

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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November 1968 — *Mainly cold until the 20th, then mild*

Weather was predominantly anticyclonic apart from a cyclonic interlude from the 22nd until the 29th.

The first two days of the month were mild and wet over most of England and Wales because of a complex low pressure area over southern England. In parts of Lincolnshire rainfall exceeded 40 mm in 24 hours. The rain area moved away south-eastwards as northerly winds, accompanied by showers, spread from Scotland to the remainder of the United Kingdom on the 3rd. The showers were of snow or hail in parts of northern England and temperatures in all districts fell well below the average.

An anticyclone drifted eastwards across the country on the 4th and became centred over Scandinavia on the 5th. These two days were mainly dry and sunny. A strong south-easterly airstream between the Scandinavian anticyclone and a depression to the west of Ireland became established over the British Isles on the 6th, and minor disturbances in this airstream brought rain to most of England and Wales on both the 6th and the 7th.

Weather from the 8th until the 19th was dominated by a ridge of high pressure which extended from Scandinavia towards Scotland; it was generally cloudy, cold and mostly dry with winds mainly between south and east. There were, however, minor variations within this general pattern. On the 9th winds became light and variable and overnight fog persisted over much of the Midlands throughout the day. On the 10th and 11th less cold weather spread northwards across the western half of the country, but the south-easterly airstream freshened on the 12th, and from then until the 16th, day temperatures became progressively lower in all districts. On the 17th a trough of low pressure brought rain to south-east England and this rain, accompanied by milder weather, spread slowly north-westwards to all districts during the next two days.

On the 20th a depression moving northwards to the west of the British Isles brought rain to most districts, and this marked the beginning of a mild unsettled period which lasted until almost the end of the month. The rain was confined mainly to western districts on the 20th and 21st, but winds freshened from the south-west on the 22nd, and troughs brought rain to all districts on the 23rd with temperatures rising well above normal. A fine sunny day on the 24th was followed by a cloudy day with outbreaks of rain, heavy at times, in the north. Further rain, associated with a depression approaching south-west England, spread northwards over the country on the 26th and 27th; this rain was heavy locally in the west, but mainly slight in the east. Winds were light and variable over much of England and Wales on the 28th and fog which formed overnight persisted in many Midland and eastern districts throughout the day. Freshening north-easterly winds early on the 29th brought rain southwards again over most of England and Wales and this rain continued in southern England during the last day of the month.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was above the 1931-60 average over most of the country but below average in parts of the south and south-west. The deviation at 0900 GMT ranged from +9.5 mb at Lerwick to -2.9 mb at Scilly. Surface winds were mainly north-easterly at first and between south and east from the 4th until the 20th, after which they were predominantly south-westerly until the 26th and then east or north-east during the last four days of the month. Wind reached gale force on the 1st-3rd in northern districts and on the 14th and 15th in the south-west.

Temperature — Weather was cold in most districts until about the 20th mainly because of low day temperatures, but was mild both day and night during the last 10 days of the month. The coldest nights were around the 4th, 9th and 15th when frost was particularly severe in northern districts.

Extremes included (England and Wales) 18.3°C at Camden Square on the 1st, -6.7 at Llandrindod Wells on the 9th; (Scotland) 15.0°C at several places in the north on the 21st and 25th, -12.2°C at Grantown-on-Spey on the 18th; (Northern Ireland) 15.0°C at Ballykelly on the 21st, -7.2°C at Lislap Forest and Knockmany Forest on the 4th.

Rainfall — In England and Wales rainfall was above average in parts of north-east England and in the Severn Valley in Gloucestershire, but elsewhere it was below average. It was less than half the average in parts of north-east England, central Wales, Devon, Hampshire, Sussex, Kent and Essex. In Scotland rainfall was mainly below average, and was less than half the average north of an approximate line from Aberdeen to Skye. At Lerwick it was the driest November since records began there in 1901. In Northern Ireland rainfall was below average in the north and west but above average in the east and south-east; in parts of Co. Down it was more than twice the average. Apart from the first two days, most of the month's rain fell during the period 20th-27th.

Thunder was heard locally on the 1st and 2nd.

Snow showers were reported in northern districts on the 2nd and 3rd, and in southern and eastern England on the 16th and 17th.

Sunshine — Sunshine was mostly below the 1931-60 average but in some western districts it was above average. In Scotland percentages ranged from 38 at St. Andrews in the east to 164 at Stornoway in the west, where it was the sunniest November since records began there in 1880. In England and Wales, the corresponding percentages ranged from 27 at Sprowston to 128 at Ringway.

Fog — Fog at 0900 GMT was reported from one place or another on 7 days in Scotland and on 26 days in England and Wales. In Scotland fog was never widespread but in England and Wales it was fairly widespread on the 9th and 28th and persisted throughout each day in parts of the Midlands.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was visible in Scotland on seven nights.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES, NOVEMBER, 1968

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.	13.1	-5.0	-0.5	-0.6	-0.5	-0.6	+0.5	-7	47	108
1 SCOTLAND, E.	13.9	-5.0	-0.8	+0.2	-0.3	+0.2	+0.3	-1	62	66
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	13.8	-1.7	-0.8	+0.6	-0.1	+0.7	+0.8	+2	144	57
3 ENGLAND, E.	16.7	-2.8	-0.7	+0.8	0.0	+1.0	+0.8	+1	71	51
4 MIDLANDS	15.0	-5.1	-0.9	+0.3	-0.3	+0.9	+0.9	-2	97	77
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	16.7	-5.0	-0.8	+0.5	-0.2	+0.3	+0.5	-4	47	82
6 SCOTLAND, W.	13.7	-6.6	-0.9	-0.1	-0.5	+0.1	+0.1	-8	69	96
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	13.9	-4.8	-0.8	-0.2	-0.5	+1.1	+0.7	-5	60	108
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	15.6	-6.7	-0.4	-0.3	-0.1	+1.1	+0.9	-3	73	77
N. IRELAND	15.0	-6.5	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-	-	-5	93	80
SCOTLAND	13.9	-6.6	-0.7	-0.2	-0.4	-	-	-5	61	90
ENG. and WALES	16.7	-6.7	-0.7	+0.3	-0.2	-	-	-2	77	75

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

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