 11th as low pressure off south-west Ireland was transferred across England to form a complex disturbance in the northern North Sea. North-westerly winds on the western flank of this disturbance brought cooler, showery weather to all districts on the 12th, but the showers rapidly died out on the 13th as a weak ridge of high pressure moved across the country. Rain from the Atlantic reached western districts during the evening, spread over the whole country during the night and continued with scattered thunderstorms for most of the 14th as a depression, which had formed to the west of Ireland the previous day, moved across northern England. A wave disturbance moving along the English Channel on the cold front of this depression brought further rain, heavy at times, to much of southern England on the 15th. On the 15th and 16th the extreme north of Scotland also had heavy rain associated with a complex area of low pressure covering the region. Falls exceeded 30 mm on both days.

On the 17th the low pressure area moved from Scotland northwards up the Norwegian coast, and a weak ridge of high pressure behind it brought a generally sunny day, apart from a few scattered showers, to most parts of the United Kingdom. Rain, heavy at times, reached north-west England from the Atlantic during the night and spread to most other districts on the 18th as a complex frontal trough moved across the country. The rain did not clear south-east England until the afternoon of the 19th.

The weather pattern then changed. An anticyclone covering Scotland on the 19th spread over the whole of the United Kingdom on the 20th and heralded a spell of fine weather which continued in many districts until the 28th. The first four or five days were generally warm, dry and sunny except in some coastal areas affected by sea fog and drizzle, and in a few places where overnight fog was slow to clear. After the 25th encroaching Atlantic fronts brought occasional but mainly slight rain, to northern districts, but in the south, although weather became more cloudy it remained generally warm and dry.

On the 29th westerly winds brought showers to many northern districts, and on the 30th and 31st a depression moving eastwards between Scotland and Iceland brought rain to the west and north of the United Kingdom, but weather remained mainly dry in the south-east.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was within 1 mb of the 1931-60 average nearly everywhere the deviation at 0900 GMT ranging from +0.7 mb at Kilnsea to -1.1 mb at Prestwick and Dyce. Surface winds were between west and north-west until the 12th apart from an interlude of southerly winds from the 6th until the 9th, after which light variable winds from the 18th to the 28th were preceded and followed by Westerlies. Winds reached gale force on 4 days in England and Wales and on 2 days in Scotland. The highest gust recorded during the month was 52 kt at Kirkwall on the 31st.

Temperature — Over the month as a whole temperatures were a little below the 1931-60 average. Day temperatures were above the average for a few days around the 9th and from about the 21st to the 28th. There were some cold nights throughout the month, the coldest at many places being the 18th/19th when air temperature at Balmoral fell to -0.6°C.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 30.0°C at Herne Bay and Southend on the 1st, 1.1°C at Santon Downham on the 20th; (Scotland) 25.6°C at Grantown-on-Spey on the 21st and at Mertoun and Fort Augustus on the 23rd, -0.6°C at Balmoral on the 19th; (Northern Ireland) 22.8°C at Reagh Island on the 10th, 2.8°C at Lislap Forest on the 5th, at Baronscourt Forest on the 19th and 20th and at Loughermore Forest on the 20th.

Rainfall — In Scotland rainfall was below the 1916-50 average except in the Orkneys and in north-facing coastal areas on the mainland. It was less than half the average in western Inverness-shire, in Perthshire and in parts of Argyllshire. In England and Wales rainfall was mainly above the average north of an approximate line from the Mersey to the Wash except in coastal regions and the Scottish border country. In parts of the West Riding of Yorkshire it was more than twice the average. Rainfall was also above the average in parts of south-east England and the extreme south-west of Cornwall. Elsewhere it was mainly below the average and was less than half the average in parts of Shropshire, Gloucestershire and Somersetshire.

Local thunder was heard in England and Wales every day during the first two weeks except on the 5th. It was also heard on the 16th, 23rd, 28th and 29th. Thunderstorms were widespread on the 8th, 9th and 10th. Exceptionally heavy falls of rain, classified as "very rare" falls, accompanied some of these storms on the 8th. In Scotland thunderstorms were widespread on the 16th.

Sunshine — This was below the 1931-60 average over most of Scotland except in Skye, Angus, Fife, East Lothian and in some inland areas; excesses of 25 hours were reported locally. Deficits of up to 30 hours were recorded in parts of northern Scotland and the Hebrides. In England and Wales sunshine was below the average except in a few eastern districts; percentages ranged from 72 at Huddersfield Oakes to 111 at Berwick on Tweed.

Fog — Fog was reported at some place or other at 0900 GMT almost daily after the first week. It was widespread on the 23rd and 24th and persisted in some coastal areas, with low cloud and drizzle, for much of both days. In Scotland morning fog was widespread on the 24th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was seen in Scotland on only one night.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES, AUGUST, 1967

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE °C					EARTH TEMP. °C		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUN-SHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 30 cm.	Mean 122 cm.			
	Difference from Average					%				
0 SCOTLAND, N.	21.1	3.0	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.1	-0.8	-2	98	88
1 SCOTLAND, E.	23.3	5.6	-0.2	+0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.6	-1	78	99
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	25.6	5.0	-0.4	0.0	-0.2	+0.2	+0.2	0	133	93
3 ENGLAND, E.	28.3	3.9	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	+0.1	+1	91	93
4 MIDLANDS	26.1	4.4	-0.4	+0.1	-0.2	+0.1	+0.3	+1	105	85
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	27.8	5.0	-0.5	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0	102	96
6 SCOTLAND, W.	23.2	3.5	-0.6	-0.2	-0.4	0.0	-0.3	+1	72	97
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	24.3	5.6	-0.7	+0.2	-0.2	+0.1	-0.1	+1	110	90
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	25.6	5.6	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.3	0	77	88
N. IRELAND	22.2	3.3	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6	-	-	0	96	95
SCOTLAND	23.3	3.0	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3	-	-	-1	79	95
ENG. and WALES	28.3	3.9	-0.5	-0.1	-0.3	-	-	+1	92	91

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