

November 2023

A very unsettled look to the charts greeted the new month with low pressure out in the North Atlantic maintaining a run of wet and windy weather across the British Isles. Slightly further south was another low which was starting to deepen rapidly with a forecast track northeast in to the Southwest Approaches to pass to the north of the islands early on the 2nd. Storm 'Ciaran' then duly proceeded to drop some 34hPa in the 24 hours up to its arrival in the Channel with strengthening southerly winds locally through the afternoon of the 1st.

The associated rain with this storm started early evening, becoming heavier and more persistent as the south-southeasterly winds ramped up to a full gale just before 2100hrs. As the centre of this low moved northeast so our winds veered through south and in to the west just before dawn on the 2nd, increasing to a mean of 50 knots (58mph) with a maximum gust recorded at the airport of 67.5 knots (78mph) at 0626hrs. A mix of heavy rain and blustery showers, some with hail that afternoon plagued the islands. This storm continued its progress northeast, crossing East Anglia around noon and filling as it rolled over Dogger Bank in the North Sea, all the while losing strength.

Much stronger and more damaging winds hit Jersey, with a T6 tornado passing up the east side of our sister island leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. Jersey Airport on the west side of the island noted a maximum gust of 81 knots (93mph) but wind speeds within that tornado were much higher, typically around 161-186 mph for that intensity of tornado. A detailed report from TORRO UK can be found at <https://www.torro.org.uk/>

With our winds now down to a moderate westerly, the 3rd dawned reasonably bright with just a few isolated showers within the general flow but it was noticeably cooler with temperatures barely making the low teens. The next low was already waiting out in the wings however, with the first splashes of rain arriving on our shores in the small hours of the 4th. Winds backed in to the southeast and freshened once more before veering southwest around dawn as that rain band cleared away to the east leaving us with another blustery day with squally showers and even a brief thunderstorm around 0730hrs. That evening a particularly active band of heavy showers gave us just over 20mm of rain between 1800hrs and 0000hrs leading to flooding in many areas of the island.

Low pressure over the UK continued this unsettled mix of sunshine and blustery showers with mostly moderate to fresh westerly winds, and air temperatures around a more seasonable level of low to mid teens by day, before dropping just in to single figures overnight. A transient ridge later on the 7th gave us a bit of a respite but the next system was already sweeping in from the west with rain arriving before dawn on the 8th, again with freshening winds backing into the southeast. That rain and drizzle continued through the day before the clearing front went through around dusk, with a strong, showery westerly flow becoming established across the Channel. Some of those showers were heavy with hail, leading to the winds gusting up to 50mph at times.



Mammatus protruding from the base of Cumulonimbus at a height of about 1400' at 0830hrs on the 9th November. Photo credit James Wilson

This unsettled run continued with another Atlantic low sweeping in from the west to replace the earlier system as it edged away over Scandinavia. Late on the 10th saw a brief respite then as the winds moderated and the skies cleared, but thickening cloud during the morning of the 11th heralded rain which duly arrived mid evening, heavy at times before turning more to drizzle by the next morning with mist and fog developing early afternoon. A daisy-chain of weather fronts was by now stretching out to the southwest, rattling up the Channel bringing further periods of rain and drizzle to our shores, interspaced with clearer spells but with squally showers.

A transient ridge spilled up from the southwest across northern France and into the Channel for the 15th which provided a quieter day in the islands with light winds but a deepening low out in Biscay rolled into the Southwest Approaches later that evening, with the first drops of rain arriving by midnight. Strengthening east to southeasterly winds together with persistent rain continued through the morning before clearing around midday as that low moved away eastward over the Low Countries. Following this low's departure another transient ridge moved over the islands to bring some respite to our beleaguered islands, although by late afternoon on the 17th the next Atlantic system brought yet more rain, drizzle and mist to our shores. The trailing cold front was reluctant to clear eastward though, with the 18th being overcast with rain, drizzle, mist and hill fog until early evening. Strong southwesterly continued to sweep the UK as that low slowed its progress eastward across Scotland with a rash of showers locally through the day.

High pressure was now starting to build out in the North Atlantic, edging its way south and east towards the UK with our winds veering in to the north by the end of the 20th. This cooler, fresher flow saw improved visibility and those showers becoming more isolated as that high started to settle our weather down for a day or so. By late afternoon on the 22nd a weakening warm front dropped down over the UK and into the Channel with cloud thickening and lowering enough to produce some patchy drizzle later that evening and overnight in to the 23rd. As that high dropped further south to be off Ushant by noon on the 23rd so that cooler feed was briefly shut off, but a longer sea track for our airflow led to a grey but mostly dry day, with more seasonable air temperatures.

That colder air wasn't quite finished with us yet though as complex low pressure over Norway was now dragging a cold front down across the UK with air of Arctic origin following in its wake. This next change arrived in the Channel late on the 24th and with clearing skies and light winds air temperatures fell steadily away overnight to just 3.7°C by dawn on the 25th. We noted the first ground frost of the season too with grass temperatures at the airport dipping to -0.8°C.

That high built in through the 25th providing us with some 7.7 hours of sunshine, the most recorded on this particular date at the airport as we enjoyed crystal clear visibility and temperatures just about making 10.0°C by day's end. This settled spell briefly rolled over in to the 26th but cloud increased from the west ahead of a weak warm front by dawn with patchy rain arriving just after midday. Winds freshened from the southwest too as low pressure bullied its way in once again from the near Atlantic, tracking east across southern Britain, with that rain becoming heavier and more persistent locally mid morning on the 27th. As that low slid southeast and slowed its progress over Eastern Europe we started to see colder air feeding in across northern and eastern parts of the UK with falling temperatures and precipitation of a more wintry nature affecting higher ground. An unusual 'breakaway' low developed off Norway and tracked south down the North Sea, enhancing the showery activity down the UK's eastern seaboard before slowing and turning east over Denmark.

Our temperatures started to dip as this cooler air arrived in the Channel for the 28th with the winds falling light and variable. Warmer air feeding up from the southwest, in association with another low, ran in to this colder air over the southwest of the UK leading to some heavy falls of snow over the higher moors of Devon. We managed to stay on the milder side of this confluence but with showers during the 29th merging to persistent rain later that afternoon and continuing through most of the 30th to leave us with a dull and damp end to the month.



Spectacular double rainbow over the Co-op on the Bridge as the islands enjoyed some brightness between showers on the 28th. Photo credit James Wilson

It was all about the rain this month with just over twice the average falling, particularly over the first half of the month, leading to the wettest month for 14 years and the second wettest November at the airport. With largely Atlantic influenced weather we noted another milder than average month although temperatures did fall away sharply at times in the last week. Storm ‘*Ciaran*’ produced the highest gust at the airport since January last year and the highest November gust since 2016 helping make this month the windiest of the year to date. Sunshine did well considering the very unsettled nature of the month, coming in at just a fraction below the long term average.

Autumn sunshine totals were within 3 hours of the average but rainfall was well above due to the very wet November. With September being the warmest month of the year it was no real surprise to see this season overall being the second warmest on record after 2006.

Autumn	2023	30 Yr Avg	Anomaly/%
Rain (mm)	393.2	259.8	151.3
Sun (hrs)	378.2	380.8	99.3
Mean Max (°C)	17.0	15.2	+1.8
Mean Min (°C)	12.0	10.9	+1.1
Mean (°C)	14.5	13.1	+1.4

NOVEMBER 2023

DAY	DATE	BAROMETER	TEMPERATURE deg C					WIND				RAIN	SUN	WEATHER			
		hPa	AIR			GRASS	SOIL		DIR'N	SPEED(knots)							
		at 9a.m.	MAX	MIN	MEAN	MIN	30cm	100cm	9a.m.	9a.m.	MEAN	MAX	mm		hrs		
Wed	1	994.3	15.2	10.4	12.8	10.9	13.2	14.4	230	21	22.5	55	26.4	3.5	Cldy. Shw rs am, fair pm. Hvy rain eve. Gale 2055-2235. T/storm 2302		
Thu	2	972.5	14.1	7.1	10.6	7.3	12.6	14.3	270	37	27.9	68	7.3	NIL	Cldy, frqnt hvy shw rs am, occn w with hail pm bec isol eve. Gale 0310-0908		
Fri	3	985.7	13.7	9.0	11.4	6.2	11.9	14.3	250	12	14.2	31	8.1	5.6	Fair with occn light shw rs		
Sat	4	969.1	13.0	9.2	11.1	8.2	11.7	14.0	240	25	19.4	40	29.8	1.4	Cldy. Rain occn hvy clrng to frqnt shw rs. T/storm 0727-0740		
Sun	5	986.8	13.8	10.0	11.9	9.0	11.6	13.9	280	17	20.5	40	2.4	6.3	Fair with sct shw rs		
Mon	6	1001.3	13.8	9.1	11.5	6.9	11.4	13.8	290	07	13.4	36	2.6	4.7	Fair with sct shw rs		
Tue	7	1012.6	12.3	8.4	10.4	6.4	11.2	13.6	270	14	13.5	31	6.3	2.8	Fair to cldy with sct shw rs occn w with hail am		
Wed	8	1006.8	13.8	9.8	11.8	6.8	11.3	13.6	200	22	15.4	33	10.6	NIL	Cldy with rain & drizzle, clrng late pm		
Thu	9	1002.2	12.0	6.0	9.0	7.4	11.1	13.4	280	18	19.4	44	11.4	1.4	Cldy occn fair w with frqnt shw rs, heavy w with hail pm		
Fri	10	996.0	12.2	8.6	10.4	6.8	10.7	13.2	270	30	19.8	45	0.3	5.8	Cldy with shw rs occn hvy am with hail, clrng to fair pm		
Sat	11	1010.2	12.2	9.0	10.6	6.2	10.5	13.1	330	06	10.1	30	18.7	1.5	Fair/fine w with isol shw rs soon bec cldy. Rain from mid eve occn hvy		
Sun	12	1003.4	14.1	8.4	11.3	7.4	10.9	13.0	270	17	15.4	33	14.1	0.3	Cldy with rain, occn hvy early, drz, mist & fog ptches		
Mon	13	1001.4	15.0	11.6	13.3	11.4	11.6	12.9	240	23	21.2	36	12.2	4.5	Cldy with rain am clrng to fair/fine pm & eve		
Tue	14	1006.2	14.0	11.7	12.9	10.8	12.3	12.9	220	18	18.7	34	2.9	4.6	Cldy with hvy rain/shw rs am clrng to fair with sct shw rs pm & eve		
Wed	15	1021.5	13.3	9.7	11.5	8.4	11.7	12.9	300	13	10.2	25	16.2	3.3	Fair with isol shw rs am bec cldy pm. Rain late eve		
Thu	16	1000.5	12.1	8.1	10.1	7.5	11.4	13.0	070	18	13.8	37	2.7	0.8	Cldy with rain & drz am clrng to fair pm with xlint viz. Isol shw rs eve		
Fri	17	1022.6	12.2	8.8	10.5	6.3	10.9	12.9	290	07	10.7	28	14.9	1.5	Fair with isol shw rs am bec cldy with rain late pm		
Sat	18	1013.9	14.5	10.0	12.3	9.3	11.2	12.9	200	16	17.1	32	2.7	NIL	Overcast w with rain, drz, mist & fog clrng late eve		
Sun	19	1014.5	13.9	11.7	12.8	10.7	12.1	12.8	250	21	21.8	39	2.2	2.6	Fair to cldy with sct shw rs		
Mon	20	1012.2	12.7	10.2	11.5	8.4	11.6	12.8	270	23	16.4	38	1.4	1.2	Cldy with shw rs turning to rain am clrng to sct shw rs pm bec isol eve		
Tue	21	1022.7	11.9	9.9	10.9	9.1	11.7	12.8	360	16	12.6	28	TR	1.0	Cldy with isol shw rs am bec sct late pm & eve		
Wed	22	1033.5	11.8	8.1	10.0	5.3	11.0	12.8	360	04	8.6	20	TR	5.3	Fair bec cldy w with patchy light drz eve		
Thu	23	1031.8	11.5	10.5	11.0	10.2	11.4	12.8	280	13	12.4	26	TR	0.1	Cldy with occn drz am		
Fri	24	1024.3	12.4	6.6	9.5	8.4	11.5	12.7	350	12	10.7	23	NIL	2.2	Cldy occn fair bec fine eve		
Sat	25	1023.7	10.0	3.7	6.9	-0.8	9.5	12.7	130	02	2.7	10	NIL	7.7	Fine w with early ground frost, bec cldy eve. Xlint viz		
Sun	26	1018.0	11.2	5.7	8.5	1.1	9.1	12.5	190	11	12.7	29	4.5	NIL	Cldy with patchy rain & drz pm. Xlint viz am		
Mon	27	1003.2	12.0	8.0	10.0	9.0	10.2	12.3	280	14	14.0	33	1.0	3.8	Cldy with rain, occn hvy, clrng to fair with sct shw rs @ noon		
Tue	28	1011.4	10.2	6.4	8.3	4.8	10.3	12.2	350	06	6.0	22	1.6	2.6	Cldy occn fair w with sct shw rs pm & eve. Xlint viz		
Wed	29	1005.6	8.9	5.1	7.0	2.0	9.2	12.1	360	05	3.7	12	6.2	NIL	Cldy with sct shw rs am merging to rain pm & eve		
Thu	30	997.8	8.3	4.4	6.4	5.3	9.4	12.0	140	13	10.4	22	10.2	NIL	Cldy with persistent rain throughout day		
MEAN	1006.9	12.5	8.5	10.5	7.2	11.1	13.1	W	15.4	14.5	TOTAL	216.7	74.5	1st & 2nd - Storm 'Ciaran'			
30 YEAR AVG	1014.1	12.1	8.4	10.3	5.7	10.7	12.3	SW	12.5	12.7	////	106.7	76.8				
1991-2020																	
EXTREMES	NUMBER	RAIN	WET	SNOW/	HAIL	THNDER	LGHTNG	AIR	GROUND	FOG	FOG	GALE	NO	TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE			
ARE IN	OF DAYS	≥0.2mm	≥1.0mm	SLEET				FROST	FROST		9a.m.		SUN				
BOLD TYPE	WITH	25	24	0	4	2	2	0	1	2	0	2	6				
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947														RAINFALL	891.9 mm	SUNSHINE	1772.4 hrs
WETTEST DAY	39.4mm	DRIEST MONTH	16.1mm	LOWEST MIN	-0.8°C	WARMEST MNTH	12.2°C	SUNNIEST MNTH	123.6hrs	RAIN DAYS	167	SUNLESS I	40				
DAY/YEAR	15th/1975	YEAR	1978	DAY/YEAR	28th/2010	YEAR	2015	YEAR	2006	WET DAYS	121						
WETTEST MNTH	234.7mm	HIGHEST MAX	18.0°C	LOWEST GRASS	-5.6°C	COLDEST MNTH	7.7°C	DULLEST MNTH	35.9hrs								
YEAR	2009	DAY/YEAR	1st 2015	DAY/YEAR	29th/1987	YEAR	1993	YEAR	1994								