

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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### Mostly dry, warm and sunny at first; then very wet and rather windy.

During the first week an anticyclone drifted south-eastwards from Shetland across the North Sea to eastern Europe while from the 4th Atlantic fronts encroached over northern districts. However, a ridge of high pressure persisted in the south until the 7th when a weak cold front advanced from the south-west.

For much of the remainder of the month pressure was low to the south of Iceland while active frontal systems crossed the British Isles every two or three days. During the night of the 17/18th a wave depression deepened as it passed northwards over north-western districts while between the 19th and 21st and the 25th and 28th deep lows moved north-eastwards across the Irish Sea before slowing down as they went northwards over Scotland.

#### Weather

The mainly dry, sunny, warm weather of August continued for about ten days at the start of the month although from the 4th it gradually became more changeable from the north-west. It then became very unsettled, wet and often windy. Nevertheless all areas, particularly the south and east, had some sunny periods while temperatures were mostly near normal. Thunderstorms occurred at times after the first week, being most frequent over southern parts of Britain between the 11th and 13th and the 18th and 27th.

#### Wind

Until the 8th winds were mainly light or moderate apart from the far north-west and north where they were fresh or strong at times. Subsequently, winds in all districts were often fresh and occasionally strong or gale force, especially over exposed parts of northern Britain. Gales were severe over some coasts and hills on the 19th and 20th, gusts of 67 and 65 kn being recorded at Sumburgh (Shetland) and Gwennap Head (Cornwall) respectively while at some high-level stations in central and northern areas gusts exceeded 70 kn. The high winds left a trail of damage and distress; several deaths were reported including four at sea in separate coastal incidents off the south of Devon, Dyfed and Anglesey; a lady was hit by a falling tree in Dyfed; a man was blown off his cycle in Nottingham; eleven crew were rescued by helicopter from a sinking freighter south of the Lizard (Cornwall). Except for the first two or three days when they were from an easterly point, and later in the month when they were occasionally variable in the north around depressions, winds were mostly from between south-east and south-west.

#### Temperature

Mean temperatures were above average for the month almost everywhere. Values ranged from about normal here and there in the south of England and Wales to more than 1.0 °C above in parts of Cumbria and the Midlands and in some eastern areas from Shetland to the north of Norfolk.

All areas except some north-western and northernmost parts of Scotland were very warm at times during the first ten days of the month. Temperatures reached or exceeded 24 °C in at least a few places in central and southern Britain daily between the 4th and 10th. Edinburgh had its warmest September day since 1971 on the 10th when the temperature rose to 24.3 °C at Turnhouse despite almost total cloud cover and a fresh breeze while at Caistor (Lincolnshire) 27.2 °C

was recorded. Thereafter temperatures were mostly near normal, particularly by day. Frost occurred at night on a few occasions in some upland parts of Scotland and on the 14th the temperature fell to -3.3 °C at Lagganlia (Highland Region).

#### Rainfall

Rainfall was above the monthly average in all areas except the north of Shetland where it was a little below normal. More than twice the average was recorded over much of South Wales, parts of the Midlands and southern England and in scattered areas of northern and central Scotland, Northern Ireland, North Wales, and the north-west of Norfolk. The monthly totals at both Stornoway (Western Isles) and Abbotsinch (Glasgow) were the highest in their areas in September this century, the latter also being the fifth largest for any month since records began in the area in the 1860s. Aldergrove (Belfast) and Elmdon (Birmingham) had their highest totals for the month since records began in 1927 and 1940 respectively. Generally, it was the wettest September over Scotland and Northern Ireland since 1950 and in England and Wales since 1976.

The first ten days of the month were mainly dry, especially in eastern districts. However, rain was heavy over parts of Northern Ireland and the west of Scotland on the 4th, at some places in South Wales during the night of the 7/8th and over the far west of Scotland on the 9th. During the 10th and early on the 11th rain, heavy in many areas, spread eastwards across all parts and the remainder of the month was very wet with periods of rain or showers. Daily totals of over 50 mm were numerous, particularly over high ground in the west of Britain on the 19th and 26th. Individual totals included 60.9 mm at Swindon (Wiltshire) on the 19th, 111.6 mm at Knockanrock (Highland Region) on the 20th, 65.5 mm at Grands Vaux Reservoir (Jersey) on the 25th and 100.2 mm at Auchnafree Lodge (Tayside

Region) on the 26th. Flooding was reported in South Wales on the 10th, in Dorset on the 19th and in many areas on the 20th and 26th.

#### Sunshine

Sunshine totals were above average for the month in most parts of the United Kingdom. More than 125 per cent of average was recorded over much of the north of England, the northern half of the Midlands and East Anglia and locally in Co. Down. Totals were below average over the west of Northern Ireland, most of north Scotland, with less than 80 per cent in Orkney and Shetland, and at a few places elsewhere in Scotland, the Isle of Man, western Wales and the south of England. Over the far north-west of Scotland this was the fifth consecutive September with below-average sunshine. Except in Northern Ireland, west and north of Scotland the first two weeks of the month were mostly sunny. Otherwise, sunshine was rather variable although south-west England and the Channel Islands enjoyed several sunny days during the fourth week.

#### Fog

Overnight fog formed at times, mostly during the first half of the month over eastern and southern parts of Britain, clearing on each occasion by about mid-morning. In contrast, hill fog was more frequent during the second half of the month over western and northern districts where it was widespread on several occasions. Coastal fog was reported frequently between the 3rd and 18th, mainly over the south-west of England and Wales and the north-east of Scotland although it again affected the former during the last two days of the month.

#### Miscellaneous Phenomena

A small whirlwind was reported to have caused minor damage to the roof of a house in Windsor (Berkshire) on the 5th.

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				
0 Scotland N	22.4	1.9	+0.6	+0.7	+0.6	+0.6	+3	161	82
1 Scotland E	22.3	−0.5	+0.9	+0.7	+0.8	+0.9	+2	173	104
2 England E & NE	26.1	4.4	+1.5	+0.6	+1.1	+1.1	+3	166	137
3 East Anglia	26.1	4.0	+1.2	+0.7	+0.9	+0.6	+2	141	116
4 Midland Counties	25.5	3.5	+1.3	+0.5	+0.9	+0.8	+2	191	129
5 England SE & Central S	25.5	3.8	+0.8	+0.4	+0.6	+0.5	+4	192	107
6 Scotland W	21.7	0.1	+0.6	+0.4	+0.5	+0.7	+3	170	98
7 England NW & Wales N	25.6	3.1	+0.8	+0.6	+0.7	+0.8	+3	149	115
8 England SW & Wales S	24.8	4.1	+0.8	−0.1	+0.4	+0.9	+3	193	108
N Ireland	22.8	2.7	+0.4	+0.7	+0.6	+1.2	+2	161	104
Scotland	23.3	−0.5	+0.7	+0.6	+0.6	+0.7	+3	168	95
England & Wales	26.1	3.1	+1.1	+0.5	+0.8	+0.8	+3	172	119

\*Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations