

September 2020

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

September began with a ridge of high pressure, but westerlies dominated from the 2nd until the 12th bringing areas of rain interspersed with brighter showery weather, though high pressure increasingly influenced the south at times. It turned hot in places, especially south-east England, around mid-month, and the 16th to 21st was settled with high pressure and plenty of warm sunshine for most parts of the UK. The weather turned much cooler and more unsettled from the 22nd, and it was very wet and windy in Norfolk on the 25th. With clear skies and slackening northerly winds further west from the 25th to 27th, frost developed overnight in some places.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 12.9 °C, which is 0.2 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. Mean maximum temperatures were mostly up to 1 °C above average, but nearer 1.5 °C above average in parts of south-east England. Mean minimum temperatures were mostly up to 0.5 °C below average. For most of the UK it was a dry sunny month, with 77% of average rainfall and 117% of average sunshine, but rainfall was above average in Norfolk and in parts of western Scotland.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 31.3 °C was recorded at Frittenden (Kent) on the 15th. Minimum temperatures of -5.0 °C were recorded at Altnaharra (Sutherland) on the 24th and at Braemar (Aberdeenshire) on the 27th. In the 24 hours to 0900 GMT on the 13th, 88.4 mm of rain fell at Glen Nevis (Inverness-shire). Wind gusts of 58 knots (67 mph) were observed at Weybourne (Norfolk) and Donna Nook (Lincolnshire) on the 25th.

Weather impacts

On the 2nd in Scotland, there was flooding on the A75 near Auchenlarie, with ScotRail reporting disruption to services between Glasgow Central and Ardrossan Harbour. Much of the month was then free of significant impacts until the weather turned more unsettled in the last week.

On the 24th heavy hail showers left up to an inch of hail on the ground in West and North Yorkshire, with flash flooding in Bingley. On the 25th, sand drifts up to 1.5m high were reported in people's gardens in Norfolk with reports of fallen trees, power cuts and flooding across Norfolk. Speed restrictions were imposed on the QE2 Bridge, and the Port of Felixstowe was closed due to high winds. On the railways, trees fell on the track on the Sheringham line, some lines around Norwich, and between Westerfield and Derby Road. Impacts were reported on the roads, with fallen trees blocking the A12 and other Suffolk roads. There were reports of damage to boats and equipment in harbours along the coast. Trees blocked the railway between Skegness and Boston, and there were delays to rail travel due to trees blocking lines in south-east England.

On the 30th, heavy rain caused flooding on the railway near Barrhill on the Stranraer line.

England diary of highlights

After a quiet day on the 1st, the early part of September was unsettled with areas of rain moving in from the west, interspersed with brighter showery weather. There was a spell of mostly dry sunny weather and high daytime temperatures from the 13th to 21st, and it became hot in the south-east around mid-month. The weather turned much more unsettled and cooler from the 22nd, with strong winds at times, and it was very wet and windy in Norfolk on the 25th.

The mean temperature for September was provisionally 0.3 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average, with temperatures generally above average by day but a little below average by night. Most places had a dry sunny month, with 65% of average rainfall and 121% of average sunshine overall, but it was wetter than average over much of Norfolk.

1st to 6th

Most of the country had a dry bright day with variable amounts of cloud on the 1st, following clearance of patchy fog in the Vale of York and parts of the south-west. Preston Cove House (Dorset) and Morecambe (Lancashire) both recorded 12.5 hours of sunshine. A belt of wet and windy weather spread eastwards on the 2nd, giving 65.2 mm at Mickleden (Cumbria). The rain became light and patchy by the 3rd as it slowly moved south-eastwards through the Midlands and south, with sunshine and scattered blustery showers in the north, the showers mainly in the north-west. It was generally cloudy on the 4th, with some rain in the south-west in the evening. The 5th had sunny intervals and most places were dry, but heavy and locally thundery showers developed in the north-west, with isolated showers elsewhere. Showers in the west early on the 6th spread to many other parts during the day but the south-east stayed dry.

7th to 12th

The weather remained unsettled but high pressure moved into southern areas at times. Fronts brought bands of rain south-eastwards through the country on the 7th, heavy at times in the north-west but generally light and patchy elsewhere, and plenty of cloud. Most places started dry and cloudy on the 8th, except for patchy rain and drizzle mainly in the north-west, and it became sunny and warm in parts of the south and east. A band of cloud and a little light rain moved south-eastwards through southern areas on the 9th, with sunny weather to the north following behind. A ridge of high pressure brought a dry sunny day to the south and south-east on the 10th, but cloud tended to increase elsewhere, and it became cloudier generally on the 11th with rain moving into the north-west from late morning, spreading south-east but fizzling out. The 12th was generally sunny except in the far north, where rain spread into the north-west from late afternoon.

13th to 21st

The weather became generally sunny and warm, and hot for a time in the south. Central and northern counties started off cloudy on the 13th with a little light rain or drizzle, but sunny warm weather spread from the south. It was generally sunny and warm on the 14th, after fog cleared over much of the Midlands and south, and hot in the south-east. Showers and longer outbreaks of rain moved through Devon and Cornwall on the 15th, spreading into parts of the north, but it remained hot and sunny in many other areas with a high of 31.3 °C at Frittenden (Kent). This was followed by a warm night on the 15th/16th with London St James's Park falling no lower than 19.2 °C. Showery rain cleared East Anglia and the south-east on the 16th, with sunshine for central and south-western counties, but cooler cloudier weather spread from the north. Most places were dry, sunny and warm from the 17th to 21st inclusive, with fog patches forming overnight in places, but showers and longer spells of rain affected some south coast counties at times on the 19th and 20th and low cloud was persistent in the north-east on the 20th.

22nd to 30th

The weather quickly turned autumnal. It started off dry and sunny in central and eastern counties on the 22nd, cloudier in the north-east and south-east, with cloud spreading to most areas by late afternoon and light rain and drizzle developing mainly in the west. Bands of rain spread eastwards across the country on the 23rd, with isolated thunderstorms breaking out from late afternoon. Most places had bright intervals, showers, longer spells of rain and scattered thunderstorms on the 24th, while it was cold, dull and wet in the north with a high of just 8.6 °C at Shap and Spadeadam (both Cumbria) and Bainbridge (North Yorkshire). It was also very windy in some

areas. It was cold, wet and very windy in some counties bordering the North Sea on the 25th, especially Norfolk, with gusts to 67 mph at Donna Nook (Lincolnshire) and Weybourne (Norfolk), and 45.2 mm of rain at Houghton Hall (Norfolk), but sunny with isolated showers in the west. An east-west split continued on the 26th and 27th, remaining cool for all, mostly sunny in central and western counties and cloudier in the east, with rain or showers easing. Ravensworth (North Yorkshire) fell to $-1.3\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ early on the 28th, followed by a cloudy day for most with a belt of light rain slowly progressing eastwards across the country, and proving slow to clear in the south-east and East Anglia on the 29th. Brighter weather followed behind to most other parts on the 29th, then wind and rain spread eastwards on the 30th followed by brighter showery weather into the west.

Wales diary of highlights

September started off unsettled with mainly westerly winds. There was a spell of generally dry sunny weather from the 12th to 21st associated with high pressure, and it briefly turned very warm or hot around mid-month. From the 22nd onwards it turned much cooler and more unsettled.

The mean temperature for the month was $0.2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ above the long-term average. It was a dry sunny month for much of the country with 65% of average rainfall and 120% of average sunshine, although both sunshine and rainfall were near average in the far south-west.

1st to 6th

A ridge of high pressure led to fog patches in the north early on the 1st, followed by a dry sunny day for most with 11.9 hours of bright sunshine at St Athan (South Glamorgan). A broad area of rain crossed the country on the 2nd, giving 48.6 mm at Aberllefenni, Cymerau Farm (Powys). A slow-moving front on the 3rd brought a mainly cloudy start with some rain and drizzle in central and southern parts, but this cleared eastwards with sunny spells developing, especially in the west, and there were strong winds in exposed parts. The 4th was a cloudy day with further light rain at times in the south, then the 5th and 6th were brighter with scattered showers, though the 6th generally had more cloud and showers than the 5th.

7th to 12th

Some central parts had fog early on the 7th, otherwise it was a generally dull day with bands of rain moving south-eastwards. Most places were dry and cloudy on the 8th, but with rain and drizzle in western counties, and brief sunny interludes in central and south-western parts. A weak frontal system brought some light rain and drizzle in the south early on the 9th, otherwise it became dry and sunny from the north. A ridge of high pressure affected Wales from the 10th, but the 10th and 11th were mainly cloudy, with light rain in places early on the 10th, and after a drier brighter interlude on the afternoon of the 11th, a band of more persistent rain crossed the north late in the day. The 12th was largely dry with sunny periods.

13th to 21st

High pressure edged in from the south on the 13th and 14th with southerly winds. The 13th had a mainly cloudy morning and sunny afternoon, with strong winds and gusts to 60 mph at Capel Curig (Gwynedd). Fog was slow to clear in some spots on the 14th, otherwise it was warm and sunny with a high of $27.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ at Gogerddan (Dyfed) and Cardiff Bute Park. Bands of showery rain moved northwards through the country on the 15th, with brighter weather in between. The 16th was a dry day with some fog patches in places early on, but many areas were cloudy. High pressure and dry sunny weather dominated from the 17th to 21st inclusive, and it was warm by day, but with low cloud and fog patches forming widely overnight.

22nd to 30th

After a bright start for central and eastern parts on the 22nd, cloud and some light rain spread from the west, introducing a marked change to cool and unsettled weather. Rain spread from the west overnight 22nd/23rd, clearing around midday on the 23rd, followed by sunshine and showers and isolated thunderstorms through the afternoon, heaviest and most prolonged in the south-west. There were showers and longer outbreaks of rain, locally heavy and thundery, on the 24th. A chilly northerly flow set in on the 25th and 26th with a ridge of high pressure building to the west, so the 25th was brighter with just scattered showers, and it was generally dry with plenty of sunshine on the 26th and 27th. It was cool, with a minimum of -2.2 °C at St Harmon (Powys) early on the 26th and a maximum of just 9.7 °C at Lake Vyrnwy (Powys), also on the 26th. Cloud and some light rain spread from the west on the 28th. The 29th was generally dry and bright, with isolated showers developing in the west, but the 30th was generally wet with bands of persistent and sometimes heavy rain crossing the country.

Scotland diary of highlights

September began with mainly westerly winds and some outbreaks of wet and windy weather, interspersed with brighter weather with showers. There was a settled spell in the third week, with a sequence of dry sunny warm days, then it turned unsettled again from the 22nd onwards.

The mean temperature for the month was 0.1 °C above the long-term average. It was a slightly drier and sunnier than average month overall, with 90% of average rainfall and 107% of average sunshine. Rainfall was near to rather above average in the west, but below average in the east.

1st to 6th

The 1st was a sunny day in the north-east, but cloudier elsewhere with some patchy, mainly light, rain. A more organised area of rain spread from the west on the 2nd, most persistent in central and southern parts. The rain cleared by the 3rd leaving sunshine and scattered blustery showers, with strong winds at times and gales in exposed parts. The 4th and 5th had scattered showers, heaviest and most frequent in the north and west, and some sunshine as well, particularly on the 4th, but it was generally cloudier on the 5th. Showers were more isolated on the 6th, but cloud and rain affected the Borders until late morning and an area of rain spread into the north-west from late afternoon.

7th to 15th

It was generally cloudy on the 7th with rain affecting all parts on and off through the day. Some eastern and central parts had a sunny dry start on the 8th, but western areas had rain, turning heavier and more frequent and spreading eastwards through the afternoon. The 9th had a mix of sunshine and showers, following a dry sunny start in the south and east. A ridge of high pressure on the 10th allowed a bright start, but it turned cloudy with rain spreading in, becoming heavier and more persistent for northern and western regions. A belt of rain spread south-eastwards through the country on the 11th, followed by sunshine and frequent blustery showers. Scattered blustery showers on the 12th were heaviest and most frequent in the west with thunder locally, before persistent rain spread from the west, giving 88.4 mm at Glen Nevis (Inverness-shire), and Lerwick (Shetland) reported gusts to 56 mph. The 13th was a cloudy and windy day with rain in northern and western districts, brightening up in the south later. Grangemouth (Stirlingshire) did not fall below 15.4 °C overnight 13th/14th, followed by another mainly cloudy day with persistent rain in northern and western parts from late afternoon, but it again brightened up from the south. Bands of rain moved through many parts of the country on the 15th but some places became brighter during the afternoon, especially in the Inner Hebrides and the south-west.

16th to 21st

The 16th was generally cloudy and cool, with light rain and drizzle persisting across central parts, but sunny in the far north. High pressure then dominated and brought a settled spell with plenty of dry sunny weather for most and some overnight and early morning fog patches, but it was often cloudier in the far north with fronts close by, and a little light rain or drizzle on the 17th and 18th. Tiree (Argyll) recorded 11.7 hours of sunshine on the 18th. It was often warm by day, and Kinlochewe (Ross & Cromarty) reached 24.4 °C on the 19th. Low cloud was slow to clear in south-eastern coastal areas on the 19th and 20th, and rain spread into the north-west on the 21st but most other areas were dry and sunny.

22nd to 30th

The settled spell broke down on the 22nd with rain spreading south-eastwards to most parts, though the east stayed mainly dry, with some bright spells in the far east, and strong winds affected exposed parts. Many areas had a dry bright day on the 23rd, but rain persisted over the Borders and there were scattered showers in the west. After a frosty start in some places on the 24th, with a minimum of -5.0 °C at Altnaharra (Sutherland), it was sunny in the central belt and in the west, but cloudy in the north, with showers for the east coast and the central belt, and more general rain in the Borders from around midday. Dalwhinnie (Inverness-shire) only reached 8.6 °C. A northerly flow then set in, giving sunshine and scattered showers on the 25th, and a frosty start in a few inland places on the 26th, followed by a mainly sunny day with scattered showers mainly in the north, but it clouded over in the east with light rain at times. Frosty for many early on the 27th with a minimum of -5.0 °C at Braemar (Aberdeenshire), then it was generally sunny apart from some rain in the north-west and Western Isles and cloudy weather near the east coast. It was cloudy for most on the 28th with bands of rain moving from west to east, brightening up from the west from late afternoon with scattered showers. The 29th was a mainly dry sunny day, but with some scattered showers mainly in the west. The 30th was wet with widespread, locally heavy, rain persisting throughout the day.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

The month began with an unsettled westerly type with showers and longer spells of rain. It turned more settled from the 13th to 21st, warm around mid-month and with plenty of sunny weather from the 17th to 20th, but was unsettled and cool from the 22nd onwards.

The mean temperature for the month was 0.1 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average, and rainfall was 85% of average. Sunshine was 107% of average, and was mostly above average in the east.

1st to 6th

The 1st was cloudy with patchy rain, drying up for a time before more persistent rain reached the west from early evening and spread eastwards. The rain cleared eastwards by noon on the 2nd followed by blustery, locally thundery, showers during the afternoon. The 3rd had sunshine and scattered blustery showers with strong winds in exposed parts. The 4th and 5th were generally cloudier with showers and longer spells of rain. Cloudy with scattered showers on the 6th.

7th to 12th

Further rain spread from the west overnight 6th/7th, clearing the east coast by late morning, followed by generally cloudy weather with light rain and drizzle at times, which continued on the 8th also. More rain crossed the country on the night of the 8th/9th, followed by scattered showers and brighter intervals on the 9th. It was cloudy with light rain and drizzle on the 10th, and an area of more general rain crossed the country on the morning of the 11th, followed by sunshine and frequent blustery showers. There was sunshine and isolated showers to start the 12th, turning dry

for a while, before persistent rain spread quickly from the west, reaching all parts by mid-afternoon.

13th to 21st

There was a warm southerly incursion from the 13th to 15th. The 13th had a cloudy morning but a sunny afternoon in most places. The 14th was a cloudy day with some light rain, turning wetter from late afternoon. Killowen (County Down) recorded a minimum of 16.1 °C overnight 14th/15th and a maximum of 24.2 °C on the 15th, with rain clearing the far east followed by a mainly dry warm sunny day, but cloud increased from the west in the afternoon with isolated light showers. A slow-moving frontal system brought a cloudy day on the 16th with a little light rain or drizzle. After a cloudy morning on the 17th, the afternoon was generally sunny. From the 18th to 20th the weather was generally dry and sunny, with some fog patches forming overnight and generally clearing by lunchtime. Aldergrove (County Antrim) recorded 11.3 hours of sunshine on the 19th. It was somewhat cloudier on the 21st.

22nd to 30th

The weather quickly turned cooler and more unsettled. It was bright in the far south-east late morning on the 22nd, but otherwise cloudy with some rain and drizzle moving in from the west during the afternoon. This cleared by the 23rd, leaving sunshine and scattered showers. The 24th was cool, with showers and longer spells of rain in southern and eastern counties, mainly dry elsewhere but with a fair amount of cloud, and Trassey (County Down) only reached a maximum of 8.2 °C. Northerly winds brought sunshine and scattered blustery showers on the 25th, and fewer showers on the 26th, with frost locally early on the 26th. Frost developed more widely early on the 27th with a minimum of -3.7 °C at Katesbridge (County Down) – a national record for September – followed by a mainly sunny day, turning cloudier by late afternoon. The morning of the 28th was cloudy with a belt of light rain, clearing around noon followed by sunshine and isolated showers. The 29th started sunny and dry with fog patches and isolated pockets of frost, but cloud and wind increased from the west by midday. Rain spread from the west overnight giving 44.1 mm at Trassey (County Down) and it turned windy with a gust to 51 mph at Magilligan (County Londonderry). There were further outbreaks of rain on the 30th, clearing late in the afternoon.