

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

MARCH

1992

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

VOLUME 109

NUMBER 3

Unsettled; generally wet except in the south-west

Troughs crossed all areas during the 1st, leaving a ridge affecting all parts on the 2nd. Further fronts crossed north-western areas later on the 2nd and 3rd, but high pressure covered southern areas throughout the 3rd and over the next few days. An anticyclone covered much of central and southern Europe on the 4th, limiting frontal activity mainly to northern and western areas of Great Britain, but by the 5th the anticyclone had declined, allowing troughs to cross all except easternmost counties. A ridge extended across all areas on the 6th, but further systems affected western and northern areas during the 7th, before a ridge of high pressure extended from the west to cover all parts of the United Kingdom on the 8th. Active troughs crossed many parts on the 9th and 10th and all areas on the 11th and 12th; the Scandinavian low continued to dominate and further troughs affected many areas on the 13th, especially northern England and Scotland. By the 15th the low pressure had moved away, allowing a ridge of high pressure to build from the south-west; a front became slow moving over central England, but moved northwards and eastwards across all areas during the 16th. Over the next three days several troughs crossed all parts. A waving front crossed all areas on the 19th and during the 20th the complex mid Atlantic low drifted slowly towards northern Scotland, the associated frontal systems pushing rapidly eastwards during the next three days. By the 24th pressure was again high in mid Atlantic, but remained low to the east. By the 25th the anticyclone was declining, allowing a series of fronts to cross all areas, clearing the south coast early on the 26th. A further series of fronts associated with a deepening depression near Greenland advanced from the west on the 27th, crossing all areas during the 28th and 29th. An area of low pressure covered most of the United Kingdom on the 30th and 31st, with further troughs moving around its centre.

Weather

The weather was unsettled for most of the month, with rain at times, sometimes heavy. There were, however, some more settled interludes, especially after mid month. The 18th was a wet day in many parts of the country, especially the north and west. The 20th ended wet, with very heavy rain over the Welsh hills. Most places had showers or longer periods of rain on the 30th. Thunderstorms were reported over northern and western Scotland on the 10th, at Benbecula on the 21st, in the Swansea area on the 26th and at Dunkeswell, Devon on the 30th. Frequent hail showers occurred, mainly between the 21st and 27th.

Wind

Gusts reached 75 kn at Fair Isle, Shetland on the 3rd, and more than 60 kn over Orkney and Shetland on the 11th. Over the Cairngorms and Shetland, gusts exceeded 70 kn on the 12th, with gusts over 60 kn in many other parts of the country, including the far south-west. The 13th was another windy day, with gusts widely over 50 kn. Gusts over 50 kn were again widespread on the 21st, with 64 kn measured at Valley, Gwynedd, and it remained windy over the next few days. Winds

were again strong on the 26th in exposed places in the west, with a report of 78 kn at Culdrose, Cornwall and several gusts in excess of 60 kn at Butt of Lewis, Western Isles and at Aberporth and Brawdy, Dyfed. Wind directions were mainly south-westerly, becoming easterly after the 23rd.

Temperature

Mean monthly temperatures were above normal everywhere in the United Kingdom and ranged from nearly 2.5 °C above normal in some central areas of England to less than 0.5 °C above in parts of northern Scotland.

The highest maximum temperature was 18.2 °C at Great Malvern, Hereford and Worcestershire, on the 16th, whilst the lowest minimum was -9.5 °C at Leith Hall, Grampian Region on the 14th.

Rainfall

Monthly rainfall amounts were above normal in all areas except for parts of the west Midlands and the southernmost counties of England and ranged from 218% at Mylnefield, Tayside Region to less than 50% at Preston Wynne, Hereford and Worcestershire.

The 1st was a wet day in all areas, with about 8 mm measured at places in the south-east. Heavy rain was recorded on the 29th in many areas and several stations measured more than 12 mm. Substantial amounts of rain were measured in the north-east of England on the 30th, and some stations in the south again had in excess of 12 mm. On the 31st Scotland had very heavy rain. Among heavy falls were 65 mm at Dolydd, Powys on the 21st, 57 mm at Turnhouse, Lothian Region and 52 mm at Salsburgh, Strathclyde Region on the 31st.

Snow

Sleet fell over Orkney on the 1st, and snow was reported as far south as Wiltshire on the 10th. During the 11th and 12th snow showers occurred north of a line joining Shawbury, Shropshire to

Hemsby, Norfolk, and 15 cm of snow lay at Fair Isle, Shetland on the 14th, increasing to 22 cm on 15th. On the 14th, further snowfall over Scotland gave a depth of 20 cm of level snow at Wick. By the 15th, wintry precipitation extended as far south as Essex, on the 23rd snow fell on higher ground at Holme Moss, West Yorkshire, and on the 24th some hills in Kent and East Anglia were affected. On the 29th showers were of sleet or snow over parts of Devon and South Wales, with 6 cm of level snow lying at Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan.

Sunshine

March was a very dull month with amounts of sunshine above the average only in part of north-east England, ranging from nearly 120% there, to less than 50% in parts of northern Scotland and southern England.

The 8th was generally a fine sunny day in the west, although dull in East Anglia and the south-east. The most sunshine measured in a day was 10.7 hours at Lyneham, Wiltshire on the 8th and the most in the month was 115.3 hours at Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear.

Fog

Fog patches formed in some parts of south-east England on the 1st, in many southern and eastern parts on the 4th, in the south-east at first on the 9th, and on the 19th south of a line from Cardigan Bay to London. Further fog patches developed in central areas of England on the 30th. Coastal fog occurred in Wales and south-west England on the 18th, southern coastal areas on the 20th and the Merseyside area on the 28th. Hill fog occurred over south-west England on the 18th, high ground in southern England on the 20th, the Pennines on the 28th, northern England on the 29th, and North Wales and some central parts of England on the 31st.

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	14.0	-6.1	+0.4	+0.5	+0.5	+1.3	+8	198	54
1 Scotland E	16.0	-8.0	+1.1	+1.7	+1.4	+1.7	+5	190	77
2 England E & NE	15.7	-3.8	+1.7	+1.8	+1.7	+1.7	+5	158	89
3 East Anglia	16.5	-1.6	+1.5	+2.3	+1.9	+1.8	+6	148	67
4 Midland Counties	16.6	-3.2	+1.6	+2.1	+1.8	+2.1	+7	110	71
5 England SE & Central S	15.9	-2.6	+1.4	+2.2	+1.8	+1.9	+6	100	56
6 Scotland W	14.0	-2.9	+0.9	+1.9	+1.4	+1.7	+10	220	77
7 England NW & Wales N	16.7	-2.2	+1.1	+2.2	+1.7	+2.1	+9	183	67
8 England SW & Wales S	15.4	-4.1	+0.9	+2.2	+1.4	+1.9	+7	102	61
N Ireland	16.3	-2.2	+1.0	+2.0	+1.5	+1.9	+9	194	67
Scotland	16.0	-8.0	+0.8	+1.4	+1.1	+1.6	+8	210	69
England & Wales	16.7	-4.1	+1.4	+2.1	+1.7	+1.9	+7	132	69

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations