

## October 2022

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1991-2020.

**Most of October was warmer than average, though the second week was rather cooler, and the last ten days were especially mild relative to average, with a notable lack of frosts. At the same time, the month was predominantly unsettled in most regions, with no dry spells longer than a couple of days. However, sunshine was above average for most of the country, especially central and eastern areas.**

The provisional UK mean temperature was 11.5 °C, which is 1.8 °C above the long-term average. Maximum temperatures were nearly 3 °C above average in parts of south-east England, while minimum temperatures were furthest above average in central Scotland. This was provisionally the 7th warmest October in a series from 1884. Rainfall was broadly near or above average overall, but it was rather dry in many east-coast locations, while parts of Northern Ireland were much wetter than average. The UK as a whole had 115% of average rainfall. It was a sunnier than average month for most of England, parts of Wales and the east coast of Scotland, but rather dull over western Scotland, with an overall sunshine figure of 114% of average.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 22.9 °C was recorded at Kew Gardens (Greater London) on the 29th. A minimum temperature of -3.8 °C was recorded at Aboyne (Aberdeenshire) on the 15th. In the 24 hours ending 0900 UTC on the 5th, 102.6 mm of rain fell at Honister Pass (Cumbria). A wind gust of 96 knots (110 mph) was recorded at Needles (Isle of Wight) late on the 31st.

### Weather impacts

Early in the month various weather systems prompted a number of warnings. Localised flooding was reported on the ScotRail network on the 4th, which disrupted services between Glasgow and Perth. On the same day in mid-Wales the A478 was closed for several hours due to flooding. On the 7th there was further disruption to road and rail travel in various parts of Scotland following heavy rain the previous night; trains between Perth and Inverness were suspended due to flooding of the line at Dalwhinnie, whilst in and around Glasgow some railway lines were flooded and some city bus routes were diverted.

After a relatively quiet period, the last 11 days were dominated by frequent bands of rain and showers moving north across the UK, often heavy and thundery. On the 20th, areas of very heavy thundery rain drifted slowly northwards across eastern England, with significant surface water flooding to property and roads around Bedford, as well as in parts of Essex, Kent, Nottinghamshire and Wiltshire, whilst Network Rail reported lightning damage to signalling on the East Coast Main Line between Grantham and Newark causing service disruption on that section of line.

Early on the 23rd there were reports of surface water flooding on roads in the Birmingham area; also an organised band of locally severe thunderstorms moved north-eastwards into central southern and south-east England including London, the likely cause of one or two small tornadoes including one at Marwell Zoo near Winchester. Trees were brought down by the gusty winds in both central London and Brentwood, Essex.

Heavy rainfall in Northern Ireland on the 28th was followed by incidences of surface water flooding, with Derry City, Coleraine and Enniskillen amongst those locations cited. Further heavy rain on the 31st across the UK brought renewed reports of traffic disruption in Northern Ireland, especially around Belfast where several key routes were affected.

## England diary of highlights

**The first week of October was warm, but rather unsettled at times. Temperatures were lower during the second week, especially by night, with a few drier days for many areas. The second half of the month became increasingly unsettled, but it remained very mild, with ample sunny periods in between the rain.**

With provisional mean temperatures for the month 2.0 °C above the long-term average, this was England's equal fourth warmest October in a series from 1884. Maximum temperatures were nearly 3 °C above average in parts of the south-east. Rainfall was near average overall, with Devon, Cornwall and many eastern coasts slightly drier than average but some other areas rather wetter, giving 110% of average overall. It was a sunnier than average month, particularly in central and eastern areas, with 126% of average sunshine, provisionally the eighth sunniest October in a series from 1919.

### 1st to 7th

The 1st started fine in many places but with showers across the north and the south-west, these developing over many parts by the afternoon, with more persistent rain affecting the south-west by evening, but Weybourne (Norfolk) recording 10.8 hours of bright sunshine. Rain cleared southern areas by midday on the 2nd, with sunshine for most parts but isolated showers over Cumbria. The 3rd was cloudier, with rain, mostly light and patchy, for northern and central parts. Again it was generally cloudy on the 4th, with local mist or fog patches first thing, and rain, heavy at times, spreading slowly and erratically from the north-west during the morning to reach central parts, Honister Pass (Cumbria) wettest with 102.6 mm, while southern areas saw occasional outbreaks of patchy light rain or drizzle. After a dry start for central and south-eastern counties on the 5th, rain in the north, heavy and persistent in places, spread south-eastwards through the day, eventually reaching all parts, but western areas turned drier and brighter through the afternoon with scattered showers. Much of the country was sunny on the 6th, but the north saw a few showers. After a fine start for most places on the 7th, with isolated showers for southern coastal counties, a narrow but intense band of rain, already over the north, spread steadily southwards, reaching East Anglia and the south-east by evening, with scattered showers developing in northern and central parts.

### 8th to 17th

There was some sunshine on the 8th, but morning showers in the north-west. Cloud increased from the west during the course of the 9th, with rain spreading into the north by the evening. Rain over East Anglia and the south-east cleared away by lunchtime on the 10th, leaving some sunshine, but with a few showers for the north-west. The 11th started clear and cold, frosty in a few central locations, but it was cloudier with a few showers in the north. Cloud amounts were variable on the 12th, with showers at times for many places. Northern parts had a cold night, Redesdale Camp (Northumberland) falling to -2.0 °C, with the remnants of overnight rain clearing the south-east by lunchtime on the 13th, and fog across the bulk of the country taking until late morning to clear everywhere, then generally fine. The south-west and parts of East Anglia started with fog on the 14th, with cloud and patchy rain for central and southern parts, while the north started brighter, but showers developed over the north into the afternoon, some merging into longer spells of rain. Rain in the north cleared the east coast mid-morning on the 15th, while showers developed across most regions, locally heavy and thundery in the north in the afternoon, and it was colder with temperatures at Spadeadam (Cumbria) only reaching 9.7 °C. Most places were sunny during the morning of the 16th, with just a few showers in the north, but cloud spread from the south in the afternoon, with rain, occasionally heavy, spreading into southern and central counties, and another band of rain affecting the far north late in the day. Rain cleared the south-east corner during the morning of the 17th, then it was largely sunny but with scattered showers in the north.

## 18th to 31st

On the 18th, fog cleared from many central and southern counties by lunchtime, then there was some sunshine but cloud increased across the country through the afternoon. The 19th was generally cloudy, with patchy rain for eastern coastal counties at first, brightening up in the south into the afternoon but with showers and thunderstorms developing across southern counties by the evening. There was a lot of mist and low cloud on the 20th, with showers or longer spells of rain over the country moving bodily northwards through the day, heavy and thundery in many places; the rain persisted over the north into the evening, but the south turned brighter during the afternoon with a few showers. Central and eastern areas had mist and fog on the 21st, lasting into the afternoon in the east, with showers initially over the south-west spreading east and north to affect all areas by late afternoon, turning heavy and thundery in places. Rain moved away from the north early on the 22nd, with brighter skies elsewhere, but with isolated showers along the south coast, these becoming more frequent and extensive by the afternoon with sunshine becoming more limited. Another area of rain through central and southern counties, locally heavy and thundery, spread northwards during the 23rd, reaching Cumbria and Northumberland by afternoon, while it became sunnier for a while in the south before a further band of rain and thunderstorms moved into southern districts during the afternoon, persisting into the evening, especially in the south-east. The 24th saw early mist and fog in some northern districts as well as in the south-west, this readily clearing, then showery rain developed in many areas from early afternoon. The 25th was brighter, with showers in the far south, but it turned wet over the south-west during the afternoon. There was some sunshine on the 26th, with some showers, heaviest and most frequent in the north. Many areas started wet on the 27th, some of the rain heavy, but it cleared away eastwards by early afternoon to leave drier and brighter conditions, though the north remained cloudier with isolated showers. After a very mild night, Shanklin (Isle of Wight) not falling below 16.2 °C, there was rain across most of the country early on the 28th, heaviest in the north, clearing away from all parts by late morning, then all areas had some sunshine, with just a few showers in places. Rain for central and southern counties early on the 29th spread northwards, to become slow-moving over the north, turning more showery during the afternoon; though remaining cloudy for most, it was another unseasonably warm day with Kew Gardens (London) reaching 22.9 °C. An area of rain over East Anglia and the south-east cleared after noon on the 30th, followed by lines of showers or longer spells of rain, occasionally heavy and thundery, moving eastwards through the day across all parts. The 31st began mainly dry, even sunny for some, any mist and fog patches over East Anglia and the south-east clearing mid-morning, but by afternoon it became wet and very windy with showers or longer spells of rain spreading from the south, reaching central parts by evening, turning locally very heavy and thundery especially over the south, and winds gusting later to 110 mph at Needles (Isle of Wight).

## Wales diary of highlights

**Much of the month was unsettled, but it was warmer than average except for a colder spell in the second week. There were no dry spells longer than a day or two.**

Mean temperatures for the month were provisionally 1.9 °C above the long-term average. Rainfall was near or just above average in all areas, with 111% of average. It was slightly sunnier than average, with 114% of average sunshine.

## 1st to 11th

The 1st was a day of sunny spells and scattered blustery showers. Remnants of overnight rain cleared the south during the morning of the 2nd, with some sunshine to follow, but cloud developed by the afternoon, this dissolving away again by evening. The 3rd was mostly cloudy, with occasional rain in the north by the afternoon. After a dry start, rain spread slowly from the west during the 4th, becoming widespread and occasionally heavy through the afternoon, with

Crai Reservoir (Powys) recording 87.8 mm. It was a mild night into the 5th, Cardiff Bute Park not falling below 16.4 °C, then there was widespread rain all morning, heavy at times, before it became drier and brighter with scattered showers, and an isolated thunderstorm in the north. The 6th was breezy with showers. Early showers on the 7th gave way to a band of rain, locally heavy, over the north, spreading steadily south during the morning, clearing away by late afternoon, followed by more showers. The 8th was dry and fine. There was more cloud on the 9th, with some rain in the north later. The 10th saw some sunshine and only isolated showers, St Athan (South Glamorgan) sunniest with 9.5 hours. It remained mostly fine on the 11th.

### **12th to 20th**

The 12th was cloudy with showers or longer spells of rain. After a chilly start to the 13th, Sennybridge (Powys) falling to -0.3 °C, with fog affecting many places but clearing by late morning, there was sunshine for a time but more cloud later. Overnight rain cleared away on the 14th, but was soon followed by showers or longer spells of rain crossing the country through the day. The 15th was windy, so felt chilly, with rain moving away during the morning, then dry and sunny for a time but with showers soon developing across all parts, turning locally heavy and thundery especially in the north, temperatures at Capel Curig (Gwynedd) struggling to 11.4 °C and the wind gusting to 70 mph at Aberdaron (Gwynedd). The morning of the 16th was fine, with more cloud by the afternoon giving some rain for the north, and another area of rain spreading from the south by evening. The 17th was largely sunny, apart from isolated morning showers in the south. Mist and fog for many places cleared by lunchtime on the 18th, to allow some sunshine before cloud increased during the afternoon. The 19th was rather cloudy, with scattered showers in the morning, then dry for a time in the afternoon, but an area of locally heavy showers and thunderstorms spread into the south-west in the evening. It was a murky morning on the 20th with rain and patchy fog persisting over eastern parts, drier in the west but with showers developing during the afternoon.

### **21st to 31st**

The 21st was wet with showers or longer spells of rain, heavy at times, throughout the day. The 22nd began brighter, with just a few isolated showers during the morning, but the showers gradually became more frequent and heavier into the afternoon, with the south and west bearing the brunt of these. Widespread rain, occasionally heavy, cleared away by midday on the 23rd, as it turned brighter from the south with a few showers, ahead of another band of showery rain, heavy at times, spreading into the south by early evening. The 24th was mostly cloudy with some showers. It was brighter on the 25th with isolated showers, but became wet from the south during the afternoon. Rain cleared away eastwards early on the 26th, then it turned brighter with sunny spells but also scattered showers. Widespread rain cleared east by mid-morning on the 27th, then it was mainly cloudy but with sunny intervals and scattered showers, and very mild with a maximum at Cardiff Bute Park of 19.9 °C. Widespread rain quickly cleared away during the morning of the 28th, then it was brighter with just isolated showers. Widespread and occasionally heavy rain cleared away north by mid-morning on the 29th, followed by scattered showers or longer spells of rain. The 30th was wet, frequent showers merging at times into prolonged spells of occasionally heavy and thundery rain. It began mainly dry but cloudy on the 31st, with only isolated showers in the morning, but became very wet from the south during the afternoon with a band of occasionally heavy rain moving north, reaching all but the far north by evening.

### **Scotland diary of highlights**

**The month remained rather warm overall, but it was colder between the 7th and 19th, and the last third of the month was particularly mild and remarkably frost-free. It was mostly unsettled, with very few dry days.**

Provisional monthly mean temperatures were 1.5 °C above average. Night-time temperatures were well above average in many areas. Rainfall was well above average in parts of the west and south-west, and slightly lower than average in the north-east, amounting to 116% of average for Scotland as a whole. Sunshine was below average in most western areas, with eastern fringes rather brighter, giving 93% of the long-term average overall.

### **1st to 7th**

The 1st was showery and blustery, especially in western areas. Showers were fewer on the 2nd, but still heavy at times in the west, with eastern districts brighter, Dunbar (East Lothian) recording 10.2 hours of sunshine. The 3rd was dull, with rain soon starting to spread north-eastwards, becoming heavy at times and covering all areas by mid-afternoon but clearing the south later, Achnagart (Ross & Cromarty) recording 85.4 mm, but it was mild with Achfary (Sutherland) reaching 19.1 °C. Remaining mild and windy on the 4th after an overnight minimum at Prestwick Gannet (Ayrshire) of 13.9 °C, with widespread and occasionally heavy rain, clearing most parts later but continuing over the Borders into the evening, while turning brighter from the north-west with showers. Rain in the south on the 5th cleared away by early afternoon, followed by bands of showers or longer spells of rain, heavy at times, with only the north-east staying mostly dry. The 6th was windy with frequent showers, becoming very wet in the west during the afternoon with prolonged and heavy rain, although drier and brighter for eastern parts. Showers on the 7th were heaviest and most frequent over the west and north, with eastern areas enjoying sunshine and very few showers.

### **8th to 16th**

The 8th was brighter, with showers mainly over central and southern counties. The 9th was generally dull with rain already in the west spreading eastwards through the day, becoming widespread and heavy at times by early evening. Showers on the 10th were heaviest and most frequent on the western side. Cloud, showers and outbreaks of rain affected all areas during the 11th. It started wet on the 12th, showers or longer spells of rain affecting all parts, becoming clearer through the afternoon but with showers continuing over the north and west. After some early fog in the south on the 13th, some areas were sunny but cloud and rain, heavy in places, already in the west spread steadily eastwards to all parts by early evening. A band of rain cleared the south by lunchtime on the 14th, quickly followed from the west by bands of showers, locally prolonged and heavy, with thunder in places, for most of the day, but becoming more isolated after dusk. After a cold night, Aboyne (Aberdeenshire) falling to -3.8 °C, the 15th became very wet across most parts during the morning, the rain area clearing away north and east during the morning but soon followed from the west by showers or longer spells of rain, heavy at times, with just the north-east staying mainly dry. Most areas saw showers or spells of rain on the morning of the 16th, the rain moving north, turning more showery in nature and becoming steadily more isolated into the afternoon, but another band of rain reached the Borders after dark.

### **17th to 31st**

The 17th was wet, with showers and spells of rain, some heavy, affecting all areas through the day. The 18th was drier and brighter, with patchy mist and fog for central and southern parts first thing, and any showers over the north becoming increasingly isolated but most areas clouding over from mid-afternoon. It was generally cloudy and remained cool on the 19th, with patchy light rain across some eastern parts in the morning, an area of occasionally heavy and persistent rain skirting the south-west through the afternoon, and a maximum at Lerwick (Shetland) of only 8.0 °C. All of Scotland was wet on the 20th, with spells of rain, occasionally heavy and thundery, lasting through the day and turning particularly heavy over the south from mid-afternoon. After mist and fog across many parts during the morning of the 21st, rain over the north turned showery by lunchtime, and more showers developed over central and southern counties in the afternoon.

The morning of the 22nd was wet for the Borders and over the north-east, with some mist and fog, the rain in the south slowly moving northwards and showers further north becoming more widespread. The 23rd was cloudy, with some mist and fog especially in the north, and patchy light rain in places, before a band of heavy rain spread north into the Borders from late morning, reaching central parts by mid-afternoon and persisting into the evening. Mist and fog for eastern and southern counties cleared away on the 24th, then rain for some central and northern parts moved north through the day and showers developed over western and southern districts in the afternoon. The 25th was rather brighter, with showers in some western areas while the north and east stayed mainly dry. The morning of the 26th was wet with bands of rain or showers, occasionally heavy, crossing the country, eventually clearing the north coast after lunch, to leave brighter conditions but with some showers. After some heavy rain for southern and central parts during the morning of the 27th, it became drier by the afternoon but showers continued in some western districts. The 28th was windy, with widespread and locally heavy rain clearing away northwards by mid-afternoon, followed by sunny intervals with a few showers persisting across the west, Stornoway (Western Isles) reporting gusts to 66 mph. Rain reached the Borders early on the 29th and spread north through the day, reaching central parts after midday, turning showery and locally heavy and prolonged especially in the west, with the north staying dry and bright. The 30th was wet, frequent showers initially over the west soon spreading eastwards and merging to give some prolonged and occasionally heavy periods of rain, though the north-east remained mainly dry and bright. Western areas were dull and cloudy on the 31st with rain, occasionally heavy and persistent, but it was much drier further east.

## **Northern Ireland diary of highlights**

**The month was characterised by warmer than average weather, although it was predominantly unsettled with numerous wet days. It was colder for a time towards mid-month, but particularly mild in the final part of the month.**

The mean temperature for the month was 1.4 °C above average. Rainfall was above average across the Province, especially in the south and west, amounting to 154% of the average monthly total. Sunshine was slightly deficient, amounting to 86% of average.

### **1st to 9th**

The 1st saw sunny spells and scattered blustery showers. It was rather cloudy at times on the 2nd with some outbreaks of light rain. Widespread rain during the morning of the 3rd, occasionally heavy, became lighter and patchier through the afternoon. After a mild night, Belfast Newforge recording a minimum of 14.1 °C, the 4th had rain for all parts during the morning, heavy at times, turning drier briefly in the afternoon but with further rain again by evening. The 5th was wet and windy with showers or longer spells of rain, heavy and thundery at times. Showers merged at times into prolonged periods of rain on the 6th, heaviest and most frequent over the north and west, very mild though with Murlough (Down) reaching 18.9 °C. The 7th brought widespread, locally heavy and occasionally thundery showers, with winds gusting to 62 mph at Killowen (Down). The 8th was sunny with only isolated showers, but the 9th saw a return to wet weather with rain, heavy at times, spreading from the west during the morning, becoming widespread and persistent, only clearing from the west in late afternoon.

### **10th to 18th**

The 10th was a day of sunny intervals and showers. Mainly light rain affected all parts during the 11th. After scattered showers on the morning of the 12th, it turned drier and brighter through the afternoon. The 13th started clear and cold, with Katesbridge (Down) falling to -1.2 °C overnight, with patchy fog in sheltered spots clearing late morning, then after some sunshine it clouded over through the afternoon with outbreaks of rain reaching all parts. Overnight rain cleared away

southwards early on the 14th, with sunshine for a time, but showers soon developed, widespread and locally heavy for a time in the afternoon, but dying away again later. The 15th was windy and rather cool, with frequent showers or longer spells of locally heavy rain for all parts at times through the day, and Killylane (Antrim) struggling to only 9.2 °C. After a fine bright start on the 16th, cloud increased by midday, with rain spreading from the south from early afternoon and becoming widespread. The 17th brought some showers. Mist and fog for many places on the 18th all cleared by lunchtime, then it was fine, Magilligan (Londonderry) sunniest with 8.3 hours.

### **19th to 31st**

The 19th was very wet, as an area of rain spread up from the south during the morning, becoming persistent and heavy in places for a time but turning lighter and patchier in the west during the afternoon, while the heaviest rain continued over the east into the evening. Patchy fog and drizzle in places on the 20th gave way to brighter weather by lunchtime, with sunny spells for most places during the afternoon. The 21st was dull and cloudy with bands of showers or longer spells of rain, and it continued generally wet on the 22nd. Widespread and occasionally heavy rain during the morning of the 23rd cleared away northwards through the afternoon. After some mist and fog in central parts on the 24th, it remained rather cloudy with scattered showers. There was patchy light rain on the 25th, this turning heavy in the east in the evening with Trassey (Down) recording 37.5 mm. Remnants of heavy rain cleared the east coast early on the 26th, then it was brighter but with isolated showers, some turning locally heavy. The 27th was cloudy with patchy rain or showers. Widespread overnight rain soon cleared during the morning of the 28th, then after a dry sunny interlude scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms developed across the west and north. Rain spread northwards on the 29th, becoming widespread and occasionally heavy by late morning, but clearing away in the afternoon, replaced by scattered and locally heavy showers. The 30th was rather cloudy with showers, locally heavy. After a dry start on the 31st, rain in the west spread to all areas by midday, becoming persistent and locally heavy.