



Weather Front

June 2021/1921

June 2021.

Observers Notes.

Saltfleetby: Fog noted on the 1st rolling from the sea. Persistent rain, all day, on the 18th.

Pitsford: Largely dry and warm during the first half [of the month] with some prolonged spells of sunshine. Turning cooler from the 17th onwards following a thundery breakdown.ⁱ

Mountsorrel: A very warm and sunny first half of the month followed by a much cooler and duller second half; 80% of the month's sunshine came the first half. Overall, it was the driest and warmest June since 2018.

Ely: Despite some cool spells, temperatures were, surprisingly, above average. There were no, outstandingly high, or low temperatures. Rainfall was mainly confined to the second half of the month, the 4th being the only rain day in the first two weeks.

Derby: This was the 8th warmest June since 1952. The month began warm but became progressively cooler by the mid to late month.

Middleton: A remarkable contrast in temperatures between the first seventeen days, with a mean of 16.0 C, and the final thirteen days, with a mean of 12.0 C. The amount of sunshine was equally contrasting, with 125.3 hours in the first sixteen days, and just 23.6 hours in the final fourteen days.

Bablake: This was the warmest, driest, and sunniest June in Coventry since 2018.

Lowdham: No measurable rain from 3rd to 15th. 0.3 mm measurable rain from 27th May to 15th June, all on 2nd June.

Coton-in-the-Elms: A warm month, mainly due to spells of very warm weather early in the month; intense heat was absent, the absolute maximum temperature being the lowest in June since 2016. Nights were sometimes chilly as well, the absolute minimum for the month was the lowest for June since 2015. It was also a dry June, the total being the lowest since 2006.

Desford: Warmer nights compared to normal gave a warmer than average June. It was also a dry month overall.

Lincoln (non-instrumental recording): Thunder heard on the 7th.

June 1921.

Observers Notes.

Derby/Burton on Trent: This was another of the famously dry months of 1921. Local sites were all very dry, with two of them yielding only 7 to 8 mm. Others had a bit more, typically 10-14 mm. Depending on the length of record for the various locations, June 1921 was the driest June since either 1889 or 1868. There were several warm days, with values of 16 C (16th), 26 C (17th), 28 C (24th), and 30/31 C (25th). There were also quite a number of low minima for the time of year, with numerous 4 C values noted in mid and late month.ⁱⁱ

Brocklesby: A marked fall of temperature was noted between the 17th (28 C) and the 18th (15.5 C). A thunderstorm was also noted on the morning of the 26th at 6 am. This was followed by a fine morning.ⁱⁱⁱ

Totland Bay (Isle of Wight): The June rainfall here was only 4 mm, the driest June on record. June is the fifth month in succession below average.

Tavistock (Devon): The driest month since June 1913 when 6 mm fell. Many plants and shrubs are showing the effect of the drought.

Valencia Observatory: The total recorded at Valencia Observatory was only 2.6 mm being the lowest fall in any calendar month since the record was started in 1869. The nearest approach to it occurred in May 1896, when 5.9 mm was recorded.

Copdock (Ipswich): The driest month in my 20 years' records.

Huddersfield (Yorkshire): 3.8 mm – smallest total monthly rainfall on record here for 50 years.

Belper (Derbyshire): The driest June in the writer's record from 1877.

Tenbury (Worcester): Driest June on record. Hay crops very-light. Pasture burnt and brown. Keep for cattle scarce.

Ardingley(Sussex): Lowest rainfall recorded here.

Blundellsands (Lancashire): The driest June in this district since records were started in 1878.

Southport (Lancashire): This was the driest June in the 50 years over which our records now extend.

Dublin: Scanty rainfall; the lowest for June since 1887.

Isleworth (Middlesex): Raspberry and strawberry crops utterly ruined by drought. Driest June for 35 years.

Barnstaple (Devonshire): A very dry month. The lowest rainfall for many years.

Meltham (Yorkshire): The driest month since the commencement of the record in December 1880. The effect of the dry weather is scarcely noticeable except on the lawns and grass fields; all other vegetation has, as-yet, suffered much less than in several other years.^{iv}

Overview of June 1921.

The dry weather, which predominated during the Spring, continued throughout June. Rainfall was scarce throughout the country with areas exceeding 50 mm of rain being limited; places around the South Coast experienced absolute drought.

At the start of the month an anticyclone extended from the Azores, across the British Isles, to Scandinavia, with only the extreme north-west being under the influence of cyclonic activity. A shallow depression, passing over France, did however produce some rain over south-east England on the 3rd and 4th. On the 8th, and for several succeeding days, depressions near Iceland affected the north-west, but the south of the country remained dry and warm, with temperatures exceeding [27 C] by the 17th. However, a depression near Spitsbergen extended south over the Baltic introducing a colder airstream over the country, which produced a marked fall in temperatures; the maximum at Ross-on-Wye, on the 17th, was [30.5 C] and [18 C] on the 18th. Local thunderstorms were reported at Gorleston and Croydon on the night of the 17th/18th. The following night temperatures at several stations in England had fallen to around [4 C]. T Benson the minimum had fallen to [1.0 C] and at South Farnborough [1.8 C] ground frosts being recorded at some stations. Grass minima at Greenwich [-5.5 C], Benson [-3.2 C], Howden [-2.0 C], and Kew [-1.5 C]. By the 23rd the anticyclone became re-established over the south of the country, and temperatures rose accordingly, on the 25th Nottingham recorded [31.2 C], Ross-on-Wye [30.0 C], Kew [28.8 C], and Aberdeen [26.5 C]. A trough of low pressure replaced the anticyclone for a while which produced thunderstorms over southern and midland England overnight. While the lightning displays were “particularly brilliant” very-little rain was recorded, although Jersey noted 15 mm and Bournemouth 11 mm. On the 26th an anticyclone, extending from Iceland, became established to the west of Britain and the weather became fine and settled. The MWR notes, “Remarkably clear atmospheric conditions prevailed, especially during the latter part of the month. An observer at Deal reported *a degree of visibility hardly ever remembered here by the present generation*. At Folkestone, on the 19th, the fields on the French coast could be distinguished with the naked eye.”^v While the visibility was generally good throughout the month there were a few cases of local fog reported on the west and north-west coasts.

In Scotland, the temperature varied markedly and was lowest on the 6th. A warm spell marked the middle of the month, but was short lived, and was followed by a cold period, on the evening of the 20th a few flakes of sleet were noted in Aberdeen with the temperature, on the following day, failing to reach [10 C]. The 25th saw the commencement of a warm period with the temperature at Wolfelee reaching [31 C], the highest temperature recorded in Scotland since June 1914. On the 26th the temperature fell considerably, with many stations recording maxima more than [11C] below the previous day. The result of these variations in temperature produced a mean temperature around normal for the time of year. The month, as in England, was abnormally dry, with large areas receiving less than a quarter of average rainfall. There were moderate falls around the 8th and, in the extreme north, under the influence of the Icelandic depressions, rainfall was greater, and at Orkney, it even exceeded the average. Elsewhere the dry conditions were similar to June 1887; Kircaldy 6mm, and Edinburgh and Dumfries 9 mm. On the night 9th/10th north-westerly gales damaged crops and shipping at Rothesay, thunder was reported at West Linton on the 10th and, at Eskdalemuir, on the 17th and 21st.^{vi}

On the Continent the unusually dry winter caused considerable problems to French farmers and, in Switzerland rivers were around six feet below normal. The Atlantic Ice Patrol reported icebergs over a wide area, numbers being well above average.^{vii} Elsewhere, serious flooding affected cotton and wheat crops in the north-eastern part of the Nile delta, while, in parts of Japan similar floods produced considerable damage.

The Indian monsoon broke later than usual but, by the 22nd it had extended normally, with above average rain at many places. In Australia heavy rain was reported in Queensland and New South Wales. In Canada, much needed rainfall was noted in Northern Alberta, Manitoba,^{viii} and Saskatchewan, "and throughout the dominion of Canada crop prospects are exceptionally favourable".

A violent storm on 3rd June at Pueblo, Colorado, caused extensive damage to property and life. The collapse of neighbouring dams produced extensive flooding to the city and the destruction of irrigation supplies.^{ix}

Other Comments.

Severe frost on the 5th June, absolute drought in most places, especially in the south. The driest June since records were kept.^x

Most of the wheat in the southern part of Lincolnshire were in ear during the last week in May, which is about ten days or a fortnight earlier than usual. Owing to the drought all the cereal crops will be very short in the straw, and meadows are almost certain to cut up very light.^{xi}

FIVE MONTHS DROUGHT.

Rain Badly Needed.

“In spite of the threatening appearance of the sky there were only a few trifling showers in the country on Monday, most district escaping altogether. The prolonged drought which set in at the end of January, is now beginning to assume very serious proportions, and unless the much-needed downpour occurs within the next week or two, the consequences will, it is feared, be disastrous...” [There then followed advice that London Borough Councils had been advised to conserve water supplies].^{xii}

THE HEAT WAVE.

136 In the Sun.

There is no prospect of a break in the weather, declare the weather experts. The sun hit up the mercury in London on Wednesday to 136 degrees, stated to be the highest sun reading for five years. London sweltered in the heat. The thermometer showed 100 degrees at 11 am and had risen by 1 pm to 130 degrees. The temperature in the shade was 76 at its highest.

Vegetation is suffering badly, and the Board of Agriculture reports show a monotonous repetition of the cry for moisture. Dry winds from the east have accentuated the drought, in some cases have delayed planting, and all crops of vegetables are badly in need of rain.^{xiii}

CATTLE.

Lincoln Cattle Market Friday.

The effect of continued drought keenly felt, farmers preferring to keep stock than sell at the greatly reduced prices prevailing owing to dried up pastures. No store beasts were offered and very poor demand for the few milch beasts displayed. A cow and calf made £41 and other milk beasts sold up to £40. Calves made up to 97s 6d. Good show of pigs but poor demand; suckers up to 41s. stores up to £6.^{xiv}

LINCOLN (TORKSEY) SUMMER MEETING [Golf]

On Wednesday, the prizes given by the President ... Notwithstanding the very poor train service, there was a good turnout of competitors. The course was in good order, but the greens were very keen and slippery after the prolonged drought, making the short game most difficult...^{xv}

DISASTROUS RESULTS OF FROST.

Reports are now to hand in Gainsborough's district of the disastrous results of Monday night's frost, when several degrees were registered. Allotment holders have had their potatoes, beans, and similar susceptible growths cut down by the frost, and in portions of the low-lying districts on the Nottinghamshire side of the Trent and, also on the Lincolnshire side, it is stated that hundreds of acres of potatoes are blackened and "laid" by the frost. When this calamity is considered in conjunction with the drought effects, it becomes fairly evident that the potato harvest in the districts named may be expected to fall very much below the average.^{xvi}

Central England Data.^{xvii} (Averaging period is 1891 to 1920.)

Mean Maximum Temperature: 20.0 C. Average: 19.4 C.

Mean Minimum Temperature: 9.4 C. Average: 9.6 C.

Mean Temperature: 14.7 C. Average: 14.1 C.

England and Wales Rainfall: 10.3 mm. Average: 63.3 mm.

Midlands Mean Maximum Temperature: 19.8 C.

Midlands Mean Minimum Temperature: 8.2 C.

Midlands Mean Temperature: 14.0 C.

Midlands Rainfall: 11.4 mm.

2021 (Provisional)

Central England (Averaging period is 1991-2020).

Mean Maximum Temperature: 20.2 C. Average: 19.2 C.

Mean Minimum Temperature: 10.9 C. Average: 10.1 C.

Mean Temperature: 15.5 C. Average: 14.7 C.

England and Wales Rainfall: 59.6 mm. Average: 70.5 mm.

ⁱ Pitsford Monthly Weather Report, June 2021, Headline.

ⁱⁱ D J Stanier, by email, 2 July 2021.

ⁱⁱⁱ Lincoln Archives, YARB 14/2, June 1921.

^{iv} Monthly Weather Report, Jun 1921, Meteorological Office, July 1921, HMSO, p. 71.

^v MWR, June 1921, p. 71.

^{vi} MWR, June 1921, p. 71.

^{vii} Meteorological Magazine, Vol. 56, July 1921, Meteorological Office, 1921, HMSO, pp. 161-172.

^{ix} Meteorological Magazine, Vol 56, July 1921, pp. 161-172.

^x Agricultural Records AD 220-1977, Stratton J M and Brown J H, ed. Whitlock R, John Baker, 1978, p. 139.

^{xi} Lincolnshire Echo, 8 June 1921, p. 4, col. 5.

^{xii} Lincolnshire Echo, 14 June 1921, p. 2, col. 4.

^{xiii} Lincolnshire Echo, 16 June 1921, p. 4, col. 2.

^{xiv} Lincolnshire Echo, 24 June 1921, p. 3, col. 7.

^{xv} Lincolnshire Echo, 30 June 1921, p. 3, col. 7.

^{xvi} Lincolnshire Echo, 30 June 1921, p. 2, col. 7.

^{xvii} Hadley Centre, Central England and Midlands, Meteorological Office.