

NOVEMBER 1997.

In total contrast to October which had been dominated by high pressure systems and generally settled weather, November began with a much more fluid situation as depressions from the Atlantic make often rapid progress across the country bringing ever changing weather patterns.

The 1st was still under the influence of the high pressure which had seen such sunny and cloud free conditions over the UK at the end of October. The day began cloudless and foggy with a slight ground frost and daytime temperatures approaching 11C. The rest of the day was damp and dull with slight drizzle in the evening. Fog was again widespread on the morning of the 2nd and this was accompanied by continuous drizzle, temperatures remaining between 7 and 11C throughout.

With low pressure now more in evidence, the 3rd was another day without sun, though it was brighter than the previous two days and also dry. A low pressure area over Iberia brought torrential rain to that area and periods of rain to the UK late evening and overnight as frontal systems tracked northwards. By the 5th a more substantial low pressure system was tracking across England bringing light rain in the early hours and warmer air, temperatures peaking at 13.7C. The 6th was a generally dry day with 1.1 hours sunshine under a SE'ly air flow.

By the 7th the parent depression had moved into the Baltic as a further deepening low approached the UK from the SW, an occluded front making rapid progress NE wards across the area. This brought more substantial rainfall, some 11 mm falling in the 24 hours and a rather cool day. Though the 8th began with rain, the afternoon was much brighter with 2.6 hours of sunshine before further fronts crossed the area overnight,

The 8th saw no fewer than 3 depressions around the UK, one near Cromarty, one in the southern Irish Sea and yet another progressing northwards from Sole to the Humber. These gave two days of rain and relatively little sunshine but by the 11th a ridge was killing off the shower activity and stabilising conditions over the UK. Both the 11th and 12th were days of almost unbroken sunshine with maximum temperatures in the low teens.

From the 13th onwards low pressure became established with a pronounced southerly air flow over the country. This brought very mild air into the Midlands with maximum temperatures reaching 15C on the 16th. Overnight on the 15th 16th many stations saw record night time minima in the mid teens C. A succession of Atlantic lows over the next days brought strong winds and heavy rain as frontal systems progressed from south west to north east. Rain fell every day from the 12th to the 20th with 13.3mm on the 19th.

The first real break in the overcast conditions for over a week came on the 21st as Col conditions were established over the UK. The day dawned with almost clear skies and bright sunshine though the low cloud amounts overnight brought the first ground frost in over a week. Both the 21st and 22nd were to benefit from the more settled pressure pattern and ended with 5.6 and 4.2 hours of bright sunshine though maximum temperatures were barely into double figures.

The 23rd dawned clear with a slight ground frost and extensive fog which cleared early in the morning. Skies soon clouded over after only brief sunshine, and a rain belt crossed the area from 1900 onwards as pressure began to fall. This was to begin a succession of days with depressions near to, or over, the country and frontal systems crossing on an almost daily basis. This resulted in rain every day from the 23rd to the 29th, some heavy, with dismal, damp and cold conditions, typical November weather ! The 28th was by far the worst day of the month with 15.3mm of rain falling in a continuous wet spell of almost 20 hours and a maximum temperature of around 11C. The sun did not appear at all between the 24th and the 29th giving a total of 15 sunless days to the month.

To end the month the sun at last reappeared, howbeit briefly, to give a total of 2 hours on the 30th. Temperatures however remained depressed due to the marked shift in wind direction to a brisk northerly fetching in cold Arctic air. November thus ended as a warm, if rather wet and dull month with no long-standing records broken.