

## May 2022

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1991-2020.

The weather during much of May was mostly quiet and uneventful, rather unsettled and showery for much of the time but with a few warmer and brighter days. Temperatures were mostly above average, especially by night, but the latter part of the month was cooler. There were thunderstorms on several days during the month, mainly for England and Northern Ireland. North-western areas of the UK had a wet month, though some areas of England and Wales were slightly drier than average. Sunshine totals were below average in many areas, especially towards the north-west.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 11.8 °C, which is 1.2 °C above the long-term average. Maximum temperature anomalies were up to +2 °C in some easternmost counties of England, while minimum temperatures were around 2 °C above average for most of Scotland and Northern Ireland. The western side of Scotland had a wet month, with double the average rainfall amount in a few places, and parts of Northern Ireland were rather wetter than average, whereas for England and Wales rainfall was near or rather below average. The UK overall had 107% of average rainfall. Sunshine was below average in most areas, with only eastern and south-east England getting close to average, with an overall figure of 79% of average.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 27.5 °C was recorded at Heathrow (Greater London) on the 17th. A minimum temperature of -1.7 °C was recorded at Altnaharra (Sutherland) on the 7th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 UTC on the 10th, 65.4 mm of rain fell at Honister (Cumbria). Wind gusts of 52 knots (60 mph) were recorded at Brizlee Wood (Northumberland) on the 25th and 26th.

### Weather impacts

Impactful weather was not a regular feature during May, with conditions relatively benign for much of the time. Atlantic weather systems resulted in near-average rainfall over the month as a whole. The only impacts occurred around the middle of the month when, as high pressure drifted away from the UK into continental Europe, a plume of warm, unstable air moved in from France, triggering several outbreaks of heavy rain and thunderstorms between the 16th and 19th across various parts of the UK. Parts of Northern Ireland experienced heavy downpours on the 16th, with flooding on the M1 and on roads around the east of Belfast; heavy thunderstorms also affected the Derry area with reports of localised property flooding resulting from short-period intense rainfall. The evening/night of the 18th/19th brought widespread thunderstorm activity to an area of England SE of a line from Dorset to Lincolnshire, and, amidst copious lightning activity, there were reports of at least two houses, one in Northamptonshire and another in Kent, set on fire by suspected lightning strikes.

### England diary of highlights

**This month was rather quiet generally, mostly on the warm side except for the latter part, though never totally settled, with showery rain at times throughout and thunderstorms on numerous occasions.**

Mean temperatures for the month were 1.2 °C above the 1991-2020 average, with eastern areas being warmest relative to normal. Rainfall was near normal generally, but rather below in East Anglia and towards the Welsh border. Sunshine was near normal in some eastern and southern counties but below normal elsewhere.

## **1st to 8th**

The 1st was cloudy and cool, with rain persisting over the south and showers affecting central and northern counties at times, and temperatures at Dunkeswell (Devon) only reaching 9.4 °C. All areas were cloudy on the 2nd, with patchy light rain or showers developing over northern and south-western counties. The 3rd saw some mist and fog in the south-west during the morning, and rain or showers for most parts on and off through the day. It remained generally cloudy again on the 4th, with some mist and fog for the south-west, and scattered showers elsewhere moving east and turning thundery in the afternoon across eastern parts. The next few days were brighter and warmer, though the 5th had some early mist or fog around the Bristol Channel, and scattered showers further north. Any local mist or fog soon cleared on the 6th, then it was fine but with cloud increasing from the west, and rain reached the north by late morning, spreading south and east into the Midlands during the afternoon, and parts of the south-west and East Anglia by evening. The 7th was brightest in central and western areas, with scattered showers persisting around East Anglia and the south-east. Patchy light rain in the Midlands early on the 8th gave way to generally sunny skies for most areas.

## **9th to 19th**

South-eastern counties started fine on the 9th, but all areas became cloudy, with rain into northern counties by lunchtime, turning heavy at times, reaching the Midlands by mid-afternoon and southern parts by evening, the wettest location being Honister (Cumbria) with 65.4 mm. After a mild night, with Faversham (Kent) and St James's Park (London) both recording minimum temperatures of 14.6 °C, on the 10th cloud and rain eventually cleared from the south-east by mid-afternoon, with sunshine for most areas but scattered showers in the north. Rain on the 11th cleared away erratically eastwards through the day, with brighter weather and isolated showers spreading from the west. The north was cloudy on the 12th, but other areas were brighter for a time, with showers in the south-west, and isolated showers developing in some other areas too. Patchy light rain in the north persisted for most of the 13th, with some brightness for central and southern counties by the afternoon. The 14th was mostly sunny, but for the odd shower in the north during the morning and over the south-west in early evening. The 15th was generally cloudy with rain or showers for most, the showers over the south coast turning thundery at times in the morning, and further lines of showers spreading up from the south through the day. Rain in the north early on the 16th soon moved away, but showers already in central and southern parts moved north-eastwards, turning heavy and thundery over East Anglia in the morning, the north-west and Pennines in the afternoon, and North Yorkshire Moors in the evening, but dying out everywhere else. The 17th started fine, with a few fog patches in central southern parts to start, then cloud increased from the west by lunchtime; rain spread into all western areas by mid-afternoon, and central districts by evening, with only the east of the country staying dry and warm, London Heathrow recording a maximum of 27.5 °C. The 18th started fine, but cloud increased from the south by early afternoon, with rain spreading northwards, turning heavy particularly over Devon and Cornwall for a time, and reaching the Midlands and parts of the north-west by evening. After a cloudy start for most on the 19th, with showers and thunderstorms continuing over parts of the south-east and East Anglia, eventually clearing away late morning, and one or two light showers over the North Yorkshire Moors, there was sunshine for many areas by the afternoon.

## **20th to 26th**

The north was showery from the start on the 20th, with rain from the Midlands southwards moving east through the morning, clearing by mid-afternoon, and more showers following from the west, turning heavy and prolonged over the north later. The 21st was rather cloudy, with some brightness, the Midlands seeing patchy rain in the morning, and showers developing across the north through the afternoon. Central and southern parts were sunny on the 22nd, but further north there was patchy light rain or scattered showers. The 23rd was cloudy, with rain, occasionally

heavy, persisting over East Anglia and the south-east for much of the day, and showers or longer spells of rain affecting all other parts. Showers were widespread on the 24th, some turning heavy and thundery over East Anglia and the south-east in the afternoon. The 25th was cloudy and windy for most, with showers affecting most places throughout, and Brizlee Wood (Northumberland) reporting gusts to 60 mph. Another breezy day followed on the 26th, but it was sunny early in the south-east, with showers or longer spells of rain for the north, Brizlee Wood again seeing gusts to 60 mph.

### **27th to 31st**

It became cooler as the month concluded. There was sunshine on the 27th, with Boulmer (Northumberland) recording 15.3 hours, and just isolated showers over the north-west. Cloud increased through the course of the 28th, with isolated showers developing over parts of the north, Midlands and south-east. Showers over eastern counties persisted all day on the 29th, with more showers developing in central and western areas during the afternoon, some turning heavy and thundery. Eastern areas had a cold night, Santon Downham (Suffolk) falling to a frosty  $-1.2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , then showers developed across all parts by lunchtime on the 30th, some turning heavy and thundery in the afternoon, particularly through the Midlands and parts of East Anglia. The south-west was mainly dry with sunshine on the 31st, but widespread, occasionally heavy, showers fell elsewhere, some turning thundery especially over Midland and eastern counties.

### **Wales diary of highlights**

**Much of the month was unsettled, with no prolonged dry spells, though rainfall amounts were mostly modest, so overall rainfall totals were below average. There were also no notable warm spells, though temperatures overall were above average.**

Mean temperatures for the month were provisionally  $1.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  above average, with minima further above average than maxima, especially in the north. Rainfall was rather below average, especially towards the south and east, with a figure of 73%, and sunshine was also below normal with 77%.

### **1st to 6th**

The first few days were cool, especially on the 1st with widespread rain clearing away eastwards then showers for the afternoon, the maximum at Tredegar (Gwent) struggling to only  $9.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The 2nd was cloudy with patchy light rain or drizzle at times, and the 3rd was similar, with more in the way of rain or drizzle, and also local mist and fog particularly in the south. After a wet morning on the 4th, things turned drier and brighter through the afternoon. Bristol Channel coasts were murky early on the 5th, but it became generally brighter, with only isolated showers. The 6th was mostly cloudy with patchy rain in places, ahead of more general rain spreading from the north-west in the afternoon, becoming widespread and occasionally heavy.

### **7th to 19th**

The next few days were rather warmer, and the 7th was sunny after the clearance of any coastal mist and fog. The 8th was also fine and bright. The 9th was much cloudier and windier, with rain spreading slowly and erratically east, reaching most parts through the afternoon, Capel Curig (Gwynedd) reporting gusts to 53 mph. The 10th started with showery rain, Crynant Sewage Works (Glamorganshire) recording 30.2 mm, but by the afternoon it was dry and fine. Widespread and occasionally heavy rain on the 11th cleared away east by lunchtime, with only isolated showers following in the north. The 12th was quite cloudy, but any showers were few. Most areas were cloudy on the 13th, although a little brighter in places by the afternoon. Cloud burned off during the morning of the 14th to leave a sunny afternoon. After a cloudy morning on the 15th with scattered showers, it was drier and brighter for a time before cloud increased again from the south with further showers, merging to give longer spells or rain for most places, but generally warm with

Prestatyn (Clwyd) recording a maximum of 23.2 °C. It remained mild overnight, with Cardiff Bute Park not falling below 14.2 °C, then the 16th was generally cloudy with bands of showers or longer spells of rain moving north through the day, with some thundery activity over the north in the afternoon. The 17th began fine, but cloud and occasionally heavy rain spread from the south-west, becoming widespread for a time, then clearing away to leave scattered showers. The 18th was bright for a time but cloud increased by the afternoon, with rain spreading into the south from mid-afternoon, quickly spreading north to all parts by evening, and turning heavy in places. The morning of the 19th was cloudy with some light rain for southern and eastern areas, but it was sunnier by the afternoon.

### **20th to 31st**

The 20th was overcast with frequent showers or longer spells of rain crossing the country through the day, but drier and brighter at times during the afternoon. The 21st was rather cloudy with patchy light rain or showers, with further light rain and scattered showers on the 22nd. The 23rd brought further showers or longer spells of rain. There was some sunshine but also further showers on the 24th. Most areas had rain on the morning of the 25th, becoming breezy and showery by the afternoon. The 26th was cloudy again, with rain over the north, becoming light and patchy in nature in the afternoon. The 27th was largely sunny, St Athan (South Glamorgan) recording 14.3 hours, with another fine day on the 28th. After a cold night, St Harmon (Powys) falling to -0.3 °C, the 29th was rather cloudy and cool with showers, some turning heavy and thundery in the afternoon. The final two days were cool and showery, the showers tending to die away towards evening on the 31st.

### **Scotland diary of highlights**

**The first part of the month was on the cool side, but around mid-month temperatures were above normal. Most of the month was rather unsettled, with plenty of rain in western areas and a shortage of sunshine.**

The provisional monthly mean temperature was 1.1 °C above the long-term average, and it was mildest relative to average overnight with minimum temperatures averaging up to 2.5 °C above normal in parts of the Highlands. Rainfall was well above average in some western parts, but near or just below average in the south and east, giving 133% of normal overall. Sunshine was below average, especially towards the north-west, with 71% of average.

### **1st to 6th**

The 1st was cloudy, with a few showers for the Borders. The 2nd was cloudy and cool, with occasional light rain or drizzle especially over central and southern counties, and the maximum at Lerwick (Shetland) only 7.0 °C. Rain or showers affected most parts during the 3rd, with more general rain reaching the west late in the afternoon. It continued cloudy on the 4th, with some showers, these becoming confined to the east coast by early afternoon with isolated thunderstorms, and turning dry and bright elsewhere. The 5th was rather cloudy and showery, some of the showers heavy with Achnagart (Ross & Cromarty) recording 49.6 mm. Rain across the bulk of the country first thing on the 6th, occasionally heavy, spread south-eastwards, clearing the east by late morning and the south by early evening, followed by drier and brighter weather from the west with scattered showers.

### **7th to 19th**

After a cold night, Altnaharra (Sutherland) falling to -1.7 °C, the 7th was sunny over the far north, but cloudier elsewhere with a few showers through central and southern parts. Rain in the north-west during the morning of the 8th cleared away to allow a generally fine day. Rain in the west early on the 9th, heavy at times, spread steadily east to all areas by early afternoon, but tended to break up and become more showery in nature through the rest of the day. The 10th brought

sunshine and frequent, locally heavy showers, with isolated thunderstorms during the afternoon, then more persistent rain reached the north-west in the evening. The 11th began fine in the north-east, with showers over the west and south gradually spreading east, these tending to become more isolated late in the day. Eastern and southern counties were mainly fine and bright on the 12th, but the north and west had showers or more persistent and occasionally heavy rain, especially over the north-west and the Western Isles, with a further area of rain spreading into the south-west by late afternoon. On the 13th, after a bright start in the south, cloud increased generally, with patchy rain or showers for central and southern parts through the morning, and more persistent rain over the far north clearing away east into the afternoon, followed by scattered showers. After a cloudy morning on the 14th with isolated showers, the cloud gradually burned off to leave most places with sunshine for the afternoon. The 15th began cloudy in the north with patchy rain or drizzle, but brighter for central parts, with showers over the south spreading northwards to reach all but the north-east, becoming heavier and merging to give prolonged periods of rain particularly over the west. Rain in the south early on the 16th moved steadily northwards, reaching the far north by mid-afternoon, followed from the south by showers, some turning heavy. The 17th started fine, if rather cloudy, with any coastal fog patches clearing by late morning, then a band of rain reached western coastal areas, spreading to central and northern parts before merging with another area of generally heavy, occasionally thundery, rain which reached all except the north-east by evening; it was quite warm however with a maximum at Lossiemouth (Morayshire) of 21.0 °C. On the 18th, rain or showers, locally heavy, in central and western counties spread eastwards and northwards during the morning before dying out in early afternoon, with cloud increasing again later and rain just reaching the Western Isles by evening. There was some sunshine on the 19th, but it clouded over in the west from early afternoon with showers developing for western and northern parts, some turning locally heavy.

## **20th to 31st**

The 20th was cloudy for all, with rain initially over the west, occasionally heavy and persistent, making slow eastward progress through the day, reaching central and eastern districts by late afternoon. Showers were mainly over the west to begin the 21st, but cloud increased elsewhere through the morning with showers spreading east to all parts during the afternoon and becoming more frequent and prolonged. After a mild night, Edinburgh Royal Botanic Gardens not falling below 13.0 °C, the 22nd began mainly dry and bright over the north-east, but cloudier elsewhere with showers, turning heavy and prolonged in the afternoon in the west and north. The 23rd was a day of showers or longer spells of rain, heaviest and most frequent over the north. Showers were widespread on the 24th. Further widespread showers on the 25th merged at times into spells of rain, heavy at times especially in the west, but the afternoon was brighter with the showers becoming fewer and further between. The 26th was windy, with rain in the Borders clearing away south by mid-morning, then showers developed over all parts, heaviest and prolonged, and occasionally thundery, for western and northern areas, with gusts reaching 59 mph at Stornoway (Western Isles). There was sunshine on the 27th, Lyth (Caithness) recording 15.2 hours, but widespread showers too, heaviest and most prolonged over the north and west. The 28th was mostly cloudy, with patchy showery rain for the north-east. The 29th was colder with showers or longer spells of rain, heaviest and most frequent in the north and east. On the 30th, frequent and occasionally heavy showers merged at times to give longer spells of rain. The 31st was again generally cloudy and cool with widespread and sometimes heavy rain or showers.

## **Northern Ireland diary of highlights**

**Much of the month was unsettled, although temperatures were mainly above average during the first three weeks before the month concluded with a cooler spell.**

The mean temperature for the month was 1.4 °C above normal, with night-time temperatures highest relative to average. Rainfall was above average, especially in western parts, with 120%

overall. Sunshine was limited, with just 72% of average, provisionally the Province's 8th dullest May in a series from 1919.

### **1st to 5th**

The 1st was overcast with showers or longer spells of rain, then the 2nd was cloudy with patchy rain or drizzle at times. There was further patchy light rain at times on the 3rd, but more general rain crossing the country during the afternoon. The 4th was chilly with scattered showers, Altnahinch (Antrim) struggling to a maximum of only 11.3°C. The 5th saw further scattered showers but was a little warmer.

### **6th to 19th**

The 6th was wet, with widespread and occasionally heavy rain, clearing from the north either side of midday, then brighter from mid-afternoon with scattered showers. Any mist or fog cleared on the 7th to leave some sunshine, but cloud increased through the afternoon. Much of the 8th was sunny, Katesbridge (Down) recording 12.4 hours of bright sunshine, with cloud spreading from the west later. By contrast the 9th brought rain, initially over the west, spreading to all parts by early afternoon, often heavy but turning more showery through the afternoon. The 10th was breezy with sunshine and frequent, locally heavy showers, with gusts to 47 mph being reported at Killowen (Down). Sunshine and further showers characterised the 11th. After a bright start on the 12th, showers developed by late morning, continuing into the afternoon ahead of rain spreading from the west and becoming widespread and occasionally heavy by the evening. The 13th had patchy rain over central and northern parts, but it brightened up in central and southern districts through the afternoon, and was breezy with Orlock Head (Down) recording gusts to 47 mph. The 14th was fine with some sunshine. There were a few showers on the 15th, but with a drier and brighter spell around midday. The 16th was warm, Derrylin (Fermanagh) having not fallen below 12.7 °C overnight and Castlederg (Tyrone) recording a maximum of 20.8 °C by day, but with bands of rain clearing northwards during the morning, followed by showers, some turning heavy and thundery through the afternoon, giving 30.6 mm of rain at Lough Fea (Londonderry). Bands of showery rain crossed the country during the morning of the 17th, then after a drier spell with just a few isolated showers, further rain spread quickly north, becoming widespread before clearing away from most parts early in the evening. Some brightness on the 18th gave way to increasing cloud, with patchy light rain or showers initially but more persistent and occasionally heavy rain spreading from the south-west around teatime to become widespread. A bright morning on the 19th gave way to isolated showers in the afternoon.

### **20th to 31st**

Rain quickly spread eastwards to all parts by midday on the 20th, turning heavy at times then clearing away by mid-afternoon, followed by frequent showers, locally heavy and thundery especially in the south-east. The 21st was rather cloudy with patchy light rain or showers. Patchy light rain on the morning of the 22nd gave way to brighter weather by the afternoon, with scattered showers turning locally heavy late in the day. The 23rd was showery, with some showers locally heavy and thundery later in the afternoon. Showers were fewer on the 24th, with sunshine in between. There was more cloud and showers for the 25th. Morning rain on the 26th quickly cleared away eastwards, leaving brighter weather with scattered showers. The 27th was bright, if rather cloudy at times, and cool with scattered showers, Altnahinch (Antrim) recording a maximum of only 11.3°C. After a cold night, Katesbridge (Down) falling to 2.1 °C, the 28th was rather cloudy but essentially dry. The 29th was bright, with only isolated showers. The 30th was cloudier with a few more showers. On the 31st, frequent showers and a spell of rain moved south over the country through the day.