



Weather chart for 1200 UTC on 14 August 1979

Daily weather extremes

Highest Maximum Temperature:
21.7 °C at Wattisham (Suffolk)

Lowest Maximum Temperature:
11.0 °C at Cape Wrath (Sutherland)

Lowest Minimum Temperature:
8.4 °C at Lerwick (Shetland)

Lowest Grass Minimum Temperature:
4.5 °C at Sumburgh (Shetland)

Most Rainfall:
36.0 mm at Tongue (Sutherland)

Most Sunshine:
12.0 hours at Lizard (Cornwall)

General summary

Outbreaks of rain affected much of northern England, southern Scotland and Northern Ireland during the night. Elsewhere, apart from a little light rain across North Wales, it was a dry but rather cloudy night.

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 windward coasts in the west. Scotland and Northern Ireland continued to see rain, locally heavy at times, across Scotland. The rain spreading north into northern Scotland by noon. Rain continued across much of Scotland during the afternoon although somewhat 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 during the evening. Rain also continued across the far north of Scotland as well. 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 were about average across southeast England but a degree or so below normal elsewhere.

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.

Highest gust speeds

	Gust speed	
	(knots)	(mph)
Milford Haven (Dyfed)	65	75
South Bradfield (South Yorkshire)	59	68
Dover (Kent)	59	68
Cilfynydd (Mid Glamorgan)	56	65
Cranwell (Lincolnshire)	54	62
St Mary's (Isles of Scilly)	54	62
Gwennap Head (Cornwall)	54	62
Brawdy (Dyfed)	53	61
Waddington (Lincolnshire)	52	60
Elmdon (West Midlands)	51	59

Daily weather statistics

	London	Edinburgh	Cardiff	Belfast
Maximum Temperature/°C:	19.8	18.8	17.0	15.4
Minimum Temperature/°C:	17.1	11.7	15.2	10.8
Rainfall Amount/mm:	0.0	2.9	7.8	0.3
Sunshine Amount/hours:	9.8	3.8	6.3	0.8