

# Monthly Weather Report

## OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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### August 1964 — Dry in the South, rather wet in Scotland.

Apart from cyclonic spells during the 6th-9th, 16th-19th and 23rd-28th weather was mainly anti-cyclonic in character with pressure high either to the south-west, west or north of the British Isles.

During the first four days of the month a ridge of high pressure extended from the south-west over the British Isles. Fresh north-westerly winds on the 1st moderated on the 2nd as a belt of drizzle spread over the country from the west. The next two or three days were fine and warm especially in the south where many places had 10-12 hours of sunshine and where temperature reached 27°C locally on the 3rd and 5th.

A depression near Iceland moved south-eastwards on the 5th and the next day an associated cold front brought to many districts the first measureable rain for about two weeks. From the 7th to the 9th weather remained generally rather cool with scattered thundery showers in an unstable airstream from high latitudes as the declining depression from the north-west formed a broad low pressure area covering northern and north-eastern districts.

Winds were light and variable on the 10th following a general rise of pressure but were generally north-east to east during the next three or four days. Until the 15th eastern coastal districts were rather cool with drizzle at times, but over most of the country weather was cloudy with about average temperature although there were good sunny periods in sheltered western districts.

Rain reached western coasts on the 16th as a deepening depression approached southern Ireland from the west. The depression turned north-eastwards, bringing stormy weather to the whole country during the next two days as it moved across the Irish Sea to the North Sea. Winds reached gale force in many places especially in the south-west and rainfall exceeded 1 in. over wide areas on both the 17th and 18th, more than 2½ in. being recorded in parts of Northern Ireland and Scotland on the 17th.

Winds of northerly origin behind the depression brought a sharp fall of temperature in all areas on the 19th, afternoon temperatures in parts of eastern England being as much as 7°C below normal. Subsequently winds became light and variable as a ridge of high pressure moved slowly southwards over the country on the 20th-22nd. Weather was dry and sunny; it remained generally cold and was very cold at night. A covering of ground frost was reported from places as far south as Bristol on each of the three mornings, and air frost was recorded locally.

A deep depression between Iceland and Scotland brought rain to Scotland on the 22nd but southern England remained dry and sunny. The depression later became complex and associated troughs brought rain to western districts on the afternoon of the 23rd. The rain became widespread and heavy locally during the night and persisted for much of the next day.

A warm southerly airstream on the western flank of an anti-cyclone centred over Germany cleared most of the rain, except over Scotland, on the night of the 24th/25th. The next two or three days were hot over the Midlands and south-east England with almost uninterrupted sunshine. Temperatures rose to 32°C at a number of places.

A shallow depression over Scotland brought thundery rain or showers to most districts on the 28th. The dry weather with almost continuous sunshine returned during the last three days of the month as an anti-cyclone from the Atlantic approached the British Isles, but associated north-westerly winds kept temperatures a little below normal.

**Pressure and Wind** — Surface pressure was generally above average, the excess at 9h G.M.T. ranging from 3.0 mb at Stornoway to 0.3 mb at Shoeburyness. Surface winds were north-westerly at first but after the 4th were rather variable; they were mainly easterly on the 12th-14th, south-westerly on the 23rd-25th and north-westerly on the 28th-30th. Winds reached gale force in Scotland on 11 days and in England and Wales on the 1st, 16th-19th, 23rd and 24th (7 days). A gust of 65 kt was recorded at Brawdy on the 17th.

**Temperature** — Mean temperatures during the month were generally below average especially in Scotland. Nights were particularly cold around the 20th and 21st; on these dates temperature at Eskdalemuir fell below (minus) -2°C the lowest August temperature recorded there for at least 50 years. There were some very warm days in the Midlands and south-east England during the first and last weeks.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 32.8°C at Cromer on 28th, -1.7°C at Lincoln and Santon Downham on the 31st; (Scotland) 27.8°C at Strachan on the 3rd, -2.7°C at Cannich on the 20th and 21st; (Northern Ireland) 24.4°C at Armagh on the 4th, -1.1°C at Loughermore Forest on the 21st.

**Precipitation** — In Scotland rainfall was generally above average except for some areas in the extreme south. In the north-east amounts were twice the average in some places; Wick had its wettest August since 1920. In England and Wales it was below average almost everywhere except in Northumberland and locally in Lincolnshire and Suffolk. Over much of central southern England amounts were less than 25 per cent of the average.

Thunder was heard in Scotland on 17 days and in England and Wales on the 6th-11th, 15th-18th, 20th, 28th and 29th (13 days). Thunderstorms were widespread on the 7th-9th, 17th and 18th. During a heavy thunderstorm near Yarmouth on the 9th about 2 in. of rain fell in four hours.

Snow was reported from Cairngorm (3575 ft.) on the 19th.

**Sunshine** — In Scotland there were large local deficits of sunshine in the north and north-east, but in the west sunshine was more generally above average. In England and Wales, although excesses only locally exceeded 20 per cent sunshine was considerably above normal in the Midlands, south-east and eastern England after the 20th.

**Fog** — Fog was observed at 9h at one place or another in Scotland on all but four days (19th-21st and 31st). England and Wales had 17 days of early morning fog; Mansfield and Aberystwyth reported it on 7 days but mostly at a particular place it occurred on only one or two.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena** — The aurora was observed in Scotland on one night only (the 31st).

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES— AUGUST,

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUNSHINE
	Highest	Lowest	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
	Max.	Min.	Difference from Average			% of Average				
0 SCOTLAND, N.	24.4	-2.7	-1.4	-1.6	-1.5	-	-	+1	141	92
1 SCOTLAND, E.	27.8	-1.7	-0.9	-0.3	-0.6	-	-	+1	128	93
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	30.7	-1.7	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3	+0.1	-3	76	109
3 ENGLAND, E.	32.8	-1.7	+0.1	-0.5	-0.2	-0.1	+0.4	-1	57	115
4 MIDLANDS	30.5	-0.5	-0.2	-0.7	-0.4	+0.1	+0.1	-4	68	116
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	31.1	0.0	+0.1	-0.1	0.0	+0.2	+0.3	-3	54	108
6 SCOTLAND, W.	23.3	-2.2	-1.1	-0.6	-0.8	-0.5	-0.7	-1	115	102

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(1908, revised 1928, 1941, 1956 and 1964)

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUNSHINE
	Highest	Lowest	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
	Max.	Min.	Difference from Average			% of Average				
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	26.7	-0.6	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.3	-5	73	115
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	27.2	-0.6	-0.4	-0.7	-0.5	+0.4	+0.7	-5	59	108
N. IRELAND	24.4	-1.1	-0.4	+0.9	-0.6	-	-	0	105	104
SCOTLAND	27.8	-2.7	-1.1	-0.8	-1.0	-	-	0	126	96
ENG. and WALES	32.8	-1.7	-0.2	-0.5	-0.3	-	-	-3	64	112