

October 2018

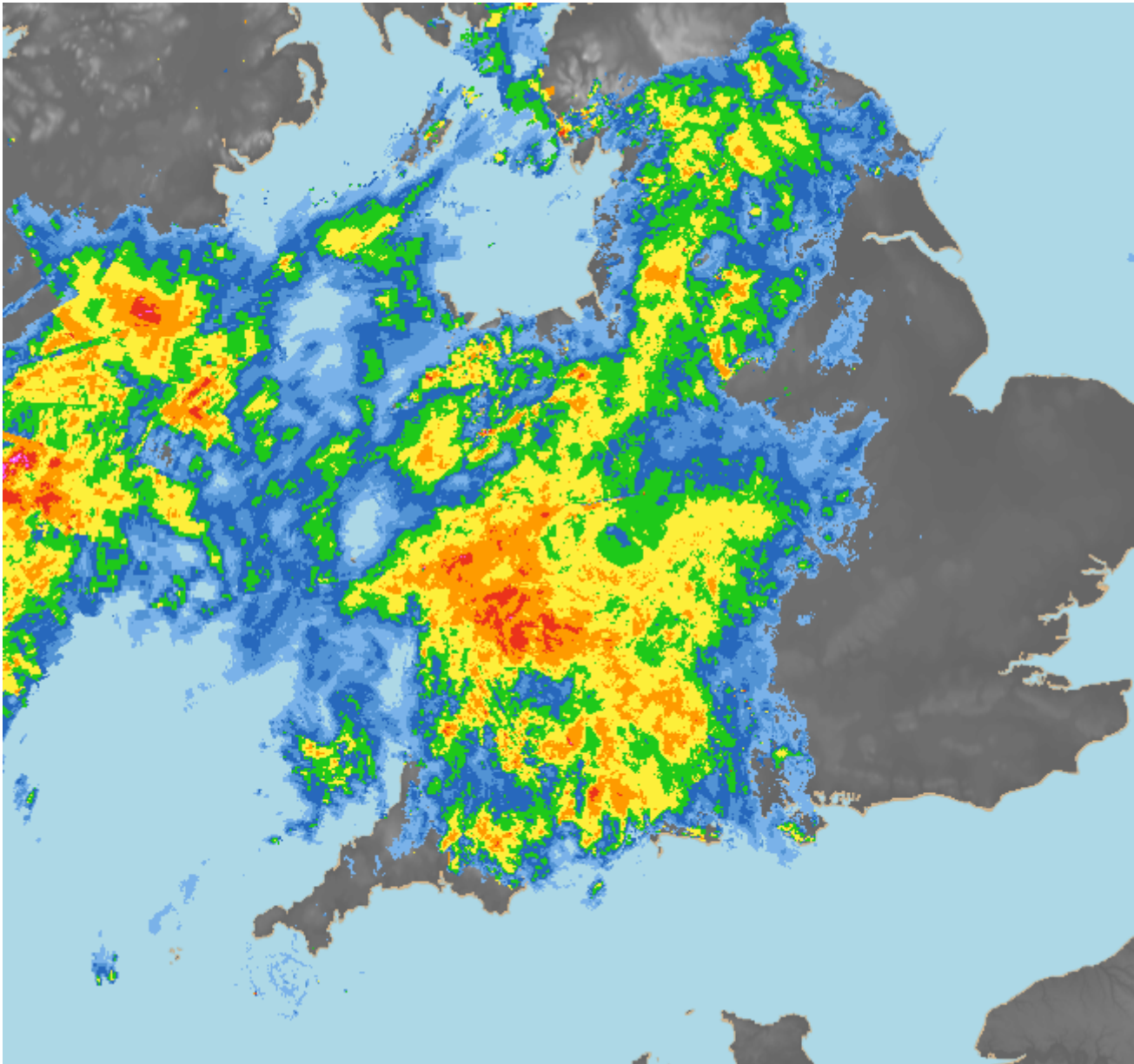
The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1981-2010.

October began with high pressure over the south, but a westerly flow affected central and northern areas, bringing relatively changeable weather to much of Scotland. The second week was unseasonably warm due to southerly winds, and many areas were also sunny on the 9th and 10th, but Storm Callum brought wet and windy weather to most parts on the 12th, particularly over the high ground of south Wales. After a relatively settled spell with high pressure often close to the south, a northerly outbreak on the 26th and 27th resulted in a very cold end to the month, with wintry showers on high ground and also locally to low levels on the 27th.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 9.6 °C, which is 0.1 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. For most regions, mean maximum temperatures were a little above average and mean minimum temperatures were a little below average, reflecting the relatively high frequency of clear skies. Rainfall was below normal in many areas, although north-west Scotland was wetter; it was not exceptionally dry, with 82% of average rainfall overall. For the UK as a whole this was the fifth sunniest October in a series from 1929, with 122% of average sunshine, and for East Anglia it was the joint sunniest October in the series (alongside 1959).

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 26.5 °C was recorded at Donna Nook (Lincolnshire) on the 13th. A minimum temperature of -8.6 °C was recorded at St Harmon (Powys) on the 30th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 GMT on the 13th, 159.8 mm of rain fell at Libanus (Powys). A wind gust of 75 knots (86 mph) was recorded at Capel Curig (Gwynedd) on the 12th. A snow-depth of 6 cm was measured at Tomnavoulin (Morayshire) on the 27th.

The rain-radar image at 1000 UTC on 12 October 2018 shows heavy rainfall from Storm Callum across western parts of England and Wales.



Weather impacts

Some roads were closed in the Western Highlands of Scotland on 8th and 9th due to flooding, with the occupants of a car being rescued on the A832 near Gairloch in Wester Ross, and a car park at an Oban retail park was flooded with some cars submerged.

Storm Callum affected many areas around the 12th, with numerous weather warnings for wind and rain. In Scotland, rail services were suspended on the Ayrshire coast as high tide brought seawater over the wall onto the track and overhead wires. Flights were cancelled at Glasgow airport, a number of trees were brought down, and there was some flooding on roads. In Northern Ireland, there were some road closures due to fallen trees. Numerous FlyBe flights to and from Belfast City Airport were cancelled during the morning, as was a ferry sailing between Belfast and Cairnryan. Train services were delayed due to speed restrictions being imposed, and around 1000 homes were left without power. In Wales, a man died due to a landslip on a minor road in Carmarthenshire, while other landslips blocked roads and rail lines. There were a number of surface water incidents around Pembrokeshire, and flooding affected trains on the South Wales Valleys lines. Fallen trees and flooding blocked roads, including the A465, A5, and A40. Around 1000 homes were left without power in Pembrokeshire, and some properties were flooded across South Wales. A number of bridges were closed due

to the height of floodwater and due to wind strength. In North-west England, there were some reports of fallen trees, and several roads were blocked due to floodwater, including the A590/A591 junction near Kendal. The West Coast main line was affected by a landslide between Oxenholme and Penrith. South-west England also suffered strong winds and flooding, with speed restrictions and some services suspended on the branch line between Liskeard and Looe due to predicted tidal flooding. There were reports of fallen trees and power cables blocking roads, and restrictions on the Tamar Bridge.

The last warnings of October came due to a blast of Arctic air that descended across the country from the 26th. In Scotland, roads such as the A93 and A939 were closed due to snow. Traffic accidents occurred in Aberdeenshire due to snow making conditions difficult.

England diary of highlights

October began with a week of mainly fine weather over the south but it was generally more changeable in the north. Southerly winds brought unseasonably warm weather in the second week, and it was very wet and windy for most of the country around the 12th. After a quieter spell of weather with plenty of sunshine at times, it turned very cold from the 26th onwards with northerly and north-easterly winds, and showers turned wintry even at low levels on the 27th.

The mean temperature for October was provisionally 0.2 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average, with maximum temperatures mostly above normal, especially further east, and minimum temperatures rather below normal in the south-west. Much of England had a dry October, especially in the south, and sunshine was generally above normal, especially in East Anglia, which had its joint sunniest October (alongside 1959) in a series from 1929. Overall, rainfall was 73% of average and sunshine was 128% of average.

1st to 7th

Westerly winds prevailed but with relatively high pressure over the south. The 1st was mainly dry with some sunshine, but isolated showers affected eastern and north-western coasts. A band of rain spread into the north late on the 1st and spread southwards on the 2nd, turning light and drizzly as it moved south, with brighter weather following into the north. Between the 3rd and 5th, a ridge of high pressure brought dry, sunny and increasingly warm weather to southern counties following foggy starts in places, but it was cloudier in the north and especially north-west, with some showery rain for the north-west on the 3rd and 4th, and more widespread cloud and light rain across the north on the 5th. The rain became heavier and more persistent as it spread slowly southwards through East Anglia, the Midlands and south-west on the 6th. The rain cleared by the 7th leaving a dry and fairly bright day in the south; further north, after a frosty start in places, it became cloudier, with light rain arriving later.

8th to 16th

It was often unseasonably warm during this week due to southerly winds. The 8th was cloudy for most of the country with a little rain for the north-west, but drier warmer weather spread from the south on the 9th and 10th, giving 10.5 hours of bright sunshine at Wellesbourne (Warwickshire) on the 9th, and a high of 24.6 °C at Northolt (Greater London) on the 10th, though showers spread into the south-west late on the 10th. Many parts had a wet and windy day on the 11th but it stayed warm and mostly dry and sunny in East Anglia and the south-east. Storm Callum brought widespread gales on the 12th with a gust to 76 mph at St Mary's (Isle of Scilly) and 64.2 mm of rain fell at Shap (Cumbria); although most of England had a wet day the south-east remained dry, albeit rather cloudy. After an unseasonably warm night, with a minimum of 18.1 °C at Ringmer Bishops Lane (East Sussex), the 13th started off wet and windy for most, but central, southern and eastern parts became very warm and quite sunny, with a high of 26.5 °C at Donna Nook (Lincolnshire). A front became slow-moving from the 14th to 16th and brought a wet day to much of the country on the 14th, but the rain eased somewhat and became light and patchy on the 15th. The rain was mostly gone by the 16th, but it remained cloudy except in the south-east.

17th to 25th

It was more settled during this period with high pressure generally close to the British Isles. Light rain and drizzle slowly cleared south-eastwards on the 17th, with brighter conditions to the north. Between the 18th and 21st most of the country was sunny and increasingly warm by day, with fog for some parts overnight, but the far north was often cloudier between the 19th and 21st and light rain spread into the north and north-west on the 21st. The rain cleared the south on the 22nd, which was another dry sunny day. The 23rd to 25th were cloudier, especially so in the west and south on the 23rd, and there was some drizzle in the north-west on the 25th, but still with some sunny spells, especially in eastern areas.

26th to 31st

A northerly outbreak set in on the 26th, with light rain clearing the south-east followed by scattered showers which were locally thundery with hail and became wintry on high ground. The 27th was notably cool for late October with showers in the north-east spreading south and west. There was snow on high ground, with 3 cm of lying snow at Copley (County Durham) and a maximum of only 3.7 °C at Pennerley (Shropshire), and some areas saw showers of sleet and wet snow to low levels. The 28th was a little less cold, with showers mainly in eastern areas, these locally thundery with hail in the south-east, and any sleet and snow confined to high ground. Showers were well-scattered in eastern areas on the 29th, and most places stayed dry, sunny and cold. Many places saw a frost early on the 29th and again on the 30th, and Shap (Cumbria) fell to -7.3 °C overnight 29th/30th. A belt of rain affected East Anglia and the south-east on the 30th, with sunshine and showers for the north-east, but western parts remained sunny. It turned less cold on the 31st with sunshine for most, but with rain in the north-west and showers in the south-west.

Wales diary of highlights

It was generally settled and dry with variable amounts of cloud in the first week and from the 18th to 25th, but it was very warm in the second week with frequent southerly winds, albeit windy and very wet around the 12th. A northerly outbreak brought mostly sunny weather and notably low temperatures for late October from the 26th onwards.

The mean temperature for October was provisionally 0.2 °C below the long-term average, entirely due to colder than average nights. Most of the country had a dry sunny month, especially so in the south-east, and overall Wales had 80% of average rainfall and 124% of average sunshine.

1st to 7th

Predominantly westerly winds and high pressure to the south ensured mostly dry weather but with variable amounts of cloud. The 1st was mainly sunny apart from some very isolated showers at first, but some weak fronts brought a mostly cloudy drizzly day on the 2nd. The 3rd was generally sunny and warm, but sunshine was mainly confined to the south-east on the 4th, with most other places cloudy. The 5th and 6th were cloudy, with light rain sinking slowly southwards, but it brightened up in the north on the afternoon of the 6th, while turning cooler, and the 7th was dry and mainly sunny.

8th to 16th

After a cloudy day on the 8th with a little rain for western and southern parts, a southerly flow brought clear sunny weather on the 9th and 10th, apart from some cloud lingering around western coasts on the 9th. St Athan (South Glamorgan) recorded 10.3 hours of bright sunshine on the 9th, and Porthmadog (Gwynedd) reached 24.1 °C on the 10th. After a dry bright start on the 11th in central and northern counties, persistent rain spread from the south-west to all areas, heaviest in the west, though it cleared away later. Storm Callum brought more heavy rain from the south-west accompanied by gales, with a gust to 86 mph at Capel Curig (Gwynedd). There was marked orographic enhancement of the rain in the south, with a daily total of 159.8 mm at Libanus (Powys). The night of the 12th/13th was unusually warm, Margam (Glamorganshire) falling no

lower than 16.5 °C, and the 13th was another wet and windy day but the rain cleared away from the east and south. A slow-moving frontal system brought heavy rain to much of the country on the 14th, which turned light and patchy on the 15th and 16th, but the north-west had three dry sunny days.

17th to 25th

Weakening fronts brought cloudy weather with some isolated patches of rain and drizzle on the 17th, but it tended to become drier and brighter. The 18th to 20th were dry and mostly sunny, with some overnight frost in central parts on the 19th. Central and southern parts were affected by fog early on the 21st, which slowly cleared to leave a dry bright day, but it was cloudier with some rain in the far north and west. The 22nd was a cooler day, but dry and mainly sunny. The 23rd to 25th were cloudier, although central and eastern parts were quite sunny on the 24th.

26th to 31st

A northerly outbreak set in on the 26th, bringing cool weather with sunshine and showers, locally with thunder in the north. The 27th was even colder, with sunshine and scattered showers, most of the showers in the far west, with hail locally. The 28th and 29th were dry, sunny and cold, and Lake Vyrnwy (Powys) reached only 4.2 °C on the 29th. The night of the 29th/30th was very cold with a minimum of -8.6 °C at St Harmon (Powys), followed by another mainly dry sunny day but with isolated showers in the north and east. The 31st started with another widespread frost away from coasts, and a cloudy wet day followed across the west, but it was generally sunny inland and further east.

Scotland diary of highlights

October was quite changeable with mainly westerly winds during the first week and from the 16th to 25th. The second week was very warm at times with generally southerly winds, and was often wet and windy. A northerly outbreak set in on the 26th to give a very cold end to the month.

The mean temperature for October was provisionally 0.1 °C above the 1981-2010 average. It was a rather dry month in the south but quite wet in the north-west, and sunshine was generally near or rather above average. Overall, rainfall was 93% of average and sunshine was 111% of average.

1st to 7th

This week was generally unsettled with westerly winds. After a cloudy and dry start to the 1st, rain, heavy at times, spread to all parts except the far south-west. The rain cleared overnight leaving a mostly dry sunny day on the 2nd, with scattered showers in the far north-west. The 3rd and 4th were cloudy drizzly days for much of the country; the 3rd started off very wet in the north and east, and the 4th was very wet for much of the day in the north-west. The rain cleared away from the south on the 5th, followed by sunshine and showers with the latter most numerous in the west and north-west. Clear skies and light winds led to a frost in some inland places early on the 6th, followed by a sunny day with a few showers across the north-west. Fronts brought a dull wet day to all parts on the 7th, with persistent and locally heavy rain.

8th to 15th

The weather turned notably warm with southerly winds. The 8th and 9th were again very wet in central and western areas, drier in the east, and on the 8th some places had over 75 mm with 128.0 mm recorded at Achnagart (Ross & Cromarty). Clear weather pushed up from the south for the 10th bringing a very warm and sunny day, with 10.1 hours of sunshine at Kinloss (Morayshire) and a high of 22.3 °C at Floors Castle (Roxburghshire). The night of the 10th/11th was very warm and the temperature did not drop below 14.8 °C at Aultbea (Ross & Cromarty). The 11th started dry and bright in many areas but an area of heavy rain spread northwards through central and eastern areas, and another rain belt spread from the south-west late in the day. On the 12th storm Callum brought heavy rain and gales to some places, severe gales at exposed sites,

and rain cleared through by late afternoon. The 13th was very wet everywhere, but the rain cleared eastwards by noon on the 14th followed by sunshine with some showers for the north-west, and the 15th stayed sunny but with further showers in the north-west.

16th to 25th

It was more settled during this period but frontal systems moving around the northern flank of high pressure continued to bring cloud and rain at times. Rain affected central and western areas at times on the 16th but it was mainly dry in the east following clearance of early rain. The rain cleared the south-east on the 17th leaving a sunny day, with scattered showers for the north-west, and under clear skies some rural parts started frosty with patchy fog on the 18th. Cloud and rain spread from the north-west on the 18th, slowly clearing south-eastwards on the 19th followed by sunshine with scattered showers in the north-west. Another belt of rain moved south-eastwards late on the 20th and early on the 21st, preceded and followed by mainly dry sunny weather but with showers in the north. The föhn effect led to some notably high temperatures in the north-east on the 20th. A north-westerly flow brought mainly cloudy weather from the 22nd to 25th, with rain at times for the north and west; however the 22nd was bright in the east and the south, but also very windy in the north with a gust to 69 mph at Fair Isle (Shetland).

26th to 31st

A northerly outbreak brought much colder weather for the rest of the month, unusually cold for late-October at times. The 26th had a mix of sunshine and scattered showers with sleet and snow over high ground, although the south-west remained mostly dry and sunny. It was colder still on the 27th with some areas seeing sleet and wet snow to low levels in the heavier showers. Dalwhinnie (Inverness-shire) only reached 3.0 °C, and snow lay 6 cm deep at Tomnavoulin (Morayshire), but sleet and snow became confined to high ground later in the day. Showers were mainly confined to eastern areas and the far north on the 28th, with sleet and snow on high ground, and many places saw overnight frost. The 29th was also bright and cold with a widespread frost, and showers in the east were more scattered, but cloud and light rain reached the far north-west. Following another widespread frost, showers were more widespread in central and eastern parts on the 30th. There was another widespread frost on the night of the 30th/31st with a minimum of -6.5 °C at Aboyne (Aberdeenshire), and the 31st had some rain over the south which fizzled out by early afternoon, while rain over the west became persistent and locally heavy.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

October was relatively dry and settled from the 1st to 7th and 14th to 25th with variable amounts of cloud. The second week was warm and often wet and windy with southerly winds, while a northerly outbreak on the 26th led to a cold end to the month.

The month's mean temperature was provisionally 0.2 °C below the 1981-2010 long-term average. It was rather dry, especially in the south, with only 58% of the average rainfall overall. Sunshine was a little above average with Northern Ireland as a whole having 109% of average.

1st to 7th

Westerly winds on the northern flank of an anticyclone brought mostly cloudy weather. Some light rain moved in from the north-west on the afternoon of the 1st, and then on the 2nd, after some early brightness in the north, patchy light rain affected southern areas. The 3rd was cloudy again with a little light rain in the north in the evening, and on the 4th rain turned more persistent for most places in the afternoon. The 5th was brighter with some scattered showers, and the 6th became mostly sunny after a cloudy showery start. The cloudy westerly regime returned on the 7th with some rain, though it turned drier in the afternoon.

8th to 13th

Winds were often southerly during this period and as a result it became unseasonably warm at times. The 8th was a wet day, and the 9th continued cloudy for all, although rain became more confined to the north. Clear sunny weather spread from the south for the 10th, resulting in a high of 21.2 °C at Derrylin (County Fermanagh). The night of the 10th/11th was notably warm, with Killowen (County Down) and Magilligan (County Londonderry) not falling below 14.5°C. On the 11th an area of heavy rain spread from the south but cleared mid-afternoon, and on the 12th storm Callum brought heavy rain and gales in exposed places, with a 68 mph gust at Orlock Head (County Down), the rain clearing in the afternoon followed by isolated showers. The 13th was less windy, but dull and wet again with 28.4 mm at Ballypatrick Forest (County Antrim).

14th to 25th

This period was more settled, with high pressure often close to the south. After early frontal cloud cleared away from the north-east the 14th was a sunny day, and under clear skies there was frost in some places overnight 14th/15th with isolated fog patches. The 15th was also sunny, with 9.7 hours of bright sunshine at Thomastown (County Fermanagh). A band of cloud and light rain and drizzle cleared eastwards by midday on the 16th, followed by sunny intervals, and the 17th was mainly sunny with just isolated showers. It was mainly sunny on the 18th after some slight frost and patchy fog overnight, but cloud increased from the north-west later. The 19th and 20th were cloudy with a little rain, and more general rain spread from the north-west on the 20th, clearing south-eastwards on the 21st followed by brighter cooler weather. The 22nd started off sunny but cloud arrived from the north-west, and from the 23rd to 25th it was mostly cloudy with some light rain at times, particularly for the north-east of the country on the 23rd.

26th to 31st

It turned much colder for the rest of the month due to a northerly outbreak on the 26th/27th. The 26th was chilly with sunshine and scattered showers, and the 27th was even colder with sunshine and scattered showers; Trassey Slievenaman (County Down) and Lough Fea (County Londonderry) only reached a high of 5.1 °C. The showers were wintry over high ground, but tended to die away from mid-afternoon. The 28th was sunny and dry after a frosty start, and the night of the 28th/29th was very cold for many with a minimum of -5.9 °C at Katesbridge (County Down). The 29th was cloudier with rain in the far west but most places stayed dry. The 30th was mostly dry and bright but with showery rain mainly in the west, and the 31st was cloudy and wet with rain crossing the country from the west.

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