



Weather Front

April 2019/1919

April 2019

Observers Notes.

Derby: There was a dry spell between the 9th and the 23rd, and when added to the March total, only 8.2 mm of rain fell between the 17th of March and the 23rd of April. The cumulative total for the last 12 months shows the rainfall at 75% of average. Four days exceeded a maximum temperature of 22 C.

Desford: Remaining very dry and, after a cool first half, the warmth of Spring arrived for the second half of the month.

Coton-in-the-Elms: The total rainfall was very low, at 17.3 mm, but not as dry as 2013 when only 6.3 mm was recorded. Chilly nights gave some sharp frosts; the minimum temperature of -4.4 C on the 11th was the second lowest April minimum on the station record. The warm days of the third week were a sharp contrast to the overnight temperatures.

Lowdham: The mean wind speed was the lowest for April since 1996, while the mean minimum temperature was lower than for that of March 2019.

Middleton: April 2019 saw the highest number of "easterlies" since 1974. A gust of 66 mph, on the 27th, was the second highest for April on the station record.

Mickleover: A slight traces of Saharan dust deposits were noted on the 22nd.

Mountsorrel: Another very dry month. The last twelve months has seen just 490 mm of rain, or 71% of average annual rainfall. The first, and last, weeks of the month saw a little rain, but the middle of the month was very dry. While sunshine totals were a little below average, the four days of the Easter weekend were extremely warm, with a maximum of 23 C, and 46 hours of sunshine.

Pitsford: Apart from a brief spell of unsettled weather at either end of the month, April was dominated by a blocking anticyclone over Scandinavia. In common with 2015 and 2017, rainfall was substantially below average.

Ely: Warm by day but cool nights, together with another dry month. The cumulative total for the year to the end of April (99.6 mm) is the lowest for the period since 1997.

Saltfleetby: The first precipitation since the 18th March was recorded on the 2nd of April (5.6 mm). Bitterly cold winds blew from between north and east from the 6th to the 12th, with a gust of 38 mph being recorded on the 9th. Heavy rain and hail were recorded on the 24th; this ended a period of 21 days without rain. Heavy rain and strong south-westerly winds were noted on the 27th.

Lincoln (Doddington Park): Heavy rain was noted on the 2nd, while on the 25th, heavy rain accompanied by hail and thunderstorms were also noted.

April 1919.

Cold and Showery.

Observers Notesⁱ.

Derby/Burton on Trentⁱⁱ: A fairly dry month, with most rain-gauges receiving between 30 and 40 mm, many close to the 35 mm mark. Mean temperatures were about 7 C, with a maximum around 19 C on 18th, and an extreme minimum of about -2 C on 1st. There were 8 air frosts at Burton.

Allan's Green, Northumberland: It has been a cold month, and there was very little growing weather. Grass is still scarce and not many roots are planted.

Kenninghall, Norfolk: An exceptionally cold month, especially during the latter part. At the end of the month the cuckoo had not been heard, nor had swallows appeared. Vegetation is very backward and garden and field-work have been much retarded.

Copdock, Suffolk: The total rainfall (84 mm) is the highest I have ever recorded in April, and the maximum fall (43 mm on the 27th) is not only the highest ever noted here in April, but is also the second highest fall recorded in any month whatever, and was exceeded only on August 29th 1916, when 69 mm were measured.

Tenbury, Worcestershire: A very variable month and generally cold. Vegetation was very backward until the end of the month, but then made rapid growth, the blossom on the fruit trees being wonderful.

Southport, Lancashire: The month was a healthy but dull one, sea winds being unusually predominant, and the easterly winds of springtime almost absent. Relative humidity was higher than in any previous April since 1886.

Dublin, Fitzwilliam Square: A month of normal mean temperatures, but with considerable extremes, the maximum on the 19th being [17 C], but only [7 C] on the 27th. Generally, the wind was from points between North-West and South-West, and only the rainfall, though

rather frequent, was scanty. Snow fell on the 1st and 27th, the 27th and 28th being bitterly cold days.

Carrigoran, Co. Clare: During the first half of the month the weather was of a most gloomy character, but the following nine days were fine and mild. The last five days were most unseasonable, with cold north-west winds, hail and snowstorms, and frost at night.

Hurdlestown, Co. Clare: On the whole it was a favourable month but, owing to northerly winds, the weather of the last week was very severe, with snow showers on the 27th. Grass is growing well, and the red rhododendrons are now at their best.

Mean temperatures in Eastern Scotland and Southern Ireland were equal to the average while North-East England had a mean temperature of [+0.3 C], however, the rest of the country appears to have been generally below average. Mean temperatures ranged from [0.1 C] in western Scotland and Northern Ireland to [-0.9 C] in the area of the English Channel. Noteworthy maxima were [22 C] at Crathies on the 18th, and again at Plymouth, Southampton and Weymouth on the 19th. Maxima appear to have been in the range [15 C] at Bradford and Huddersfield, [19 C] at Sheffield, Brocklesby and Belper, and [21 C] at Raunds, all on the 18th and 19th.

Brocklesby, Lincolnshire: Easter Day was the 22nd of April 1919 and the weather on that day was, "Fine, bright and still, warmer". The temperature was 61 F (16.1 C) and the minimum 33 F (0.5 C); there was a slight westerly drift with the windⁱⁱⁱ.

The lowest temperature was recorded at Braemar [-9 C] on the 2nd. At Fulbeck (Lincolnshire) a minimum of [-4 C]^{iv} was noted on the 2nd, while minima at Brocklesby [-5.5 C]^v, Lincoln [-2 C], and at Skegness [-3 C] were noted on the 1st. Similar minima were recorded, again on the 1st, at Belper, Nottingham and Hodstock, all recording a minimum of [-3 C] on the 1st. Other stations in the region had their minima towards the end of the month, the lowest being at Garforth [-6 C] on the 21st.^{vi}

Rainfall amounts varied a great deal with Northern Scotland recording 167% of average, but Southern Ireland noting only 61%. The MWR noted that there was more precipitation in the Midland, Eastern and Northern Districts than in the Southern and Western; North Eastern England recorded 105% and the Midlands 109% of average^{vii}. A significant number of stations recorded snow fall on the 27th; Brocklesby [18.3 mm], Lincoln 13 mm, Hull 21 mm and Skegness 5 mm, but further south Halstead noted 54 mm, Bennington 50 mm and Clacton on Sea 26 mm, all on the 27th. This snow was the result of a secondary depression, which developed over Scotland, moved south-eastwards and produced squalls of snow and sleet. However, the snow does not appear to have laid for more than a day, Brocklesby, for example, recorded 4 inches of snow lying during the afternoon of the 27th, but little appears to have remained by the following day; similarly, Lincoln had one day of snow falling but none lying.

Mean daily sunshine in Ireland and the English Channel areas was above average, but in all other areas' sunshine was below average. Daily values ranged from between -1.46 hours in eastern England to +0.47 hours in the English Channel. In the English Channel the daily mean was 6.86 hours but in Eastern Scotland it was only 3.78 hours.

While the headline notes a cold and showery month, sunshine also appears to have been very variable, the west of the country being probably the sunniest and the midlands being the snowiest!

Central England Data^{viii}:

Mean Maximum Temperature: 11.1 C, average: 11.9 C.

Mean Minimum Temperature: 3.1 c, average: 3.5 C.

Mean Temperature: 7.1 C, average: 7.7 C.

England and Wales Rainfall: 66.3 mm, average: 55.8 mm.

Midlands Mean Maximum Temperature: 10.9 C.

Midlands Mean Minimum Temperature: 2.3 C.

Midlands Mean Temperature: 6.6 C.

Midlands Rainfall: 52.0 mm.

ⁱ Monthly Weather Report, April 1919, HMSO, 1919, Summary page.

ⁱⁱ D J Stanier, by email, 6 May 2019.

ⁱⁱⁱ Lincoln Archive Office, YARB 14/2, April 1919.

^{iv} Monthly Weather Report, April 1919, HMSO, 1919, p. 42.

^v Lincoln Record Office, YARB 14/2, April 1919.

^{vi} MWR, April 1919, HMSO, 1919, p. 42.

^{vii} MWR, April 1919, HMSO, 1919, p. 38.

^{viii} Meteorological Office, Central England and Midlands data, Climatological Summaries.