



Weather Front

October 2018.

Observers Notes.

Middleton: The number of air frosts (3) equals the 1993 record.

Mickleover: The second highest minimum temperature (17 C) on the station record. The third fewest rain-days since 1985 (5).

Mountsorrel: A drier month than normal with 21 mm of the monthly total falling on the 14th. The 13th was notable with, warm, humid air being advected, due to an extra tropical disturbance passing close to the UK. A maximum temperature of 23.4 C during the day and a night minimum of 17.2 C, saw the warmest October night on the 20-year station record.

Derby: The maximum temperature of 23.5 C, on the 13th, was the highest observed for mid-October on the station record; there have been several higher values during early October. The minimum temperature recorded on the 14th was the highest for October on the station record.

Lincoln (Doddington Park): Non-instrumental frosts were noted on 3 days with the first frost of autumn being noted on the 7th. The first fog of autumn was noted on the 19th; visibility being between 600 and 800 metres. This cleared to low stratus by 0900 local time.

A maximum temperature of 26 C was noted at Donna Nook on the 13th and is the highest recorded at that station for October.ⁱ

1918.

Dull, Damp and Sunless.ⁱⁱ

Observers Notes.

Burton on Trent/Derby: Rainfall totals for all the rainfall sites in the area were in the range 30 – 40 mm with one at 48 mm; a relatively dry month. Mean temperatures were around 9 C, with maxima of 17 C on the 6th and 10th, and minima of -1.5 C on the 24th and 26th. There were three air frosts.ⁱⁱⁱ

Allan's Bank, Northumberland: October was one of the wettest months in a long period of rain. A great deal of corn has been spoilt in the field, and potatoes are being hurt by the excessive wet, and the autumn ploughing is in arrears.

Ipswich, Suffolk: A mild, damp, dull month, with a steady barometer and a marked absence of wind, the latter half of the month being curiously calm. A few fine days emphasised the general gloominess.

Weston Turville, Bucks: A very mild month and most valuable for autumn tillage. A field of barley in the parish was not cleared until the 19th of the month.

Tenbury, Worcester: A generally fine, dry, and mild month and, although there were so many rain-days, the total rainfall for the month was the smallest in October since 1904. The temperature was very uniform and there were no great extremes, either by day or night. It was a good time for grain sowing, the land being in good working condition.

Worlingham, Surrey: Although the amount of rainfall was small for October, the number of days on which deposition of moisture was measured was above the normal, and the weather of the month was generally dull and damp rather than wet.

Dublin (City): The cold weather, which was so marked a feature in September, continued, with only a slight intermission, until the 27th. A mild period, accompanied by fine conditions, then set in and lasted until the 30th, when the weather broke, with a freshening south-west wind.

Carrigoran, Co. Clare: Between the 17th and 24th there was a rainless spell of weather which proved of inestimable service to agriculture in the opportunity it provided of clearing off arrears in harvest work and securing much of the potato crop. Otherwise the month was of a most gloomy, sunless description and persistently rainy. There was an absence of gales and violent winds.

Hurdlestown, Co. Clare: The rainfall of the month was 40 mm above the October normal, and the number of rain-days one above. The first half of the month was very wet, but the last half was fairly dry, although with damp fog and mist on many days. Great damage was done to hay and corn during the six weeks ended October 14th, during which period 320 mm of rain fell.^{iv}

A newspaper, on the 24th, reported that hay-making was still being carried on in the Peak District, a basket of raspberries had also been gathered during that week in Burnham-on-Crouch (Essex). On the 30th, strawberries, plums and raspberries had been gathered at Buntingford (Herts).^v

Temperatures varied little from the average, with a range of [-0.6 C] in southern Ireland and the English Channel stations to [+ 0.2 C] in North-East England. Maxima ranged from [19 C] at Alwick Castle, Geldeston, Skegness, Wakefield and York on the 10th, to a minimum of [-

0.6 C], at Logie Coldstone on the 26th. Similar values were reported at stations in Ireland and Wales, although minima at Killarney and Rhayader fell to only [-0.3 C].

Precipitation amounts varied markedly from Ireland [between 117% and 123%] and western Scotland [between 121% and 139%] to the remaining areas of Britain which were below average, ranging from -6 mm in western Scotland to -48 mm in south west England.^{vi} Individual station totals in Scotland saw some of the highest, with Stronvar receiving 122 mm and Fort William 109 mm. However, in southern England, stations were well below average, with Bournemouth recording only 41% of average, Portsmouth 33% and Southampton 37%.^{vii} Very similar figures appear across much of England and Wales, although several Stations in Cumberland appear to buck the trend with Aspatria recording 134% and Scalesby 127% of average^{viii}, while the monthly totals for Copper Mill and Intake, both in Snowdonia, were 692 mm and 638 mm respectively.

Thunderstorms and hail were reported at many stations on the 6th, 7th and 8th, with frequent hail at some stations in Lancashire on these dates.

Sunshine was below average throughout the country, ranging from -2.05 hours in Northern Ireland to -0.24 hours in north west England; the sunniest area was the English Channel district, with an average of 3.45 hours per day.^{ix}

The weather for the month may be summed up as very wet in the north and west but much drier in the south and east, temperatures near average but very little sun.

Just a slight aside. The weather reported at Brocklesby at 0900 on 11 November shows a maximum temperature of 50 F and a minimum of 45 F, wind was light westerly after a strong wind overnight, the remainder of the day was fine and bright.^x

Central England Data: 1918.^{xi}

Mean Maximum Temperature: 12.4 C, Average: 12.5 C

Mean Minimum Temperature: 6.2 C, Average: 6.0 C.

Mean Temperature: 9.3 C, Average: 9.3 C.

England and Wales Rainfall: 69.1 mm, Average: 104.5 mm.

Midlands Mean Maximum Temperature: 12.1 C.

Midlands Mean Minimum Temperature: 5.3 C.

Midlands Mean Temperature: 8.7 C.

Midlands Rainfall: 47.0 mm.

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- ⁱ BBC Look North 1840 local time Weather Forecast for that day.
- ⁱⁱ Monthly Weather Report, October 1918, First page, HMSO, 1919.
- ⁱⁱⁱ D J Stanier, by email, 2/11/2018.
- ^{iv} Monthly Weather Report, October 1918, p. 110, HMSO, 1919.
- ^v Monthly Weather Report, October 1918, p. 110, HMSO, 1919.
- ^{vi} Monthly Weather Report, October 1918, p. 110, HMSO, 1919.
- ^{vii} Monthly Weather Report, October 1918, p. 115, HMSO, 1919.
- ^{viii} Monthly Weather Report, October 1918, p. 116, HMSO, 1919.
- ^{ix} Monthly Weather Report, October 1918, p. 110, HMSO, 1919.
- ^x Lincoln Archive Office, YARB, 14/2
- ^{xi} Meteorological Office Central England and Midlands data, www.metoffice.gov.uk/Climate.