



Weather chart for 1200 UTC on 18 July 1972

Daily weather extremes

Highest Maximum Temperature:
26.9 °C at Cambridge, Botanic Garden (Cambridgeshire)

Lowest Maximum Temperature:
13.7 °C at Lerwick (Shetland)

Lowest Minimum Temperature:
6.8 °C at Leuchars (Fife)

Lowest Grass Minimum Temperature:
4.1 °C at Shawbury (Shropshire)

Most Rainfall:
90.3 mm at Exeter (Devon)

Most Sunshine:
15.7 hours at Stormont Castle (Co. Down)

General summary

Scotland, along with eastern and southern counties of England and South Wales had a murky night with low cloud and areas of mist or fog. The cloud was thick enough in places to produce the odd spot of drizzle although amounts were small. Northwest England, North Wales and Northern Ireland had a dry night with clear skies.

During the morning the mist and low cloud slowly cleared from southern Scotland and the Midlands but for much of the country it remained rather grey for much of the morning. North-western parts of the United Kingdom had a dry, sunny morning.

The afternoon saw little general change with north-western parts having the best of the weather. It remained rather grey down the east coast of both England and Scotland. Thunderstorms affected southern counties of England during the afternoon and into the evening, one or two of which were violent in nature leading to some localised flooding.

Winds were mainly light and from the east or northeast.

Despite all the low cloud it was a warm or very warm day generally although temperatures were pegged back along the North Sea coast.

Significant weather event

During the late evening of the 18 July violent thunderstorms occurred in the east Devon/west Dorset area caused lightning damage to buildings and disruption to telephone and electric power supplies. In a small area just to the north and east of Exeter a number of intense rainfalls classified as 'very rare' were recorded. So localised were these downpours that Newton Abbot, some 20 miles south-west of Exeter, had a mere 9.3 mm of rain during the entire month.

Extreme rainfall totals

	Rainfall in minutes
Exeter Airport	89.1 mm in 132 minutes
Stoke Canon	86.0 mm in 195 minutes
Stallcombe	88.2 mm in 180 minutes
Pinhoe	82.7 mm in 210 minutes
Rockbeare Manor	78.3 mm in 120 minutes
Brampton Speke	78.6 mm in 135 minutes
Redhayes	78.0 mm in 150 minutes

Daily weather statistics

	London	Edinburgh	Cardiff	Belfast
Maximum Temperature/°C:	25.2	18.7	23.6	24.6
Minimum Temperature/°C:	15.5	10.1	14.7	9.9
Rainfall Amount/mm:	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sunshine Amount/hours:	2.5	9.4	0.5	15.6