

AUGUST SUMMARY

As we entered the new month a thundery low began its progress slowly from the Iberian Peninsula northwards. The first thus saw the end of the current "hot" spell with a maximum of 25.5C [77.9F], much cooler conditions being spread across the UK by the end of the 2nd as the thundery trough moved into the North Sea, its worst conditions having entirely missed this area. We saw just 1.7mm [0.07in] of rain with no thunder coming nearer than 20 miles from the station.

As the week progressed, so did the gradual deterioration in the weather with daily maxima in the region of 20C [68F] coupled with some precipitation. However days remained sunny with 11.1 hours recorded on the 5th, no thunder being reported over the station during this period. The week ended with prospects of rising pressure bringing more settled conditions. As it was the period produced 12.6mm [0.50in] of rain and 43.7hrs of bright sunshine with a day maximum temperature of 25.5C [77.9F] on the 1st.

The rather unsettled weather continued into the second week with areas of low pressure evident around the UK. Rain fell on four days totalling 5.6mm [0.22in], the "heaviest" being 4.4mm [0.17in] on the 11th. In addition, just one day had no sun, the total for the week amounting to 32.1 hrs with 11.9 hours of this on the 10th, the sunniest day of the period.

Temperatures remained in the region of 20C [68F] at the beginning of the week, climbing to a maximum of 24.7C [76.5F] on the 13th. Night temperatures remained relatively high, the lowest minimum for the week falling no lower than 16.6C [61.9F] on the 14th. The 10th saw the lowest grass minimum of 3.8C [38.8F]. As the week ended a thundery plume left the Iberian Peninsula and headed for the UK.

This brought some isolated thunder to the area early on the morning of the 15th., though rainfall amounted to 5mm [0.2in] considerably less than the amounts which fell in other areas leading to severe "flash" floods, a noisy and wet start to the third week! Temperatures remained around or just above average for the week, and at no time did the maximum fall below 20C [68F]. The extreme maximum for the week was 27.4C [81.3F] on the 15th with the lowest minimum falling to 8.6C [47.5F] on the 21st. The night of the 14th/15th was humid with a minimum no lower than 16.3C [61.3F].

Winds were very variable in direction with a maximum gust during the period of 21 knots [24mph] on the 21st. Radiation levels were by now falling off with daytime maxima in the region of 320 to 947 watts per square metre the corresponding black bulb radiation temperatures ranging from 30.1C [86.2F] to 58.2C [136.8F]. Sunshine for the week totalled 52.7 hours with a maximum of 10.2 hours on both the 15th and 20th, just one day [18th] being sunless. Over the same period rainfall amounted to 10mm [0.39in] the heaviest fall being 5mm [0.20in] on the 15th.

The UK lay under Col conditions at the beginning of the fourth week with a cold front sitting diagonally NE to SW across the Midlands. This refused to move, bringing very warm, but excessively humid air from Iberia and a tendency for overcast days with spells of drizzle or light rain. Temperatures remained high, daily values in the region of 21C [70F] to 25C [77F] for much of the time though sunshine was sparse. Rainfall, though not excessive, was enough to make the days miserable. Total rainfall for the week amounted to just 0.7mm [0.03in] whilst the sunshine totalled 44 hours of which 12.8 hours occurred on the 27th. Grass minima remained relatively high with the lowest of 2.8C [37.0F] occurring on the 28th. The air maximum of 25C [77F] was on the 25th with the air minimum of 5.7C [42.3F] on the 28th.

The final three days saw a gradual fall in pressure, the weather becoming decidedly more autumnal. Air maxima ranged from 23.6C [74.5F] on the 29th to 17.5C [63.5F] on the 31st. with 3.4mm [0.13in] of rain and a total of 16.5 hours of sunshine..