

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

# APRIL

# 1992

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

VOLUME 109

NUMBER 4

## Unsettled; generally warm, wet and dull

A deep depression centred over south-west England on the 1st moved away during the 2nd with its associated fronts affecting eastern areas. High pressure built to the south of Iceland, extending a ridge over the United Kingdom. As the anticyclone slipped slowly southwards, fronts moved across Scotland on the 4th, continuing to many western and northern areas on the 5th and 6th. A depression centred over Ireland on the 7th, moved away southwards during the 8th as pressure rose over the United Kingdom. Fronts affecting Scotland on the 9th made slow progress south-eastwards on the 10th and 11th, finally clearing all areas during the 12th. A deepening depression with its attendant fronts crossed all areas during the 14th, while a trough cleared the south coast on the afternoon of the 15th. On the 16th a weak ridge built from the south-west; however, further fronts moved around the northern edge of the anticyclone later that day. From the 18th to 21st the anticyclone remained the dominant feature, although disturbances continued to move around the top of the high, resulting in waving fronts affecting northern areas throughout. The fronts progressed slowly southwards, becoming very weak by the end of the 20th. During the 21st a further ridge built from the west, but was short lived, as frontal systems advanced over many areas on the 22nd and 23rd. On the 24th further troughs crossed all areas. The main low was only moving slowly by the 25th, but further secondary lows continued to swing round its southern flank and cross the British Isles. During the 27th the low drifted slowly north-eastwards and filled, and overnight on the 27th/28th another depression moved rapidly eastwards across southern areas, followed by a ridge of high pressure. Late on the 29th a warm front advanced rapidly from the west, clearing eastern England during the evening. A following pair of cold fronts crossed most parts on the 30th, but still covered much of southern England and South Wales during the last hours of the month.

### Weather

The weather was unsettled for most of the month, with showers or longer periods of rain, sometimes heavy, but with some dry or sunny interludes. The 8th and 9th were warm sunny days, as was the 10th in southern areas. Southern areas remained predominantly dry from the 18th to 21st. Thunderstorms occurred over Cornwall and South Wales on the 1st, Shetland on the 13th, South Wales on the 14th, Wick and Gatwick on the 15th, the Isle of Man on the 24th, at Leeds and over western Scotland on the 25th, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Orkney, Carlisle and Lincolnshire on the 26th, and Eskdalemuir on the 27th. Hail was observed over Cornwall and South Wales on the 1st, East Anglia on the 2nd and 5th, and Devon on the 7th. Many areas were affected by frequent hail showers between the 12th and the 18th, and again between the 25th and the 28th.

### Wind

Gales were reported over northern England and southern Scotland on the 1st, with a gust to 49 kn at Machrihanish, Strathclyde Region. On the 13th

there were gales on exposed coasts, with winds generally fresh to strong over England and Wales. Widespread gusts of 45 kn, and also several in excess of 50 kn over south-west England and South Wales, were reported on that day. Very strong winds with gusts of 60 kn to 70 kn occurred on the 18th in northern and western Scotland, whilst in the south-west gusts reached 59 kn at Culdrose, Cornwall on the 24th and 25th. Wind directions were mainly south-westerly or westerly.

### Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were above normal nearly everywhere, ranging from 0.5 °C below normal at St Mary's, Isles of Scilly to 1.5 °C above normal at Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, and at Whitby, North Yorkshire. The highest temperature during the month was 20.3 °C, recorded at two sites in Kent — Folkestone on the 18th, and Elmstone on the 21st, whilst the lowest was -5.3 °C at Santon Downham, Norfolk on the 1st.

### Rainfall

Monthly rainfall amounts were generally above normal apart from an area including Merseyside and parts of the Midlands to Lincolnshire and northern Norfolk, and also an area of eastern Scotland, where rainfall amounts were below normal. Percentages ranged from 244% at Durham to 64% at Waddington, Lincolnshire.

The 1st was a very wet day in the north-east, and the 2nd was wet in many eastern areas. The 5th was a wet day in the south-west, with more than 12 mm falling over high ground in Devon. The 6th was a wet day everywhere, with 12 mm recorded at Gatwick Airport. Falls well in excess of 12 mm occurred in many places on the 28th. Among heavy falls were 58 mm at Newcastle Weather Centre and 57 mm at Carterhouse, Borders Region, both on the 1st.

### Snow

Wintry showers were reported from many places on the 1st and 2nd, with widespread falls of snow

over much of Scotland. Wintry showers continued on the 3rd, especially over higher ground, and sleet was reported from Lincolnshire and north Kent. Sleet fell at Aberporth, Shawbury, Eskdalemuir, Aviemore and Boulmer, Northumberland on the 12th, and there was snow at Holme Moss. On the 13th sleet occurred at many Scottish lowland stations and also on the Pennines, whilst heavy snow fell on the Scottish Highlands. Further sleet or snow fell over many parts of Scotland on the 14th.

### Sunshine

Monthly sunshine amounts were below or near average nearly everywhere, ranging from 106% at Rustington, West Sussex to 45% at Auchincruive, Strathclyde Region.

The brightest day generally was the 9th, with between 9 and 13 hours sunshine over most of England and Wales. On the 20th some central and southern parts had from 10 to 12 hours, and the 25th was also a sunny day, again with 10 to 12 hours of sunshine in some areas. The most sunshine in a day was 13.1 hours at Bastreet, Cornwall on the 9th and the most during the month was 184 hours at Bognor Regis.

### Fog

Patchy fog formed overnight over eastern England on the 1st and 2nd, eastern Scotland, North Wales and northern England on the 7th, south-east England on the 11th, central and southern England on the 20th and 21st, and more widely over England and Wales on the 22nd. Coastal fog, mainly in the south-west, occurred on the 11th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 21st, and in eastern areas on the 23rd. Extensive coastal fog occurred in South Wales, south-west England and along the south coast on the 30th. Some hill fog occurred in central areas late on the 6th, in the south-west on the 19th, in eastern areas on the 23rd and in southern areas on the 30th.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

**Table 1 District values**

District	Air temperature °C					Mean 30 cm soil temp °C	Rain-days	Rainfall	Sunshine
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	Max.	Min.	Mean				
	Difference from average					% of average			
0 Scotland N	16.6	-2.0	-0.1	+0.7	+0.3	+0.5	+5	141	67
1 Scotland E	18.4	-2.7	0.0	+1.0	+0.5	+0.7	+6	125	69
2 England E & NE	18.3	-3.4	+0.6	+1.3	+0.9	+1.0	+6	143	86
3 East Anglia	18.3	-2.0	+0.9	+0.9	+0.9	+1.0	+1	120	85
4 Midland Counties	18.9	-3.7	+0.7	+1.0	+0.8	+1.1	+2	104	91
5 England SE & Central S	19.7	-2.4	+0.4	+0.9	+0.7	+0.8	+2	166	90
6 Scotland W	16.1	-2.3	-0.7	+1.1	+0.2	+0.6	+8	158	58
7 England NW & Wales N	18.6	-2.1	+0.2	+1.2	+0.7	+1.2	+6	127	73
8 England SW & Wales S	18.0	-2.3	-0.1	+1.1	+0.4	+0.7	+3	133	79
N Ireland	15.8	-0.8	-0.7	+1.3	+0.3	+0.6	+7	169	55
Scotland	18.4	-2.7	-0.3	+0.9	+0.3	+0.6	+6	147	65
England & Wales	19.7	-3.7	+0.5	+1.1	+0.7	+1.0	+3	130	84

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations