

October 2019

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1981-2010.

October began with a warm showery day in the south, and while colder air quickly spread from the north followed by a transient ridge of high pressure, low pressure and associated fronts returned by the 4th. Until the 20th the weather was unsettled with frequent low pressure systems and rain belts crossing the country, and the jet stream was further south than normal, resulting in frontal systems often especially affecting the south and east of England. There was a quieter interlude from the 21st to 23rd, and then after a very wet spell on the 24th to 26th. The weather turned cold, dry and sunny for most of the country from the 27th to 30th, although the far south-west remained very wet at times.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 9.0 °C, which is 0.5 °C below the 1981-2010 long-term average. Both mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures were within 0.5 °C of the long-term average in the south, but were between 0.5 °C and 1.0 °C below over much of Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England. Rainfall was 109% of average, and it was a wet month over most of England and Wales with some parts of eastern England, notably in Yorkshire, and also the far south-west, having more than twice the normal rainfall, but in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Cumbria it was generally drier than average. Sunshine was 95% of average, and sunshine was below normal over most of England and Wales but above normal in most parts of Scotland, Northern Ireland, Cumbria and north Lancashire.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 21.3 °C was recorded at Trawsgoed (Dyfed) on the 1st. A minimum temperature of -6.2 °C was recorded at Altnaharra (Sutherland) on the 31st. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 GMT on the 26th, 101.0 mm of rain fell at Lebanus (Powys). A wind gust of 66 knots (76 mph) was recorded at the Needles (Isle of Wight) on the 18th.

Weather impacts

Following a very wet end to September, October began with a number of weather impacts due to flooding. These included the closure of the rail lines connecting Carlisle to Newcastle and Barrow, and a number of road and school closures in north-west England and the west Midlands. There was some disruption to roads in the east and southeast of England due to flooding and a lighthouse bungalow collapsed into the sea at Orfordness lighthouse.

On the 6th, further heavy rain contributed to flooding of properties in Felixstowe, Beccles, Adleburgh, Wrentham, Lowestoft and Cromer. There were reports of damage to infrastructure and road closures, where some roads were damaged by fast flowing water through drainage networks.

During the subsequent unsettled weather there were scattered reports of weather impacts. On the 13th there was flooding on the rail line between Linlithgow and Edinburgh Park which caused disruption and delays on other Edinburgh routes. Parts of the A1 in Scotland were closed on the 19th due to flooding.

On the 25th, heavy rain resulted in a number of impacts. In Wales many minor and trunk roads were flooded, and water rescues were carried out on stranded vehicles, and rail lines were impacted by flooding. There was flooding of farm land, and some reports of property flooding in Monmouthshire. There were delays and disruption on road and rail lines due to flooding in

northern England and the West Midlands. Northern England also saw some property flooding. Staffordshire and Hertfordshire town centres were flooded, and there was property flooding in Stoke on Trent with rescues from houses and stranded vehicles.

England diary of highlights

The jet stream tracked over southern Britain for most of the month, resulting in a wet and cloudy month for most of England. The weather briefly turned more settled on the 21st-23rd, and colder quieter weather affected most parts from the 27th onwards although cloud and rain were persistent in the south west.

The mean temperature for October was provisionally 0.4 °C below the 1981-2010 long-term average, and temperatures were close to normal in the south but below normal in central and northern counties. Rainfall was 136% of average and sunshine was 84% of average, and some eastern parts, especially in Yorkshire, had over twice the normal rainfall amount. In contrast, in Cumbria it was drier and sunnier than average.

1st to 6th

Rain over northern parts headed slowly southwards on the 1st, with sunshine and thundery showers in central and southern parts, where it was warm with a minimum of 15.3 °C at Teignmouth (Devon) and St Catherine's Point (Wight) and a maximum of 21.1 °C at Heathrow (London). A cold northerly flow brought a sunny day for most on the 2nd with 11.4 hours of bright sunshine at East Malling (Kent), and as a ridge of high pressure moved in from the west, there was a frost in places overnight 2nd/3rd, mainly in inland rural locations. The colder quieter interlude did not last long, as cloud and belts of rain, heavy for a time in the north, spread from the south-west on the 3rd, and the 4th was a mostly cloudy day with strong winds in the south early in the day. Further rain belts spread from the west on the 5th, persisting for much of the 6th in East Anglia and the south-east, but it turned brighter elsewhere.

7th to 12th

The unsettled weather continued, with mainly westerly winds. Belts of rain moved eastwards across the country on the 7th, followed by sunshine and showers on the 8th and 9th, the showers locally thundery in the south. After a dry bright start on the 10th, cloud and rain spread from the west, the rain heaviest in the west and especially north-west. A band of rain became slow moving from the south-west up to East Anglia on the 11th and 12th, but further north it brightened up on the 12th with some scattered showers.

13th to 20th

The jet stream moved further south and low pressure systems tracked over the country bringing further bands of rain. A band of rain spread across the country on the 13th, and further rain spread across most areas on the 14th, although the far north-west remained dry, and thunderstorms affected the far south-east during the evening. The 15th was a mostly cloudy day, following a foggy start in some areas, particularly the south-west, and there was some light rain or drizzle mainly around the coasts. A band of rain cleared eastwards early on the 16th followed by a brighter day. Central and southern parts had sunshine and showers from the 17th to 19th, and it turned very windy in the south on the 18th with a gust to 76 mph at the Needles (Isle of Wight). The north-east had a mostly dry sunny day on the 17th, but rain affected the north-east on the 18th and affected most northern parts on the 19th. The 20th was a bright day for most but showers spread southwards through eastern areas and into the Midlands.

21st to 26th

A weak ridge of high pressure brought quieter weather from the 21st to 23rd, but rain affected the far south-east on the 21st, and northern areas were cloudier on the 22nd and 23rd. Rain also spread into the south-east on the 23rd. The period 24th to 26th was generally very wet, although the west had brighter spells on the 24th. Buxton (Derbyshire) recorded 67.2 mm of rain on the 25th, and Leek (Staffordshire) had a maximum of only 5.2°C on the 26th.

27th to 31st

High pressure built to the north of the UK bringing colder settled weather. There were a few showers in the north-west on the 27th, but other areas were dry and sunny. The 28th and 29th had some scattered showers near the east coast and cloud and rain over the south-west, but elsewhere it was sunny and dry, with some overnight frost in many places. Showers died away in eastern counties on the 30th, while the rain in the south-west intensified, where it also became windy in exposed parts. Light rain and drizzle affected the south-west on the 31st, but the north and east were dry and bright, following another fairly widespread frost with a minimum of -4.5 °C at Shap (Cumbria).

Wales diary of highlights

October was a generally unsettled month with low pressure systems and rain belts moving in from the west at frequent intervals. It was more settled from the 21st to 23rd and again from the 27th onwards, when it also turned colder.

The mean temperature for the month was provisionally 0.4 °C below the long-term average. Rainfall was 117% of average and sunshine was 84% of average. Rainfall was generally above average but not exceptionally so, while sunshine was near average in the north-west but generally below average elsewhere.

1st to 6th

The 1st was a warm day with sunshine, showers and isolated thunderstorms, with a minimum of 14.5 °C at Prestatyn (Clwyd) and a maximum of 21.3 °C at Trawsgoed (Dyfed). A northerly incursion brought a colder, mostly dry sunny day on the 2nd, followed by a cold, locally frosty, night on the 2nd/3rd. The quieter weather was short-lived, as on the 3rd a belt of rain spread from the west, and the 4th started off very wet for most, though becoming drier and brighter in the afternoon. Another belt of rain spread from the west on the 5th, followed by a mainly sunny day on the 6th with 9.4 hours of sunshine at St Athan (South Glamorgan), although there were also some scattered showers.

7th to 12th

It remained unsettled with mostly westerly winds. Another belt of rain spread eastwards on the 10th, clearing away by mid-afternoon, and the 8th and 9th had a mix of sunshine and showers. The 10th was cloudier and increasingly windy with gusts to 67 mph at Aberdaron (Gwynedd), with rain in the north-west becoming more widespread. A belt of rain moved south-eastwards on the 11th, and was very slow to clear in the south. The rain cleared the far south-east early on the 12th, followed by sunshine and showers.

13th to 20th

The weather remained unsettled, with more variable winds as lows tracked further south. Rain on the morning of the 13th cleared away into the afternoon leaving sunshine and scattered showers. After a dry bright start, rain spread from the south-east on the 14th, though not reaching the far north and west. The 15th was a mostly cloudy day with some light rain spreading into central and western parts by dusk, then the 16th was brighter with isolated showers. There was a mix of

sunshine and showers from the 17th to 19th, with plenty of cloud on the 18th and 19th, although the 19th had more sunshine in the east and south. The 20th was brighter but still with some scattered showers, mainly in northern and central parts.

21st to 26th

A ridge of high pressure brought quieter weather from the 21st to 23rd. Some sunny spells developed on the 21st, following clearance of early light rain in the south-east. The 22nd was mostly sunny and dry in the south-east, but cloudier with a little light rain and drizzle towards the north-west. Some patchy light rain moved into south-eastern parts late on the 23rd, otherwise it was a dry day, with some sunshine in central and south-western areas but cloudier elsewhere. The 24th was a bright day with some showers, with showers becoming more widespread in the afternoon. It was very wet on the 25th and 26th, and Libanus (Powys) recorded 101 mm of rain on the 25th and only reached a high of 5.8 °C on the 26th.

27th to 31st

High pressure built to the north bringing cold dry sunny weather on the 27th and 28th, and the intervening night was frosty inland with a minimum of -3.8 °C at St Harmon (Powys). The 29th and 30th were cloudier in the south with rain moving into the far south and south-west at times. Cloudier weather spread to all parts on the 31st, accompanied by some light rain and drizzle.

Scotland diary of highlights

The weather was generally unsettled until the 26th, but increasingly during the second half of the month Scotland lay to the north of the jet stream which led to longer dry bright spells in between the rain belts. From the 27th the weather turned cold and sunny.

The mean temperature for October was provisionally 0.8 °C below the 1981-2010 average. Rainfall was 87% of average and sunshine was 118% of average, with western areas tending to be sunniest relative to the long-term normal.

1st to 6th

October began with a northerly outbreak, and rain cleared southern parts on the 1st followed by sunshine and showers, most of the showers in the north and east, where they were wintry over high ground. The 2nd was a mostly sunny day with 10.7 hours of bright sunshine at Dundrennan (Kirkcudbrightshire), but cloudier in the north with showers, most of the showers in the north-east. The nights of the 1st/2nd and 2nd/3rd were frosty in inland rural areas. Bands of rain spread in from the south-west on the 3rd, tending to fragment as they headed north-eastwards. The 4th was cloudy for most with a little rain, but brighter in the far north. Further rain belts spread from the south-west on the 5th, giving 59 mm at Islay (Argyll), and a warm night followed with Tiree (Argyll) not falling below 11.8 °C, and much of the country had a wet day on the 6th.

7th to 12th

Westerly and south-westerly winds prevailed during this period with plenty of orographic enhancement of rainfall in the west. Rain cleared slowly eastwards on the 7th, followed by sunshine and heavy blustery showers. The 8th and 9th were mostly cloudy with heavy showers merging into longer spells of rain in central and western areas, while the east stayed mostly dry. After a bright start on the 10th with some scattered showers in the north and west, rain spread from the south-west. The 11th and 12th had sunshine and showers in central and western areas, staying mostly dry in the east, and on the 11th the showers merged into longer spells of rain.

13th to 20th

The jet stream moved further south, and although it remained generally unsettled, Scotland was often drier and sunnier than further south. The 13th saw rain spread northwards from the Borders from late morning, but the north was bright with just a few showers in the north-west. Rain moved northwards along the west coast on the 14th, but most other parts stayed dry. The 15th was a generally cloudy day with some patchy light rain in eastern coastal areas. A belt of rain spread north-eastwards on the 16th followed by sunshine and scattered showers, and on the 17th showers were mainly confined to the south and south-west, although a few penetrated further north and east during the day. Rain spread from the east to most parts on the 18th, heavy and persistent in the east, with only Shetland and the far west staying dry and bright. The rain band cleared southwards on the 19th followed by sunshine and showers, and the 20th was a bright day with scattered showers mainly in the north and east.

21st to 26th

A ridge of high pressure resulted in a frost in some areas on the 21st, particularly the south-west, followed by a mainly dry sunny day but it clouded over in the far north and west with rain spreading into the far north-west. The 22nd and 23rd were cloudy, with some rain in the north, mainly dry in the south, but more general rain spread from the west late on the 23rd. From the 24th to 26th it was mostly bright with some heavy showers in the west but dry in the east, and it turned very windy in the north on the 25th with gusts to 69 mph at Lerwick (Shetland). On the 26th the showers turned wintry over high ground.

27th to 31st

It was generally cold, dry and sunny from the 27th to 30th with high pressure building across northern Scotland. There were frequent showers in the north on the 27th, these wintry on high ground, but the showers became increasingly confined to north and east-facing coasts from the 28th to 30th. Frost developed quite widely overnight, and the month's lowest temperature was a minimum of -6.2 °C at Altnaharra (Sutherland) early on the 31st. Lentrane (Invernesshire) only reached 3.2 °C on the 31st, and late in the day some patchy rain spread into the south-west and moved eastwards.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

October's weather was generally changeable with belts of rain interspersed with brighter showery weather until the 26th, but it turned dry, sunny and cold from the 27th to 30th.

The mean temperature for October was provisionally 0.7 °C below the long-term average. It was sunnier than average everywhere, and rainfall was mostly below average except in the extreme south, and Northern Ireland as a whole had 84% of average rainfall and 120% of average sunshine.

1st to 6th

Rain cleared the far east on the 1st, and the weather brightened up during the afternoon as a ridge of high pressure moved in from the west, but on the 2nd cloud increased again from the west. A band of rain spread through all parts on the 3rd, giving 38.9 mm of rain at Lough Navar (County Fermanagh), and it became windy. The 4th was a cloudy day with some light rain, and this led into a warm night with the temperature falling no lower than 12.6 °C at Murlough (County Down) overnight 4th/5th. It turned wet from the west on the 5th, but a ridge of high pressure brought a mostly dry sunny day on the 6th.

7th to 12th

Westerly winds dominated bringing showers and occasional longer spells of rain. Rain cleared eastwards on the 7th followed by sunshine and showers, and it turned windy with a gust to 63 mph

at Magilligan (County Londonderry). The 8th and 9th had a mix of sunshine and showers, with the showers more scattered on the 9th. A belt of rain moved north-eastwards through the country on the 10th, followed by a return to sunshine and scattered showers on the 11th and 12th.

13th to 20th

The generally unsettled theme continued with low pressure systems tracking further south. Another belt of rain moved eastwards through the country on the 13th, mainly affecting the south and east, followed by sunshine and heavy showers. The 14th was a generally wet day, and some spots had fog patches early on the 15th, which was a cloudy day with a little light rain. The 16th was a much brighter day with just a few showers in the west, with 9.2 hours of bright sunshine at Aldergrove (County Antrim). The period 17th to 20th was mostly bright and showery, but the 19th started cloudy with some longer spells of rain in the east. On the 20th the showers were somewhat fewer with many places staying dry and sunny.

21st to 26th

A ridge of high pressure led to a cold night overnight 20th/21st with some frost locally, followed by a dry sunny day for most but it turned cloudier from the north-west. The 22nd was a generally cloudy day, but with some brighter spells in the north-west, and on the 23rd a band of rain, heavy at times, spread east to all parts during the afternoon. The 24th was a day of sunshine and showers, then the 25th was cloudy and cold with persistent rain in the south, and a high of only 4.9 °C at Lough Fea (County Londonderry). The 26th was another day of sunshine and showers.

27th to 31st

The weather turned dry, sunny and cold as high pressure built to the north. The 27th and 28th were mostly sunny with just isolated showers, these mainly in the north, and the intervening night was frosty with a minimum of -4.4 °C at Katesbridge (County Down) early on the 28th. The 29th and 30th were again dry and sunny with isolated showers in the east, but cloud increased from the south late on the 30th, and the 31st was a cloudy day with some light rain and drizzle and turned misty in the east.