

November 2020

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

November began mild, wet and windy, but briefly turned colder and more settled around the 4th-7th with a ridge of high pressure. Southerly and south-westerly winds blew frequently from the 7th to 18th, bringing mild weather with wet and windy spells. It continued mostly unsettled and mild until the 25th, with a very brief northerly outbreak on the 19th. It turned settled and colder from the 26th to 29th with high pressure and variable amounts of cloud with widespread fog, then further rain spread southwards on the 30th.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 7.7 °C, which is 1.5 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average, making it the 6th warmest November in a series from 1884. Both mean maximum and minimum temperatures were generally around 1.5 °C above average, but in Northern Ireland it was slightly less mild. Overall, rainfall was 84% of average and sunshine was 93% of average. It was much drier than average near north-east coasts, but rainfall was mostly near or above normal in western Scotland, north-west England and Northern Ireland. Sunshine was above normal over northern Scotland (except the Western Isles and Shetland Isles) and in East Anglia, but well below normal in Northern Ireland and in central, western and south-western parts of Scotland.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: Maximum temperatures of 18.4 °C were recorded at Thornes Park (West Yorkshire) & Hawarden (Clwyd) on the 1st. Minimum temperatures of -6.1 °C were recorded at Aboyne (Aberdeenshire) and Cromdale (Morayshire) on the 29th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 GMT on the 12th, 129.2 mm of rain fell at Skye Alltdearg House (Inverness-shire). A wind gust of 80 knots (92 mph) was recorded at Needles (Isle of Wight) on the 15th.

Weather impacts

On the 1st, rain resulted in road closures in Scotland, notably the A82, and some sporadic power outages. In Wales, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service rescued a motorist stranded in flood water near Corwen, there were reports of some flooding on roads and a number of rail lines, and a small number of fallen trees across the road network, and properties were flooded in North Wales. Some trunk roads were closed in Cumbria. In Yorkshire and Humber a motorist was rescued from a car, and train services near Skipton were impacted by flooding. Strong winds caused impacts in the south-west of England on the 1st and 2nd. The M48 between junctions 1 and 2 was closed temporarily and the Sandbanks Ferry, the St Mawes Ferry and the Tamar Ferry were suspended due to strong winds.

On the 11th there was flooding on roads in south-east Wales and in Swansea. Further wet and windy weather on the 15th resulted in fallen trees in Northern Ireland and flooding on roads in Belfast, Derry City, Omagh, Lisburn and Coleraine, which led to some road closures. On the 17th, in Scotland flooding resulted in road closures on the A82 and the B829 due to flooding. On the 18th, ScotRail reported some cancellations on the Inverness-Elgin-Aberdeen route. On the 24th there were some reports of flooding on the A8 in Scotland and a rail line between Glasgow and Edinburgh.

England diary of highlights

November was mostly mild with southerly winds, but there were brief spells of colder, settled weather with widespread fog, especially towards the end of the month. It turned wet and windy around mid-month with gales in places.

The mean temperature for November was provisionally 1.6 °C above the long-term average, making it the 5th warmest November in a series from 1884. Rainfall was 71% of average, and it was much drier than average in the north-east, rather dry elsewhere, but with slightly above average rainfall in the north-west. Sunshine was 94% of average, and it was sunnier than average in East Anglia, but it was a dull month in the north-west and over most of the Home Counties.

1st to 7th

The 1st was cloudy and windy, with rain early and late and a window of drier brighter weather in the morning, and the rain from mid-afternoon turned heavy from the Midlands northwards with 96.2 mm at Beckermonds (North Yorkshire). It was generally mild, with a high of 18.4 °C at Thornes Park (West Yorkshire). The night of the 1st/2nd was also very mild with the temperature not falling below 15.3 °C at Chertsey Abbey Mead (Surrey). The 2nd and 3rd were cooler with a mix of sunshine and showers, the showers mainly confined to western areas on the 3rd, but an area of organised rain, with thunder locally, crossed southern areas late on the 2nd and early on the 3rd. High pressure dominated from the 4th to 6th, and Almondsbury (Avon), Exeter Airport (Devon) and Shoeburyness (Essex) recorded 8.6 hours of sunshine on the 4th. There was fog and frost overnight in central and southern parts of the country, and generally variable amounts of cloud on the 5th and 6th, but it was cloudier with a little light rain for parts of the north and East Anglia early on the 5th. Fog was slow to clear in many areas on the 7th, followed by another dry day for most with variable amounts of cloud, but it turned wet in the far south-west.

8th to 17th

Milder and more unsettled weather returned, with frequent southerly winds. A belt of rain moved slowly north-eastwards through the country on the 8th, with widespread mist and fog, and there were further mist and fog patches on the 9th, which was mainly cloudy with showers and longer spells of rain, heaviest and most frequent in the south. The 10th was again foggy for many central and eastern counties, but otherwise there were bright intervals, with showers around the coasts and in the north late in the day. Rain affected western counties on the 11th, especially from late afternoon, but most central and eastern parts stayed dry until after dusk. The grey murky weather cleared away for the 12th, which was brighter with isolated showers. A band of rain cleared away east by lunchtime on the 13th, followed by sunshine with a few isolated showers mainly in the west. The 14th was a wet and windy day with bands of rain crossing the country, these not clearing Kent and East Anglia until around lunchtime on the 15th. The 15th had sunshine and showers and longer spells of rain, with maximum gusts of 80 knots (92 mph) at Needles (Isle of Wight). The 16th started dry and sunny in the north and east, but it soon clouded over from the west with rain spreading in, reaching East Anglia and the south-east in the evening. The 17th was a generally mild cloudy day with a little light rain and drizzle.

18th to 25th

A belt of rain moved eastwards through the country on the 18th after a dry sunny start in the south-east and East Anglia, followed by brighter showery weather, and it turned windy with gales in exposed parts. Rain cleared central and southern parts on the 19th, otherwise it was a much colder brighter day with scattered showers around the coasts. The 20th started frosty for some, especially East Anglia and the south-east, before rain spread into most parts from the west. On the 21st a slow-moving band of rain in the north slowly moved southwards. This stalled over south coast counties on the 22nd giving a largely cloudy day, but elsewhere there was sunshine, with some showers in the north. There was fog and frost in some central and southern areas early on the 23rd, followed by a sunny day for the east Midlands and East Anglia, but it was cloudy elsewhere, with afternoon rain spreading eastwards across the north. The 24th was a dry bright day for central southern and south-eastern counties, but with rain over the north, which spread slowly south-eastwards on the 25th, followed by brighter weather.

26th to 30th

The month ended with colder, more settled weather. A slow-moving front brought cloudy weather and patchy rain to the far south on the 26th and 27th, with some sunshine and fog patches elsewhere, and Pershore (Worcestershire) only reached 3.4 °C on the 26th. Rain spread into the south-west late on the 27th and affected the Midlands and north on the 28th, but in clear skies to the north of the rain belt, Ravensworth (North Yorkshire) fell to -5.0 °C overnight 27th/28th. The 29th was mainly dull with some mist and fog in places, but sunny in parts of the south-west. The 30th was another mainly cloudy day with rain spreading south-eastwards through the country, followed by brighter showery weather into the north.

Wales diary of highlights

It was a generally mild month with southerly and south-westerly winds, though there were some colder drier spells, particularly near the end of the month. It was often wet and windy around mid-month.

The mean temperature for November was 1.2 °C above the 1981-2010 average. Rainfall was 81% of average and sunshine was 97% of average.

1st to 6th

The 1st was cloudy and breezy, starting off with some patchy rain, then turning wet everywhere by the afternoon with 94.0 mm of rainfall at Capel Curig (Gwynedd), but mild in places with a maximum temperature of 18.4 °C at Hawarden (Clwyd). There was a mix of sunshine and frequent showers on the 2nd and 3rd, and it was windy especially on the 2nd when Capel Curig reported a gust to 81 mph. There was a clear cold start for most on the 4th with a minimum of -3.9 °C at St Harmon (Powys), with sunshine and just isolated showers during the day, the showers mainly in the north. It was dry with variable amounts of cloud on the 5th, and generally sunny on the 6th with 8.6 hours of sunshine at Aberdaron (Gwynedd).

7th to 17th

Mild and unsettled weather took over during this period. After a foggy morning in central parts on the 7th and some sunshine, cloudy skies and light rain spread from the south. The 8th was misty and foggy, with rain, clearing by mid-afternoon. The 9th and 10th both started with some fog patches in the north, and were cloudy days with showers and longer spells of rain. An area of heavy rain spread from the west and south-west on the afternoon of the 11th, with strong winds at times and gales in exposed locations, then a brighter though still mainly cloudy day followed on the 12th, with scattered showers. Further rain spread from the west overnight, followed by sunshine and showers on the 13th. It was generally wet and windy on the 14th and the morning of the 15th, followed by brighter weather with frequent showers and a few thunderstorms, and more general rain spread from the north after dark. The 16th and 17th were cloudy, with persistent rain spreading from the west late on the 16th, otherwise there was light and patchy rain.

18th to 25th

It was very mild overnight into the 18th with the temperature not dropping below 12.6 °C at Prestatyn (Clwyd), then rain spread eastwards, clearing mid-afternoon followed by sunshine and isolated showers and strong winds, with gales locally. It was cooler and showery on the 19th but turned drier and brighter through the afternoon. Rain spread across the country on the 20th, clearing in the afternoon, and then the rest of the 20th and the 21st were cloudy with light rain and drizzle, persistent at times in the west. There was sunshine and a few showers on the 22nd, followed by a frost in some central parts early on the 23rd, then the 23rd and 24th were mainly cloudy with a little rain in southern and western counties. More general rain spread from the west overnight into the 25th, followed by a mainly sunny day with just isolated showers.

26th to 30th

It turned colder and more settled. Apart from a few scattered showers in the north-west, the 26th was mainly sunny with some early frost and patchy fog, and a maximum of only 1.4 °C at Llysdyham (Powys). It remained chilly on the 27th with frost in parts of the south, then mainly sunny, but cloudier in some inland areas. It was mainly overcast on the 28th, though briefly brighter in parts of the far north and north-west, with rain and drizzle spreading slowly north-east. Most places remained cloudy on the 29th, though with some sunshine in the south and south-west, then rain spread from the north on the 30th, followed by more showery conditions.

Scotland diary of highlights

It was a mild month overall, with periods of unsettled weather interspersed with brief quieter, colder interludes, and there was a longer cold settled spell in the last week. Southerly and south-westerly winds were frequent, giving plenty of rain for the west and south, but the north-east missed most of the rain.

The mean temperature for the month was 1.6 °C above the long-term average, making it the 5th warmest November in a series from 1884. Overall, rainfall was 93% of average, and it was much drier than average in the north-east, but wetter than average in parts of the west. Sunshine was 92% of average, and it was a sunny month in the north of the mainland, but sunshine was well below average in the south-west.

1st to 7th

The 1st started off with widespread rain, clearing eastwards during the morning to brighter, showery conditions, before turning wet again in the afternoon except in the far north-east; it was windy, with a maximum gust of 71 knots at Aultbea (Ross & Cromarty). It was generally cloudy except in the south-east on the 2nd, with showers mainly across the west and south. An area of rain cleared south-eastwards from the north-east early on the 3rd, otherwise it was a day of sunshine and showers, the showers heaviest and most frequent in the north and west. Showers in northern and north-western parts on the 4th were replaced by persistent rain, with gales in the Northern Isles, but it was sunnier in the south and east. High pressure ridged northwards on the 5th-7th. Ahead of this a moist westerly flow brought cloud and light rain to the far north on the 5th, dying out early afternoon, but it was sunny and mild in the east with 7.3 hours of sunshine at Durrus (Aberdeenshire) and a high of 16.6 °C at Dyce (Aberdeenshire). The 6th was dry and mainly sunny after clearance of early mist and fog with 7.3 hours of sunshine at Fair Isle (Shetland) and Dyce, but cloudier in western counties. It remained dry with some sunshine on the 7th, though fog was very slow to clear in places especially along the east coast, with 7.3 hours of sunshine at Charterhall (Berwickshire).

8th to 17th

The weather turned mild and unsettled with mostly southerly winds. Fog in the south-east was slow to clear on the 8th, and a rain belt spread from the south-west to all parts by mid-afternoon. Fog was persistent for central and eastern parts on the 9th and 10th, otherwise the 9th was brighter with scattered showers and the 10th was mainly cloudy with some light rain, though sunny in the far north. Persistent rain affected most parts on the 11th, with considerable orographic enhancement in the west, giving 129.2 mm of rain at Skye Alltdearg House (Inverness-shire), with gales in places, but it stayed dry in parts of the north-east. The 12th was generally cloudy but bright with isolated showers, but more general light rain across the Western Isles. Rain over the north and east cleared on the morning of the 13th followed by showers or longer spells of rain across central and western parts. The 14th and 15th were generally wet and windy with spells of rain crossing the country, but the far north stayed relatively dry. Sunshine and showers on the

16th were replaced by a band of rain spreading from the south-west after dusk, and the 17th was dull and wet in the west with heavy persistent rain, but drier in the east.

18th to 24th

The night of the 17th/18th was very mild in places, with the temperature not falling below 13.3 °C at Edinburgh Botanic Gardens (Midlothian), and a broad area of rain moved eastwards on the 18th, mainly clearing by mid-afternoon, followed by brighter showery weather and strong winds, with gales in exposed parts, the far north and the Northern Isles. Showers were wintry over high ground on the 19th with a maximum of just 2.5 °C at Balmoral (Aberdeenshire). The cold snap was short-lived and it turned mild and wet from the west on the 20th. Light rain cleared the south during the morning of the 21st, otherwise there was sunshine and frequent showers, locally thundery in the Northern Isles, and it remained showery on the 22nd, but drier in Aberdeenshire. A mild, moist south-westerly brought persistent rain to most parts on the 23rd and 24th, but with less rain in eastern areas.

25th to 30th

The weather turned colder and more settled. There were showers mainly in northern and western parts on the 25th, otherwise it was mainly sunny. Most places were dry and cloudy and chilly on the 26th, with isolated pockets of frost and patchy fog overnight, some light rain in the far west, and some brighter spells in the far south-west, far-northeast and the Northern Isles. It remained chilly and mainly cloudy on the 27th, with patchy rain in central parts and the far north-west, though with brighter interludes again in the far south-west and north-east. Most places were dry and sunny on the 28th, after a frosty start in some places on the 29th with minima of -6.1 °C at Aboyne (Aberdeenshire) and Cromdale (Morayshire), and fog patches across the Central Belt, but the far west was cloudier. The 29th started bright in the east, but rain spread eastwards over northern parts from mid-afternoon, and continued south-eastwards on the 30th, before it turned more showery later with occasional sunny intervals.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

It was a generally dull month, often mild and unsettled but with brief colder drier interludes, and a longer cold and quiet spell during the last week.

The mean temperature for the month was 1.1 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. Rainfall was 106% of average and sunshine was 74% of average, making it the equal 10th dullest November in a series from 1919, and it was wettest and dullest in the west.

1st to 7th

The 1st began bright and breezy but rain spread from the west from early afternoon, giving 32.3 mm at Lough Navar (County Fermanagh), and the 2nd was cloudy with showers and longer spells of rain. The 3rd was brighter with scattered blustery showers, then under a ridge of high pressure the 4th saw isolated pockets of early frost in the south-east, with sunny intervals, and isolated showers mainly over northern and western counties. It was generally dry and cloudy on the 5th, but brighter on the 6th following clearance of mist and fog patches, with 5.6 hours of sunshine at Katesbridge (County Down) and Thomastown (County Fermanagh). Fog was persistent in places, especially in the west, on the 7th, otherwise there was some sunshine but it clouded over during the afternoon with rain reaching the south in the evening.

8th to 17th

The weather turned mild and unsettled. Rain, mist and fog cleared north by midday on the 8th, followed by a cloudy afternoon with occasional light rain. The temperature did not fall below 12.0 °C at Killowen (County Down) overnight into the 9th, then the 9th and 10th started off with fog in

central parts and were cloudy with some patchy rain and drizzle. It was wet and windy on the 11th, followed by a brighter but still cloudy day on the 12th with scattered showers. Another rain belt crossed the country on the night of the 12th/13th, followed by a mainly sunny but breezy day on the 13th with a few isolated showers. It was wet and windy on the 14th and 15th, with a gust to 59 mph at Killowen on the 14th. It remained cloudy with outbreaks of rain on the 16th and 17th, though the rain was generally lighter on the 17th and it turned very mild with a high of 16.1 °C at Killowen.

18th to 24th

Rain cleared eastwards by late morning on the 18th, followed by a window of mainly dry bright weather before showers and longer spells of rain swept eastwards during the afternoon, with strong winds. A ridge of high pressure brought sunshine on the 19th with just isolated showers, but further rain spread from the west early on the 20th, replaced by cloudy weather with patchy light rain in the afternoon. The light rain cleared southwards on the morning of the 21st followed by sunshine and scattered showers. The 22nd had sunshine and isolated showers mainly across the west, and it was rather cold with a high of 5.4 °C at Killylane (County Antrim). Rain early on the 23rd cleared away east by lunchtime, but further rain spread into central and western counties from mid-afternoon, and the 24th became wet and windy for all parts.

25th to 30th

The weather turned cooler and more settled. The 25th saw isolated fog patches, and early frost in parts of the west and south-west, then some sunshine, but with scattered showers, most frequent in northern and western counties. From the 26th to 29th it was generally overcast and cool with occasional light rain and drizzle, mainly in the north and west, but the 28th had some sunny spells in the north and east. There was a maximum of just 5.4 °C at Altnahinch (County Antrim) on the 27th and a minimum of -2.5 °C at Castlederg (County Tyrone) early on the 28th. The 30th was cloudy, misty at times with rain and drizzle, but turned drier from late afternoon.