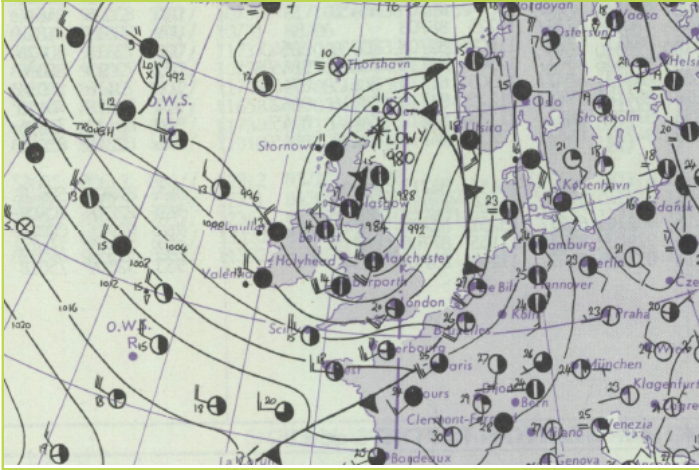


Weather chart for 1200 UTC on 14 August 1979

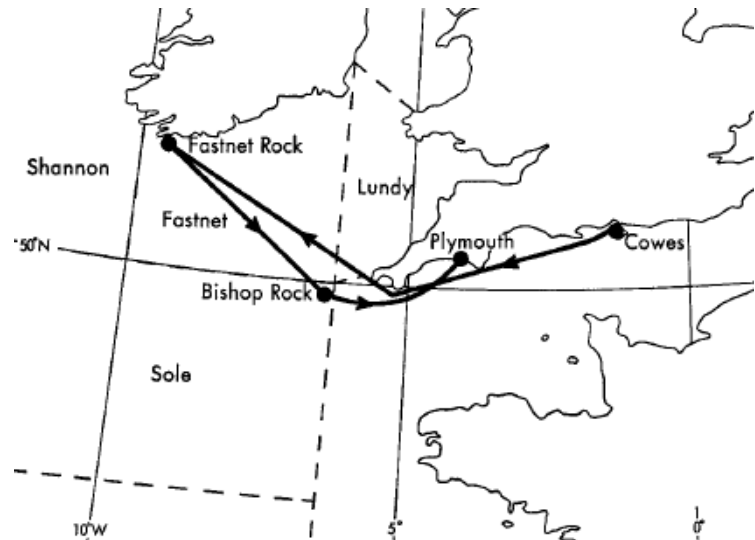


General summary

Any rain across England and Wales quickly moved north and eastwards during the morning to be replaced by sunny spells and a few showers across western coastal areas. Scotland and Northern Ireland had rain, locally heavy at times and reaching northern Scotland by noon. Rain continued across much of Scotland during the afternoon although drier weather pushed into Northern Ireland. England and Wales had a mainly dry afternoon with sunny spells, although showers continued across western facing coasts. Showers or longer spells of rain continued across Wales and far north of Scotland through the evening. The rest of the country had a mainly dry evening with a good deal of cloud. It was a windy day with strong westerly gales or severe gales across south-western districts. Temperatures generally close to normal.

Significant weather event

In south-western districts the gales of the 14th August were severe and in the area between Land's End and South West Ireland 23 yachts taking part in the Fastnet Race were abandoned or sunk with the loss of 15 lives; 4 other yachtsmen lost their lives in the same area and the gales also led to several fatalities on land. At Milford Haven (Dyfed) a gust of 65 knots (75 mph) was recorded. A number of places, mostly well inland, measured their highest gust speeds of any August; these included Birmingham (Elmdon) Airport and Watnall (Nottinghamshire) with gusts of 51 knots (59 mph) and 49 knots (56 mph) respectively.



The course of Fastnet Race starting from Cowes and ending in Plymouth

Daily weather extremes

Highest Maximum Temperature

21.7 °C at Wattisham (Suffolk)

Lowest Minimum Temperature

8.4 °C at Lerwick (Shetland)

Most Rainfall

36.0 mm at Tongue (Sutherland)

Most Sunshine

12.0 hours at Lizard (Cornwall)