

November 2021

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

The weather during most of November was on the mild side, with many areas seeing some settled spells, however the last ten days of the month were much colder and more unsettled, with Storm Arwen of note on the 26th/27th. Temperatures were above average for much of the time, and frosts were generally few, especially in northern areas of the UK.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 7.0 °C, which is 0.8 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. Northern areas were generally warmer relative to average than southern areas, with parts of south-east England actually slightly colder than average. Most parts of the UK saw less rainfall than average, substantially so for some areas, with less than 20% of normal for London and much of southern England. The only area with more rainfall than average was the far north-west of Scotland, and the UK overall had 63% of average November rainfall. Sunshine was below average in northern Scotland, Northern Ireland and western Wales, but rather above average in some other areas, giving an overall figure of 101% of average.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 17.6 °C was recorded at Nantwich, Reaseheath Hall (Cheshire) on the 9th. A minimum temperature of -8.7 °C was recorded at Shap (Cumbria) on the 29th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 UTC on the 20th, 67.2 mm of rain fell at Achfary (Sutherland). A wind gust of 85 knots (98 mph) was recorded at Brizlee Wood (Northumberland) on the night of the 26th. A snow-depth of 18 cm was measured at Middleton, Hillside (Derbyshire) on the 27th.

Weather impacts

November began unsettled, with reports of localised surface water flooding on the 1st across Merseyside, Lancashire and Greater Manchester. In Northern Ireland there was flooding near Glenavy, County Antrim and in parts of the Ards Peninsula. On the 7th there were some impacts from strong winds reported in Aberdeenshire: the A93, A981 and some minor roads were blocked by fallen trees. No further reports of impacts arose until the last six days of the month.

Following the naming of Storm Arwen by the Met Office, including a very rare red wind warning for eastern coastal areas of Scotland and Northern England as these were the areas expected to see the worst, many impacts were experienced on the 26th and 27th. Regrettably, three deaths were reported due to falling trees in Aberdeenshire, Antrim, and Cumbria. In Scotland, Traffic Scotland, the Police and ScotRail took mitigating action ahead of the strongest winds by closing a part of the A1, warning HGV drivers to take an alternative route to the A1 and warning passengers of potential delays on the East Coast Mainline due to speed restrictions. Fallen trees caused widespread disruption on the roads in Scotland, including many A roads, and the snow gates were closed at Braemar and Glenshee. ScotRail reported disruption and cancellations. Some councils temporarily withdrew road services staff due to safety concerns, but with so many roads being blocked by trees they resumed clearing the roads in the early hours. There were numerous high-voltage faults reported and over 120,000 properties were left without power, with 17,000 still without power by month-end. Damage was reported to buildings including Lanark United FC's ground, chimneys and roofs in Dunbar, Eyemouth, and Coldstream. A large area of trees was flattened in a forest near Kinbuck, Stirling. Northern Ireland suffered some delays to rail services, and fallen trees blocked roads. In Wales too, roads and railways were disrupted, with several train services being cancelled on the 27th and delays continuing into the 28th; almost 67,500 customers lost power during the storm. North-west England saw nearly 74,000 properties without power, some for over 2 days. Many trees were brought down which caused disruption to road and

rail travel. Cumbria Police declared a major incident because of the power outages and impact on communities. Snow closed Trans-Pennine routes, with 120 HGV drivers stuck on the M62. Speed restrictions were placed on railway lines, numerous roads were blocked due to fallen trees, and there were some reports of damaged buildings. In north-east England nearly 220,000 properties lost their electricity supply, some for over 3 days, with numerous fallen trees and damage to a number of homes. Some holiday caravans were damaged at coastal sites. Many schools were closed either pre-emptively or because of structural damage caused by the storm. South-west England had 78,000 customers without power for some time on the 27th, fallen trees blocked roads, and a person was taken to hospital in the Bristol area after being hit by a falling tree. The last three days of November brought some low-impact ice warnings which hindered ongoing recovery efforts.

England diary of highlights

Much of the month was on the mild side, but it became much colder towards the end. There was plenty of settled weather, with only limited amounts of rainfall, especially in the south. Only during the last week of the month was the weather truly unsettled, a period which included the first named storm of the season.

The mean temperature was provisionally 0.5 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average, with the north being rather milder but the south-east being near or just below average. Rainfall was broadly below average, especially further south, with many places in the south and south-east having less than a quarter of the average rainfall total for the month; the overall figure for England was 45% of average. Sunshine was above average in the majority of places, with an overall figure of 110%.

1st to 6th

The south-east was fine and bright for most of the 1st, but showers initially over the south-west spread along the south coast, locally heavy and thundery during the afternoon, and an area of rain over the north moved steadily southwards, becoming more showery. The 2nd began chilly in the south, with fog slow to clear in the Midlands; there was sunshine, but with showers all day over the south-west and developing elsewhere during the afternoon. The 3rd was mainly cloudy, after a bright start in a few areas, with an area of showery precipitation feeding in from the North Sea over eastern counties and into parts of the East Midlands and East Anglia, while showers developed for a time elsewhere. Some western areas began cold on the 4th, which was a bright day but with showers over the far south-west and near eastern coasts. The 5th began frosty in many central and southern counties, brightest in the south-east, but cloudier elsewhere, with patchy light rain mainly in the north-west. The 6th was windy, starting with patchy rain in many places, but a band of locally heavy rain spread from the north-west during the afternoon, reaching the south-east by early evening but becoming lighter and more showery by this time.

7th to 15th

The 7th was fine, with just isolated showers over the north-west. The 8th saw early mist and fog for western counties, slow to clear for some, then was generally cloudy with patchy rain in the south, becoming brighter for a time in the east, with rain spreading into northern parts during the afternoon, Seathwaite (Cumbria) receiving 60.4 mm. Though the east and south-east began fine on the 9th, there was rain over the north, and all areas were cloudy by late afternoon but much milder too with Nantwich Reaseheath Hall (Cheshire) recording a maximum of 17.6 °C. St Mary's (Scilly) fell no lower than 12.9 °C early on the 10th, then it was dull and damp, with rain and drizzle in the north moving slowly southwards, and mist, fog and drizzle for central and southern counties, reluctant to clear in some places. Much of the south started with mist and fog on the 11th, slow to clear in some spots, with light rain or drizzle at times throughout, while a brighter start in the north and east gave way to increasing cloud by the afternoon. All areas were breezy with rain on the 12th, the rain heaviest and most widespread over the north but more showery in nature elsewhere.

The north-west saw some sunshine on the 13th, with other areas more overcast and patches of rain and drizzle around coasts. Certain areas were misty or foggy on the 14th, a generally cloudy day with patchy light rain or drizzle especially for the south-east, and a few brighter spells for northern and central parts. Mist and fog for southern areas on the 15th persisted all day in some spots, while a band of rain lay from the north-east to the south-west, moving slowly south and fizzling out; parts of the Midlands became brighter for a time.

16th to 20th

Though remaining mild for now, the next few days began to become less settled. Mist and fog affected many southern areas on the 16th, otherwise after a bright start in the south-east cloud increased everywhere with patchy rain or drizzle in many places. The 17th gave some sunshine, though parts of the north-west saw some showers, these tending to die away during the afternoon. The 18th was mostly fine in the south-east, but cloudier elsewhere with patchy rain and drizzle, and some hill fog in the south. Fog patches in the south-west early on the 19th were slow to clear in places, then most places were cloudy, but with some brightness in eastern counties. The 20th was bright in the north-east for a time, cloudy elsewhere, with patchy rain in some western areas.

21st to 30th

Most areas were markedly colder but with some sunshine on the 21st, while Cornwall and eastern coasts were showery, with hail at times, on a northerly wind. The 22nd was again bright, after frost in places, with showers near eastern and south-eastern coasts. A few southern locations had early fog on the 23rd, with frost in some south-western counties, otherwise there was some sunshine, only central districts retaining cloud through the day. After a bright start in the far north-east and the far south-west, during the morning of the 24th a band of rain and drizzle moved into the north-west, continuing to edge south-eastwards, with other areas remaining largely dry. A renewed northerly plunge meant a frosty start in some areas on the 25th, but some sunshine for most, albeit with showers clipping far eastern and far western coastal counties for a time. The 26th saw bands of showers from the north Midlands southward to start the day, these sweeping south-eastwards, coalescing for a time into longer spells of heavy rain, turning wintry over higher ground with sleet and snow, but clearing for a time, whilst Storm Arwen moved into the North Sea, causing winds to increase through the day, with gales in northern and eastern areas, Brizlee Wood (Northumberland) recording gusts to 98 mph later. The 27th began very windy, with blustery showers, wintry at times with rain, sleet and snow, coalescing occasionally into longer spells of precipitation, Middleton Hillside (Derbyshire) recording 17 cm of lying snow; the showers began to die away from western areas with sunny spells developing here. The 28th started mostly clear and frosty, with isolated sleet and snow showers clipping North Sea coasts, then a more organised area of snow moved into the north-west, heading south-eastwards through the day but tending to fragment; it remained breezy and cold, with Warcop Range (Cumbria) recording a maximum of only -0.9 °C. Many areas had a frosty start on the 29th, Shap (Cumbria) falling to -8.7 °C, with isolated mist and freezing fog patches at first, wintry showers clipping far eastern coasts of East Anglia briefly, then turning brighter in some eastern counties for a time, while patchy rain and drizzle started in northern and western parts during the afternoon, becoming more widespread later. Milder air spread in to give a generally cloudy day on the 30th with showers for some areas, and heavy rain reached the north after dark.

Wales diary of highlights

The first two-thirds of the month were generally fine and increasingly mild, with only modest amounts of rainfall, but the last ten days were much colder and more unsettled.

Mean temperatures for the month were provisionally 0.6 °C above average. It was a drier than average month, especially towards the south-east, with 43% of average rainfall. Sunshine was 91% of average, with the western side dullest relative to normal.

1st to 12th

An area of rain crossed the north late morning on the 1st, otherwise it was a bright day but with frequent showers, some heavy. After early fog patches in central and northern parts on the 2nd, there was some sunshine, but showers in places. The 3rd brought sunshine and scattered showers, the latter becoming more isolated by late afternoon. The 4th was a fine day, apart from showers persisting on some western coasts. Some places started frosty on the 5th, which became generally cloudy with some patchy light rain mainly towards the west. The 6th was cloudy and windy, starting with patchy rain, then a band of rain spread from the north-west to all parts in the afternoon. The 7th was brighter with just isolated showers. It was overcast on the 8th, with outbreaks of rain affecting all parts during the day. After a mild night, with Milford Haven (Dyfed) not falling below 12.6 °C overnight, the 9th continued mild with Hawarden Airport (Clwyd) recording a maximum of 17.3 °C, but it was cloudy with drizzly rain persisting over western areas. It stayed cloudy again on the 10th, with patchy rain and drizzle moving south, stalling over the south in the afternoon. The 11th was overcast, with mist and fog especially over the north, and outbreaks of rain and drizzle at times through the day. Rain affected all parts throughout the 12th.

13th to 20th

The coming days were quieter and mild, and often cloudy. The 13th saw isolated patches of rain and drizzle, mainly over the west coast. The east was brighter on the 14th, with occasional rain or drizzle further west. The 15th again had outbreaks of light rain or drizzle, affecting most places during the day. Mist and fog over central and northern parts was slow to clear on the 16th, with patchy rain and drizzle throughout. The 17th remained mostly dry, with some early brightness especially towards the south-west. The 18th saw patchy rain and drizzle, particularly over the south-west. After coastal fog in places early on the 19th, it stayed cloudy with occasional outbreaks of drizzly rain, mainly in the south-west. On the 20th there were isolated outbreaks of light rain or drizzle in the south, and a narrow band of rain reached the north by early evening.

21st to 30th

The 21st was sunny, with showers along the west coast. After a frosty night, the 22nd was mostly sunny. The 23rd was similar in the south, but cloudy elsewhere, the cloud spreading south to all parts by evening. After brief early sunshine in the south-west, the 24th saw a band of rain moving in from the north-west from midday, moving south and east through the afternoon, though the south-east remained dry. A few central locations had frost early on the 25th, then it was mostly sunny and dry, though showers clipped western coastal counties, Pen-y-Coed (Powys) recording 30.8 mm. The 26th was increasingly windy, with frequent blustery showers, occasionally with thunder and hail, turning wintry over high ground, sweeping south and east through the day. Storm Arwen ensured a very windy start to the 27th, Aberporth (Dyfed) recording gusts to 81 mph; it was very cold, with showers in some northern and central parts, wintry at times, these easing by midday with some sunshine developing but Lake Vyrnwy (Powys) struggling to a maximum of only 1.7 °C. The 28th began frosty for some, bright in central and southern counties at first, but breezy with wintry showers briefly in the far west, and a more organised area of snow moved into the north late morning, spreading south-eastwards but turning more showery and mostly clearing later. Many places had a frost on the 29th, St Harmon (Powys) falling to -6.2 °C overnight, then it was cloudy with patchy rain and drizzle, wintry over high ground at first, with Lake Vyrnwy (Powys) recording 1cm of lying snow, but it became gradually milder through the day. The 30th was cloudy and mild with patchy rain and drizzle at times, and heavier rain in the north-west in the evening.

Scotland diary of highlights

Most of this month was milder than average, though it became much colder towards the end. Although drier spells were relatively short-lived, rainfall totals were below average away from the north-west.

The provisional mean temperature for the month was 1.3 °C above the long-term average, making it Scotland's ninth warmest November in a series from 1884. Rainfall was below average in many areas, especially Tayside and Fife, but the north-west corner had a wet month with locally double the average rainfall total, and Scotland overall had 84% of average rainfall. It was a dull month in the north, but brighter than average further south, with the overall sunshine figure 92% of average.

1st to 12th

There were showers or longer spells of rain for most places throughout the 1st. The 2nd was brighter, with showers which were heaviest and most frequent over the north and east. After a fine start to the 3rd in the south, showers in northern and north-eastern counties, wintry over high ground, spread southwards for a time, though becoming more isolated by late afternoon. After a slight frost in the south-west, the 4th was bright but with scattered showers for northern and eastern coasts. The 5th was more cloudy, with patchy light rain mainly for western and northern parts. The 6th was wet and windy, with rain, heavy at times, clearing eastwards during the afternoon, followed from the west by brighter conditions but also frequent, heavy and blustery showers. The 7th was brighter, with some showers which were heaviest and most frequent over the west. Rain reached western parts by mid-morning on the 8th, turning very heavy in places and spreading eastwards to reach the east coast by mid-afternoon, clearing away by evening but with further heavy rain affecting north western counties by this time. The Borders became foggy, with remnants of overnight rain clearing here during the morning of the 9th, then it became brighter for many parts although with showers further north and west. The 10th saw a few showers for the west and north, these dying out as cloud spread from the west to all parts through the afternoon with more rain and drizzle for western parts. The morning of the 11th saw sunshine in the south, but it became cloudy everywhere with rain and drizzle into the south-west early in the afternoon spreading north and east, and a band of heavier rain spreading from the west by dusk. Rain covered all parts on the 12th, heaviest over the north, eventually clearing away eastwards and becoming restricted to the south by evening.

13th to 19th

Central areas were sunny on the 13th, cloudy elsewhere with rain reaching western areas in the afternoon. The 14th was cloudy and mild, with occasional rain and drizzle for the south and east, and more persistent rain for the west and north. Overnight rain cleared away eastwards during the morning of the 15th, with short-lived fog patches for some coastal spots in the south-west, then some areas were brighter, with scattered showers over the north-west. The 16th was wet and windy, with bands of rain or showers affecting all parts throughout, heaviest over the north and west. After a sunny start in the north-east, the 17th was cloudy, with showers in northern and western parts, heavy in places and wintry over high ground at first in the Highlands, spreading eastwards through the day, and still breezy at times. The 18th was overcast and rather windy, with rain and drizzle, heaviest and most frequent over the north and west. Rain continued over the north and west on the 19th, Achfary (Sutherland) recording 67.2mm of rainfall, but a Foehn effect allowed brighter and very mild weather for the north-east, Dyce (Aberdeenshire) recording both the highest overnight minimum of 14.0 °C and also the highest maximum of 16.8 °C.

20th to 30th

A band of rain, heavy in the north-west, moved south during the morning of the 20th, clearing the Borders by teatime, followed by brighter but significantly colder conditions with frequent and locally heavy showers, wintry on higher ground. The 21st brought some sunshine, but showers were persistent over the north and down the east coast, wintry over the hills. Showers persisted over northern and eastern coasts on the 22nd, and, after a clear frosty start in central and southern parts, cloud spread south to all districts through the afternoon. The 23rd was sunny in the east, but cloudy elsewhere with rain or drizzle at times especially in the north-west. A band of patchy rain moved south-eastwards on the 24th, mostly clearing by early afternoon, with sunny intervals

and showers extending further south through the day, the showers fewest in southern and eastern parts. The 25th began cold, and clear in far southern counties, with isolated pockets of rural frost, but cloudy with wintry showers in northern parts, and snow even at lower levels, these showers tending to merge for a time into longer spells of occasionally wintry precipitation through the afternoon. The 26th began showery, though it was drier towards the south with brighter spells, but Storm Arwen began to approach the north and east, bringing heavy or very heavy rain at first, this turning increasingly wintry over higher ground and extending to lower levels later, with increasingly strong winds though the day, Inverbervie (Kincardineshire) recording gusts to 78 mph. The 27th remained very windy, with blustery sleet or snow showers, most frequent in northern and north-eastern parts, just a few slipping further south, though central and southern parts were mainly bright and dry; it was cold too, with Dalwhinnie (Inverness-shire) struggling to a maximum of only -0.2 °C. Most places began frosty on the 28th, with snow over the Central Belt and southern counties clearing southwards by midday, then sleet and snow showers in the north-east moved southwards along the east coast for a time, with other areas becoming fine; Loch Glascarnoch (Ross & Cromarty) reported 7 cm of lying snow. After another generally frosty start on the 29th, Loch Glascarnoch having fallen to -7.0 °C overnight, it was mainly cloudy, with wintry showers over northern parts, turning milder through the day as rain and drizzle moved into the north, tracking south and east and clearing the south-east by mid-afternoon, with patchy precipitation lingering in the west. The 30th was wet, with widespread showers or longer spells of rain, before an area of locally heavy rain spread from the west during the afternoon to reach all parts by dark.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

The first two-thirds of the month were predominantly mild, and, though any settled spells were brief, rainfall amounts were generally small until the final few days, by which time it had turned much colder.

The mean temperature was 1.2 °C above the 1981-2010 average. Rainfall was below average generally, particularly towards the south, with 61% of average overall, and sunshine was well below average too with a figure of 64%, provisionally the third dullest November for the Province in a series from 1919.

1st to 12th

Widespread rain and showers on the 1st cleared eastwards by mid-morning, then it turned brighter with frequent and locally heavy showers. Early mist and fog over western parts on the 2nd cleared to leave some sunshine, with any showers heaviest and most frequent over the north. The 3rd began mostly fine, but showers already affecting northern parts soon spread southwards to most places, tending to become fewer during the afternoon. The 4th was a day of sunshine and scattered showers. There was more cloud on the 5th, with light rain or showers affecting most parts at times. The 6th was windy with bands of rain and showers crossing the country through the day. The 7th was brighter, with any showers well scattered. A band of rain, heavy in places, already in the west by dawn on the 8th, swiftly cleared eastwards by lunchtime, leaving patchy rain or drizzle for the rest of the day, but mild nonetheless with Castlederg (Tyrone) reaching 16.7 °C. Overnight rain soon cleared south on the 9th, with just isolated showers to follow. Mist and fog on the 10th lasted until lunchtime in a few spots in the west, on an otherwise rather cloudy but predominantly dry day. After a bright start on the 11th, cloud soon increased with rain, patchy at first but more widespread by dusk, Trassey (Down) recording 17.0 mm. The 12th was dull and windy with rain for all parts through the day.

13th to 19th

It remained mild through this period, and generally cloudy, with isolated outbreaks of rain and drizzle, mainly in the north, on the 13th. Another generally dull day on the 14th saw further outbreaks of rain and drizzle. Remnants of overnight rain soon cleared away on the 15th, with

mist and fog for central parts soon dissipating, then it was a little brighter, but with isolated outbreaks of patchy rain or drizzle in the afternoon. Bands of rain, heavy at times, crossed west to east during the 16th. Scattered showers on the 17th fell mostly in the north and west. The 18th was a day of patchy rain and drizzle. After a mild night, Magilligan (Londonderry) not falling below 12.0 °C, the 19th continued with isolated outbreaks of light rain or drizzle.

20th to 30th

Bands of rain moved south during the morning of the 20th; it turned brighter but much colder from the north with showers in the afternoon. The 21st brought sunshine and scattered showers. After a clear, cold and frosty start to the 22nd, Katesbridge (Down) falling to -4.2 °C, cloud soon increased everywhere but it stayed dry. The 23rd was cloudy with patchy rain or drizzle here and there. Rain and drizzle already affecting the north and west spread south-eastwards through the morning of the 24th, clearing by midday, then it turned brighter with sunny intervals and scattered showers, wintry over higher ground. The 25th was cloudy and breezy, with showery rain especially over northern and north-western parts. Showers were frequent and blustery on the 26th, wintry over high ground and occasionally with thunder, being blown south-eastwards and coalescing into longer spells of heavy rain for a time, with winds increasing through the day to gale force in exposed places as Storm Arwen took hold. The 27th started very windy and chilly with sunshine and scattered blustery showers, wintry at times, temperatures at Killylane (Antrim) and Lough Fea (Londonderry) struggling to only 3.3 °C, and Orlock Head (Down) recording gusts to 87 mph. The 28th saw isolated frost, starting cloudy for most, with a narrow band of precipitation moving in from the north, wintry in places, eventually dying out as it moved southwards with brighter spells developing for a time. After another cold and locally misty start on the 29th, it was mainly cloudy with patchy rain and drizzle, but became milder through the day. The 30th was cloudy with a few showers, before turning wet everywhere by evening with widespread and locally heavy rain.