

Monthly Weather Report

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April 1947—Unsettled and wet; frequent gales.

The month was excessively wet over most of Scotland and the extreme north of England; in exposed places gales were frequent, and at times, severe. Temperature somewhat exceeded the average and, generally speaking, sunshine was below the average in the west and north but above the average in the eastern districts of England.

On the 1st a shallow trough of low pressure extending from the western approaches of the Bristol Channel to the North Sea moved slowly south-east and was associated with scattered showers, wintry in the north. In its rear an extension of an anticyclone north of Iceland spread over Scotland, while pressure continued relatively low from the south of Ireland to the Netherlands. Precipitation occurred in most parts of England and Wales but it was mainly fair in Scotland and Ireland. On the 3rd and 4th a depression moved east-north-east along the English Channel causing general rain in the southern half of England on the 3rd. From the 5th–7th a deep depression on the Atlantic moved east-north-east to Scandinavia, while associated secondaries crossed the British Isles. Conditions were very unsettled, with strong winds and gales and heavy rain particularly on the 5th. From the 7th–8th a vigorous depression moved quickly east-north-east from south-westward of Ireland across England to Denmark. Further gales and rain occurred.

A period of more settled weather ensued. On the 9th and 10th an anticyclone over the Bay of Biscay and an associated wedge over the British Isles moved north-east and then east to Germany. Mainly fair, quieter weather prevailed over most of the country for several days. Thereafter, with pressure high south-ward of the British Isles and deep depressions in the Icelandic region moving north-east, weather continued mainly fair over most of England but with rain in the north-west and north of the British Isles. On the 18th and 19th a trough approached the west of Ireland and thereafter moved slowly eastward giving rain in the west and north.

Extremely unsettled weather with strong winds and widespread gales occurred from the 20th to 25th. From the 20th–22nd a very deep depression moved north-east to Iceland, while associated troughs crossed the British Isles. Strong south-westerly winds and gales prevailed, with rain at times, heavy locally on the 21st. On the 23rd an intense secondary depression north-west of Ireland moved rapidly east across Scotland giving widespread and severe gales and heavy local rain. On the 25th a depression developed off West Ireland and moved quickly north-east across the country to the Baltic giving further widespread gales in the north and west and heavy rain locally in west and north Scotland: meanwhile little or no rain fell in England. On the 27th and 28th an Icelandic depression moved eastward to southern Scandinavia and was associated with showers, mainly in the north and west. During the closing days a secondary depression off north-west Ireland moved quickly eastward; rain fell generally on the 29th and showery conditions with cold northerly winds prevailed on the 30th.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average in the north and exceeded the average in the south, the deviation at 9h. ranging from -5.0 mb. at Lerwick to $+5.1$ mb. at Lympne. The gradient was much increased above the average, winds from between south and west predominated and in all areas the total run of the wind exceeded the average. Gales occurred very frequently for the time of the year, the stormiest periods being the 5th–8th and 20th–25th. The gale on the 23rd was unusually severe in England and Wales. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 89 m.p.h. at Bell Rock Lighthouse on the 25th and 88 m.p.h. at Aberporth,

87 m.p.h. at Bidston, 86 m.p.h. at Manchester (Ringway), 83 m.p.h. at Cardington and 82 m.p.h. at Lizard all on the 23rd.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average by 1.5°F. in England and Wales, 0.7°F. in Scotland, and 1.2°F. in Northern Ireland. Broadly speaking the first four or five days and the closing days were rather cold and the remainder of the month mild on the whole, particularly the period 12th–17th. Day temperature rose to 65°F. or above at numerous places in England and Wales on the 16th and 17th and exceeded 70°F. locally. Sharp frosts were recorded at a number of places on the 3rd and locally on the 10th. The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 73°F. at Ipswich on the 16th, 22°F. at Bellingham on the 3rd; (Scotland) 66°F. at Banff, Gordon Castle, Craibstone and Dyce on the 15th, 20°F. at Dalwhinnie, Braemar and West Linton on the 3rd; (Northern Ireland) 61°F. at Lisburn, Bishops Court and Hillsborough on the 15th and at Lisburn on the 25th, 24°F. at Garvagh on the 3rd.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 142 over England and Wales, 213 over Scotland and 156 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland it was the wettest April in a record going back to 1869. More than three times the average was received over much of central and south Scotland and also over a small part of Cumberland. Less than the average occurred over part of a coastal strip from Aberdeen to Wick, in the Thames Estuary and on the Suffolk coast, and at a few scattered places elsewhere, mainly in the south of England. In Northern Ireland percentages ranged from 125 at Newtownbutler, County Fermanagh to 182 at Garvagh.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

5th 3.25 in. at Afton Reservoir, Ayrshire, 2.81 in. at Meggernie Castle (Perthshire), 2.80 in. at Glenquoich, 2.50 in. at Borrowdale.

15th 2.60 in. at Erracht (Inverness-shire).

21st 2.83 in. at Borrowdale, 2.68 in. at Newbiggin-in-Teesdale.

26th 2.60 in. at Kinlochurn (Inverness-shire).

In Scotland the rainfall was not only heavy but measurable rainfall occurred very frequently. The number of rain-days in west and north Scotland was seven in excess of the average.

Thunderstorms were reported locally on the 5th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 22nd, 23rd, 27th and 30th.

Snow occurred locally in England and Wales on the 1st–5th, 7th–8th, 22nd and 30th. In Scotland, there was snow locally in the first week and the last fortnight but the snow did not accumulate to any appreciable depth.

Sunshine.—The duration of bright sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average was 102 over England and Wales, 83 over Scotland and 85 over Northern Ireland. In Northern Ireland and Scotland the deficiency was general except in the Shetland Isles and at one or two places on the east coast north of the Tay; the deficiency was greatest in and around the Clyde basin and in the Great Glen. In England and Wales percentages of the average were more variable but broadly speaking sunshine exceeded the average in eastern districts and was below the average in the west, particularly the north-west.

Fog.—Fog was infrequent, particularly in Scotland. It occurred at times mainly on the 2nd–3rd, 9th–11th, 13th–17th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on five nights. On the 17th it was reported from practically all parts of the British Isles. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 15 days.