

SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 2000.

The month began with flood warnings on as many as 20 rivers across the country, a situation worsened by the constant flow of Atlantic lows across the UK bringing very active frontal systems which often hung around for days on end.

The first 2 days saw a further 16.7mm (0.66in) of rain falling on already saturated ground. During the first week only one day, the 4th was dry, the remainder notching up a total of 67.5mm (2.66ins), of which 39.5mm (1.56ins) fell on the 5th as a very active frontal system straddled the Midlands.

Despite this, only one day, the 6th, was without any sun, the remainder of the week howbeit, providing just 19 hours of sunshine with most of this occurring on the 1st, 3rd and 4th.

Temperatures in the air ranged from a maximum of 11C (51.8F) on the 3rd and 4th, to a minimum of 3.4C (38.1F) on the 5th. On the ground temperatures fell as low as minus 0.7C (30.7F) on the 5th giving a widespread, though not sharp, ground frost.

The second week saw yet further Atlantic lows approaching the UK bringing yet more rain. As much as 6.2mm (0.24in) fell in under 10 hours on the 10th. Both the 8th and 9th were totally sunless, with just 4.2 hours of bright sunshine accumulating on the 10th. Apart from the 5th and 6th the airflow was mainly from a westerly quarter gusting as high as 30 knots (36mph) on the 5th. The weather remained very unsettled with depressions crossing the country on a regular basis, swinging active fronts and belts of rain from west to east.

Total rainfall in the second week amounted to 13.3mm [0.52in] with sunshine totalling 21.4 hours. Maximum temperatures varied no more than from 10.2C [50.4F] on the 11th to 6.8C [44.2F] on the 14th. In addition there were two ground frosts, both slight, on the 13th and 14th, though there has still be no air frost in the screen..

The third week began with unsettled weather still prevalent, sunshine and showers being the order of the day. During one shower on the 17th small hail fell for a short period. Temperatures also began to fall, both in the air and on the ground with frost on the latter on both the 15th and 17th. Unsheltered air also saw a frost on the 15th down to minus 0.6C [30.9F] and with thick fog for a short period around dawn. Sunshine for the week amounted to 17 hours with 26.6mm [1.05ins] of rain. Temperatures ranged from a maximum of 10.4C [50.7F] on the 18th to minus 0.4C [31.3F] on the 21st. There were 4 ground and 1 air frost.

The deeply unsettled weather continued into the final weeks of the month with spells of rain and little in the way of brightness. Rain fell on every day during the period 22nd to 28th totalling 25.6mm [1.01in], a further two days producing over 10mm [0.39in]. Sunshine was sparse amounted to just 9.0 hours, with 6.4 hours of this on one day, the 26th.

Maximum temperatures were in the region 7 to 9C until the 28th when a very mild southerly flow brought air from the Azores and maximum temperatures of 14C [57.2F], by far the warmest day of the month. The final day was dismal and dreary with no sunshine, rainfall of 2.8mm [0.11in] and a maximum temperature of 10.3C [50.5F].

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November was exceptionally wet with 136.5mm [5.37ins] or 208% of the mean rainfall falling. It was the wettest November on record and possibly the wettest since the mid-1700's for the Midlands as a whole. Over an inch fell on two separate occasions and 5 days saw more than 10mm [0.39in] falling. Precipitation in some form occurred on 22 days of the month, the same as in 1998 but 5 fewer than the record set in 1951. Rain was falling for a period of 154.4 hours at a rate of 52mm/hr [2.05ins/hr] at its worst on the 25th.

Sunshine was slightly up on average with 67.6 hours, the best day, the 12th, producing 7.7 hours. In all 9 days saw no sun at all, also a little better than expectation.

Temperatures held up well, just the mean maximum at 14C [57.2F] being below average. The mean daily of 6.6C [43.9F] was 0.5C above the 30-year mean, though most soil and earth temperatures managed to end the month slightly down. Ground frost occurred on 10 days with air frost on 1, the latter much better than expectation for a late autumn month.

Gale force gusts occurred on one day, the 25th. When speeds reached 36knots [43mph]. There was no report of either hail or thunder though fog was observed on one morning. Winds were predominantly from the SW and averaged 7.1knots [8.5mph] whilst the maximum radiation level reached 482 watts per square m on the 2nd.