



Weather Front

February 2019/1919

Observers Notes.

Lowdham: 11.4 C is the highest February mean temperature on the station record (1991), and the highest for February in the Nottingham area since 1868. 18.9 C, on the 26th, is the highest February maximum temperature on the station record, and the highest for February since 1868. Six fays with a maximum temperature greater than 14.5 C is also the highest for February on the station record. The period January February is the twelfth driest since 1868.

Mickleover: February 2019 was the warmest since 1998 (7.7 C) and the second warmest on the station record (1981). The month also saw the highest February maximum temperature of 19.4 C, on the 26th, on the station record. The diurnal range of 17.8 C was the greatest for February on record, exceeding 16.3 C in February 2008.

Middleton: A maximum temperature of 16.4 C, on the 26th, was the highest for February on the station record.

Mountsorrel: February 2019 is the sunniest February ever recorded in Leicestershire; the total sunshine of 108 hours is 140% of average. It was a mild month with the mean maximum temperature being the highest for February on the station record.

Derby: February 2019 was the second warmest February since 1952, while the maximum temperature of 18.0 C, on the 26th, was the highest for February since 1952. Local records suggest 64 F (18.0 C), recorded in Burton on Trent in February 1891, is the nearest comparable record for the area. In February 2019 six days exceeded 15 C, against only three in 1998, but nineteen days exceeded 10 C, the same as February 1998.

Eastwood: A maximum temperature of 18.6 C, on the 26th, is the highest for February on the station record.

Pitsford: Daytime temperatures became warmer through the month, recording some of the mildest February days on record towards the end of the month. Overall temperatures were not record breaking due to some cold nights, but still significantly above average. The

maximum temperatures recorded, on the 25th and 26th, was 17.9 C, and was the highest recorded for February in Northampton.

Desford: A month of contrasts, cold and wintry to begin; very warm and spring like with cloudless days and warm sunshine to end. What was remarkable about these February temperatures was the longevity of the warmth that started on the 13th and continued until the end of the month. Drier than average.

Ely: Very cold then mild. The maximum temperature, of 19.0 C on the 26th, was the highest February maximum on the 48 Year station record. There was no measurable rain for 17 days (11th to 27th).

February 1919.

Observers Notes.

Derby/Burton on Trent: Most sites had 55-65 mm of rain, some of which may well have been of snow. There was a cold start to the month with "freezing days" between the 8th and 10th. The maximum on the 8th was -3 C, a minimum of -11 C on the 9th, and several other minima of -8 C. Snow fell on the 5th and 17th. A mean maximum temperature of 2 C, together with a mean minimum temperature of -3 C saw an overall mean close to 0 C. The maximum temperature for the month was 10 C on the 22nd. There were 21 air frosts.ⁱ

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MWR Headline: Easterly Type of Weather Predominant.

The mean temperature for the month of February 1919 was below average throughout the country and ranged from -2.5 C in the midlands to -0.8 C in southern Ireland. It was the cold weather of the week ending 15th which was the main contributor to the low temperatures. The 9th appears to have been the coldest day of the month with a minimum of -17 C at Woburn. At Brocklesby the maximum on the 8th was 0 C, and the minimum -2 C, but on the 9th the maximum was 2 C and the minimum -9 C.ⁱⁱ At Woburn, again on the 9th, the grass minimum temperature was -19 C. On the 13th there was a marked difference in minima between stations on the coast of the south west and those inland. Woburn, for example, recorded -17 C and Hitchin and Rothamsted -12 C. However, at Falmouth, Fowey and Penzance minima were around 5 or 6 C. The highest temperature for the month was 13 C at Foynes, on the 19th, and Killerton and Paignton, on the 20th.

Precipitation totals for the month were very variable, ranging from 74% in northern Scotland and 72% in western Scotland, to 197% in the area of the English Channel and 150% in eastern England. At station level the ranges were equally variable, with Fort William only recording 8% of average and Glencarron recording 15% of average. However, in Devonshire some totals were equally notable. At Teignmouth the rainfall total was 174% of average, at Plymouth 166% and at Ashburton 233%.

The weather for the month was dominated by a mainly south easterly drift. As can be seen from the Brocklesby analysis, the predominant direction is from the south east and, from the 1st to the 16th, even the reports of “calm” conditions had a south easterly component. The Monthly Weather Report notes the mean pressure chart for the month had a weak anticyclone centred over the North Sea and the British Isles lying on the western flank of this centre. The long-term average (1871-1915) has a more marked anticyclone to the south, centred over western Europe. Finally, the movement of depressions were well to the south of Scotland and mainly along the English Channel into northern Europe. Gales were not numerous during the month with a maximum gust of 64 knots at Scilly and 62 knots at Pendennis Castle on the 10th.ⁱⁱⁱ

Central England Data (Averaging period is 1881-1910).

Mean Maximum Temperature: 4.4 C, Average, 6.7 C.

Mean Minimum Temperature: -0.6 C, Average, 1.1 C.

Mean Temperature: 1.9 C, Average, 3.9 C.

England and Wales Rainfall: 79 mm, Average, 108 mm.

Midlands Mean Maximum Temperature: 3.5 C.

Midlands Mean Minimum Temperature: -1.9 C.

Midlands Mean Temperature: 0.8 C.

Midlands Rainfall: 63.6 mm.^{iv}

ⁱ D J Stanier, by email, 1 March 2019.

ⁱⁱ Lincoln Archive Office, YARB 14/2.

ⁱⁱⁱ Monthly Weather Report, February 1919, HMSO, 1919.

^{iv} Meteorological Office, Climate data, Meteorological Office web site.