

An area of high pressure was developing off the western seaboard of the UK by the 1st and this, coupled with a low pressure centre near Finisterre maintained a broad north easterly air flow across the country. This was predominantly cloudy and gave rise to spells of very light and intermittent rain during the early and mid morning amounting to no more than a trace. Consequently afternoon temperatures only managed to climb to 18.5C under spells of broken sunshine.

A ridge of high pressure was pushing north eastwards across the region on the 2nd and this maintained the cloudy conditions giving little in the way of sunshine amounting to just 2.8 hours and again with spells of very light drizzle in the early morning. The cool NE air flow meant that afternoon temperatures were held down to a maximum of 16.1C. By the 3rd this ridge had intensified, though the persistent cloud layer was difficult to dissolve. However, it did so by early afternoon and this allowed a period of warm sunshine raising afternoon temperatures to a maximum of 20.7C with 7 hours of sunshine.

The 4th dawned with an almost uniform cloud cover and a cool north westerly wind. There was a spell of very light drizzle from 0220-0455 though this did not accumulate in the gauge. The layer of cloud persisted until mid afternoon when it broke to give a fairly sunny end to the day with 1.2 hours of sunshine and a maximum temperature of 20.1C. During the night of the 4th/5th the ridge of high pressure collapsed southwards to lie across Biscay by dawn. This allowed a cold front over Scotland to make erratic progress southwards during the 5th which was a day of sunny periods over the Midlands, maximum temperatures peaking at 21.8C during the afternoon.

A spell of light drizzle heralded dawn on the 6th as further frontal systems crossed the country from the parent depression to the north west of Scotland. Winds veered from SW to NW bringing in cooler air, afternoon maximum temperatures climbing no higher than 17.1C with a mere 0.2 hour of sunshine. These cloudy conditions with slight drizzle continued into the 7th by which time winds had veered through NNE and E then back to N. The day saw sunny periods and it was a little warmer with a maximum of 19.3C under the influence of a weakish ridge of high pressure.

The parent low to the east of Iceland pushed a weak cold front southwards during the 8th though this did not reach the Midlands until early on the 9th. With broken cloud throughout the 8th, it was predominantly sunny 5 hours of sunshine being recorded with a maximum temperature of 21.6C. The spell of light and intermittent rain early on the 9th resulted in a mainly cloudy day with little in the way of sunshine, just 1.8 hours being recorded. With mainly light west to south west winds temperatures climbed to a maximum of 20.4C.

The deep area of low pressure between Iceland and Scandinavia persisted into the 10th, maintaining the broad south westerly flow across the UK. It remained relatively warm, though damp, with spells of very light rain in the late afternoon and early evening, this giving way to a spell of more intense rain from 2210 to 2350. A total of 5 mm fell by 0900 on the 11th as further low pressure areas lined up in the Atlantic ready to cross the UK.

One depression moved rapidly across the south of the country on the 11th giving a period of more general rain in that area. Over the Midlands rainfall was more sporadic, mostly falling during the afternoon and evening. Sunshine was limited to 2.8 hours and temperatures to 17.4C with mainly north westerly winds. A further, deeper, area of low pressure developed in the South West Approaches on the 12th and this moved across a more northerly track giving only spells of light rain in the Midlands though sunshine was held to a mere 0.2 hour. Winds freshened during the day gusting to 28 knots in the afternoon giving a maximum temperature of 18.1C.

The depression tracked into the North Sea on the 13th maintaining a broadly westerly flow over the Midlands. This resulted in a day of blustery showers, some heavy, and prolonged spells of sunshine amounting to 11 hours over the day. Daytime temperatures climbed to 17.4C in the late afternoon with a 24 hour accumulation of 3.7mm of rain. The 14th dawned clear with a freshening north westerly wind and temperatures at 10C. By mid afternoon these had reached 17.6C with 6.3 hours of sunshine, though brief showers occurred from 1955 to 2125.

Low pressure still covered much of the north of the UK, the centres being between Iceland and the north Atlantic. Occasional frontal systems continued to plague much of the north of the country, though further south the rainfall was sporadic and light amounting to little more than a trace here. Daytime temperatures gradually rose, peaking at 21.2C on the 16th which also saw 7.8 hours of sunshine. With a deep area of low pressure moving across the country from the Irish Sea to lie off the Shetlands by late afternoon, the 16th saw spells of rain in the small hours, some quite heavy peaking at 24 mm/hour at 0750. Once that the front had passed through the ensuing day was quite sunny with 8.2 hours of bright sunshine and a daytime maximum of 18.9C.

By the 18th three low pressure centres lay near to the UK. These moved erratically, forcing frontal systems across the country, mainly affecting the north and west. Also, a new high cell began to develop in Biscay and this gave rise to much more settled weather for the south of the country. Over the next four days temperatures peaked at over 20C though sunshine totals were variable. The 19th produced only 0.6 hour though the 21st was much sunnier with 7.2 hours. Weak frontal systems continued to be pushed north westwards by this low, though over the Midlands these remained rather weak and fragmented leading to periods of only intermittent rain.