

Monthly Weather Report

MO 754

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

Volume 81 Number 4

Published by HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

© Crown Copyright 1964

April 1964 — Cloudy and rather wet.

Weather was cyclonic in character for most of the month.

The month began with a ridge of high pressure near Iceland, and cold east to north-east winds on its southern flank persisted over England and Wales for about four days. Weather was dull in the south, east and Midlands with rain sleet or snow at times; amounts generally were not large although some of the higher ground in the extreme south-east became snow-covered. In Scotland and north-west England, however, weather was less cold with long sunny periods.

On the 5th, as a ridge of high pressure moved slowly south across the British Isles, winds backed and light northerlies brought the brighter milder weather to all districts. The 6th and 7th were dry sunny days with temperature a little above average, but rain, associated with a small depression approaching the west of Scotland, spread over western and northern districts on the 8th and 9th.

After a day of scattered showers on the 10th, frontal rain from the Atlantic reached western areas on the 11th spreading over the whole country during the night and persisting for much of the next day. The rain was followed on the 13th and 14th by good sunny periods in a showery westerly airstream.

The weather pattern changed on the 15th as low pressure near Iceland was transferred southwards and fronts from the Atlantic brought rain to all districts. The next day a depression became established to the south-west of the British Isles and a trough in its circulation moved northwards from France bringing thunderstorms and outbreaks of heavy rain to east and south-east England. Warm southerly winds with occasional rain continued on the 17th and 18th, afternoon temperatures reaching 19°C locally on the 18th.

Rain, associated with a depression from France which had moved northwards to south-east England on the night of the 18th, spread over the remainder of the country, except the extreme south-west, on the 19th. Winds veered towards the west and afternoon temperatures at most places in the cooler airstream were at least 5°C lower than the previous day. As the area of low pressure which now covered the British Isles slowly declined during the next four days (20th-23rd) sunny intervals were broken by showers and periods of rain and there were scattered thunderstorms in the east and Midlands.

A developing ridge of high pressure moving east across the country gave a mainly dry, sunny day on the 24th but troughs from the Atlantic brought rain to all areas the next day. Meanwhile an anticyclone became established over Germany and the next two days were the warmest of the month as it extended its influence westwards—afternoon temperatures exceeded 21°C in many eastern and midland districts on the 27th.

Rain from the Atlantic spread to all areas during the afternoon and evening of the 27th, becoming heavy at times in the early hours of the 28th with widespread thundery rain and renewed thunderstorms in east and south-east England later in the day. The month ended with two sunny days with occasional showers in an unstable westerly airstream.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was below the average except in the extreme south-east of the country, the deviation at 09 hr ranging from -2.1 mb at Tiree to +0.3 mb at Shoeburyness. Surface winds were between east and north-east at first becoming mainly northerly on the 5th-7th and between west and south-west during most of the remainder of the month, apart from rather variable winds on the 20th-22nd and interludes of southerlies on the 15th-18th and 26th-27th. Wind reached gale force in Scotland on eight days and in England and Wales on the 2nd-4th, 7th, 9th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 20th-22nd and 27th-29th (fourteen days). Gusts of 54 kt were recorded at Prestwick, the Lizard and Benbecula on the 14th, 17th and 19th respectively.

Temperature — The first four days of the month were cold especially in south-east England where London had its coldest spell of April weather since 1911. However, there were warm intervals at the beginning of the third week and towards the end of the month.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 22.2°C at Gillingham, Kent, on the 27th, -6.7°C at Alwen on the 7th; (Scotland) 18.9°C at Sourhope and at Mertoun on the 27th, -6.7°C at Cairngorm on the 1st; (Northern Ireland) 17.6°C at Ballykelly on the 25th, -3.9°C at Baronscourt Forest on the 5th.

Rainfall — The number of days of rain was above average in nearly all districts, but amounts were near average except in parts of west Scotland and south-east England, where values reached 150 per cent of the average, and in parts of eastern Scotland and south-west England where only 75 per cent of the average was recorded. Glasgow had its wettest April since 1947 and Tiree its wettest since 1949.

Thunder was heard in Scotland on eight days mainly during the second half of the month. In England and Wales it was reported on the 15th-17th, 20th-23rd, 26th, 28th and 29th (ten days). Thunderstorms were fairly widespread in east and south-east England on the 16th, 22nd and 23rd.

Snow or sleet was reported from one place or another in Scotland on the 1st-4th, 6th, and 12th-15th (nine days) ground being snow-covered at 09 h in some places on the 13th and 14th. In England and Wales it occurred during the first four days of the month and was widespread on the 3rd and 4th.

Sunshine — It was a cloudy month in all areas, most places having between 70 and 90 per cent of their average amount of sunshine. Watnall reported as little as 57 per cent but Aberystwyth and Gordon Castle recorded 100 per cent.

Fog — Fog was observed at 09 hr at one place or another in Scotland on fourteen days mainly during the second half of the month. In England and Wales it was rarely widespread but was reported on the 1st-4th, 6th, 8th, 11th, 12th, 16th-19th, 22nd-25th and 26th-28th (twenty days).

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

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES— April

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

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUNSHINE
	Highest Max.	Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
			Difference from Average							
0 SCOTLAND, N.	17.8	-6.7	+0.5	+0.6	+0.5	-	-	+4	124	79
1 SCOTLAND, E.	18.9	-6.1	+0.5	+1.0	+0.8	-	-	+2	99	86
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	20.6	-5.0	+0.2	+1.3	+0.8	+0.1	-0.5	+2	110	82
3 ENGLAND, E.	21.7	-3.3	-0.3	+0.7	+0.2	-0.6	-0.9	0	147	77
4 MIDLANDS	21.1	-3.9	-0.3	+0.6	+0.2	-0.3	-0.5	+3	94	75
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	22.2	-4.0	-0.8	+0.6	-0.1	-0.4	-0.7	+3	134	81
6 SCOTLAND, W.	17.8	-6.2	+0.1	+0.8	+0.5	+0.4	-0.4	+5	114	84

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUNSHINE
	Highest Max.	Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
			Difference from Average							
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	20.0	-6.7	-0.2	+0.9	+0.3	-0.3	-0.5	+4	108	82
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	20.6	-4.4	-0.8	+0.1	-0.3	-0.3	-0.5	+4	91	78
N. IRELAND	17.6	-3.9	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	-	-	+3	90	86
SCOTLAND	18.9	-6.7	+0.4	+0.8	+0.6	-	-	+4	113	83
ENG. and WALES	22.2	-6.7	-0.4	+0.7	+0.2	-	-	+3	111	79