

**Weather Front.**

**June 2024/1924**

**June 2024.**

**Observers Notes.**

**Derby:** The lowest minimum was lower than the extreme minimum in May. This is the first time it has happened since May/June 1999, in 1964 and in 1985, but at no other time. The overall mean temperature for June did not exceed the mean temperature for May until the 27th.

**Mickleover:** There were only ten days when the maximum temperature exceeded 20 C. June was the driest month since June 2023.

**Middleton:** June 2024 was the first month to record less than 100 mm since August 2023. It was also the dullest June since 2016, but with no completely sunless days.

**Desford:** Disappointingly cool and cloudy.

**Coton-in-the-Elms:** A cool June and the coolest overall since 2013. If it had not been for a few hot days later in the month, the mean temperature would have been much lower! Nights were generally cool with only a few days reaching 20 C. Rainfall was below average, but with 12 rain days it may well have felt wet!

**Lowdham:** The first month since January that the mean temperature has been below average. June 2024 saw the lowest grass minimum temperature for June since 1999. Sunshine at Radcliife-on-Trent was 178.6 hours (103% of 1991-2020 average). The dullest June since 2020.[[1]](#endnote-1)

**Ely:** Second consecutive dry June, and driest month since February 2023. Lowest mean minimum temperature since 1977.

**Mountsorrel:** A cool, but dry month, which was also sunnier than normal. It was the first cooler than average of any month since December 2022. The first half of the month was cool, as high pressure, stationed in the Atlantic, resulted in a NW flow with most days temperatures in the range 15-18 C. The third week did see temperatures rise and there was a short spell between the 24th and 26th when temperatures rose to around 27 C. Temperatures then returned to normal as the month ended. It was also sunnier than normal.

**UK overview June 2024**

In contrast to the warmer than average May, June was cooler than average, with temperatures in the first two weeks roughly 2°C below average. The cool start to the month was due to northerly and north-westerly winds bringing cold Arctic air across the UK. A low-pressure centre developed over Scandinavia in the second week of June, pushing further cold air from the north across the UK. Frontal systems brought scattered showers across the country throughout the month, but in general the showers were light and brief, although there were occasional thunderstorms especially in the south-east. From the 24th to the 27th, a period of high pressure brought warm temperatures across the UK. Some areas of south-east England experienced temperatures exceeding 28°C. Several stations recorded temperatures of 30°C on the 26th, including Heathrow and Wisley (Surrey). However, the hot weather was short-lived, and temperatures returned to around or below average for the last few days of the month. By mid-month, the mean temperature for the UK was 2.2°C below the June average. However, the warm spell that closed out the month balanced this, resulting in mean temperatures only 0.4°C below the average for the UK. All four countries ended the month with mean temperatures less than a degree below average. Although cool, June wasn't as wet as previous months, with the UK provisionally recording only 71% of the average June rainfall. England and Wales both recorded just over half of their average rainfall, while Northern Ireland recorded 74% of their average. Scotland was only slightly below average with provisionally 98% of the typical rainfall, and northern Scotland was the only region to end the month with above average rainfall, experiencing a provisional 122mm of rain (132% of the average rainfall). The sunshine hours were slightly above average for the UK (178.8 hours, or 104% of the average sunshine duration). However, Northern Ireland was much duller, recording only 75% of the average June sunshine hours. Reference climatology used for calculating anomalies is the period 1991-2020 unless otherwise stated.

**Weather impacts**

• Cool and often showery weather in the first half of the month, with westerly to north-westerly winds prevailing.

• Hot spell between the 23rd and 26th with many areas in southeastern England seeing temperatures over 28°C.

June saw little in the way of impactful weather, with only four severe weather warnings issued, all of which were low impact. The month started with cool and often showery weather, with winds from the west and northwest bringing cold air over the UK. The cool air also led to a dry month, with the exception of northern Scotland. The most impactful day was the 18th, when a pronounced convergence line formed between Cumbria and Yorkshire, leading to heavy downpours which resulted in some surface water issues and flooded roads across parts of West Yorkshire. Dry conditions in the south of the UK, as well as strong sunshine, likely contributed to a heathland fire near Exmouth, Devon on the 20th. Higher pressure in the latter half of the month led to the only hot spell in June between the 23rd and 26th, when temperatures peaked at 30.5°C in Wisley, Surrey.

**June 1924.**

**Observers Notes.**

**Newquay:** The least June sunshine since 1907. A very uneventful month with no jumps of temperature.

**Skegness:** The first half of the month was very dull and wet, the second half bright and dry. South-westerly winds predominated during the latter part of the month. The lowest minimum temperature for any June since 1915.

**Torquay:** Unsettled almost the whole of the month and rather wet for the first twelve days. The outstanding feature was the amount of heavy black cloud which almost continuously passed over the district. While day temperatures were normal, many evening and nights were cold.

**Walton-on-Naze:** The month will be remembered for its low temperature; the first half was wet, the latter half too dry for vegetation.

**Fort William (Inverness-shire):** The first month since October 1923 with a total rainfall above normal, but wetness confined to the last week.

**Hawick (Roxburghshire):** Cold winds, but good growing weather.

**Portree (Isle of Skye):** Pretty fair weather until the closing days, then exceptionally heavy rainfalls.

**Dublin:**  An “Atlantic” June of SW and W winds, clouds and showers, with very high relative humidity.

**Inverary:** On the 20th there was an exceptionally heavy thunderstorm within an area of two miles, which lasted for about an hour and a half, the streets and fields being flooded with water in a short time. At Auchnangoul, about 3 miles distant, no hail fell, and the farmers were at work in bright sunshine. The same applies to the 24th when heavy rain was again local.[[2]](#endnote-2)

**Louth (Westgate):** Total rainfall for June was 1.62 in [41.1 mm].

**Derby/Burton-on-Trent:** Most rainfall sites in this area received a little either side of 55 mm, although one returned only 36.3 mm (this was a Met Office registered site at Shobnall, Burton-on-Trent). Temperatures were close to the normal of the time, with a mean of 14.3 C in Burton. Extreme values were, minima of 2 C on the 14th, and 3 or 4 C on the 3rd, maxima in the range 26 C to 28 C were recorded on the 16th, 18th, and 26th. In the Trent valley, a slight ground frost could have been possible on the morning of the 14th, where the air minimum was down to 2 C.

Kington notes, “31 May to 1 June: severe floods. Cyclonic situation, inferred heavy rain, Worcester Agricultural Show washed out.[[3]](#endnote-3)

**Overview, June 1924.**

The first part of the month was generally rainy and unsettled, but by the 14th the weather became warmer and dryer, but with a good deal of cloud in places. The flooding, which occurred at the end of May continued for several days. Fairer conditions prevailed in Scotland, due to an anticyclone near Iceland, but cool, unsettled weather was general in the south, with occasional thunder. On the 4th a depression passed across southern England bringing heavy rain locally. To the rear of the depression a temporary improvement was felt in southern and eastern counties. From then to the middle of the month cyclonic conditions dominated the British Isles. On the 13th the anticyclone to the south of Iceland moved south-east and fairer conditions set in, but a cold northerly prevailed so that temperatures did not rise above 56 F [13 C] in much of the south. Temperatures did rise but, on the 17th, a depression moved north from the Bay of Biscay producing thunderstorms in many places, accompanied by heavy rain. From the 19th to the end of the month the weather in the south-east was fair, and warm, with little rain but, in the west and north, unsettled, rainy conditions continued.

The mean temperature of all parts was below average, apart from southern Ireland, which had average mean temperatures, and NE and E England where the temperature was above average. The first week of the month was the coldest generally, with Scotland experiencing very low temperatures. The second and third weeks were the warmest with maxima, on the 26th, exceeding 80 F [27 C] in eastern England and the Midlands.

A considerable number of ground frosts were reported, although many stations remained free. Chopwellwood (Durham) reported 12, Commondale 6, and several Scottish stations reported 5 days. The lowest temperature on the ground was 24 F [-4 C] at Durham, on the 14th.

Rainfall varied markedly over the country. In south-west England and the Midlands, the precipitation was “normal”, above average in south-east England, and much of Ireland, but below average elsewhere. Apart from Cornwall, an area west of a rough line drawn from the Dee estuary to the Thames estuary, and then through Kent to Brighton the rainfall was above average. The remainder of England was generally well below. In Scotland the west coast, and a large area along the east coast, was well above average, but the central area and the lowlands was relatively dry. Over Ireland precipitation was above average except for a small area in the north.

The first half of the month was the wettest, with a continuation of the floods in England from the end of May; these gradually abated. From May 31st to June 1st a number of stations had rainfall totals exceeding 100 mm; Humber Rectory (Leominster) 110 mm between 1745 on the 31st to 0900 on the 2nd, West Kirby (Cheshire) 91 mm during the 24 hours ending 1900 on June 1st. The monthly total at Stye (Seathwaite) was 376 mm, at Caernarfon 295 mm, and at Oakley (Merioneth) 239 mm.

The majority of stations reported thunder during the month, Norwich, Woburn, and Liverpool (Bidston) having as many as 6 days. Thunderstorms were widely reported in the Midlands, and the south of England on the 12th, generally in Scotland on the 11th and 21st, and n Ireland on the 17th. Hail was reported from a few stations on one or two days. In Scotland there were a few noteworthy falls of hail in association with thunderstorms. At Inverary there was an exceptionally heavy storm of hail (see observers notes) which yielded 62 mm of rain causing significant local flooding. A similar heavy thunderstorm, at the same place, on the 24th, produced 63 mm of rain.

Sunshine was below average throughout the country. The smallest deficiency being 0.24 hours in eastern England, and the largest was 2.41 hours in southern Ireland. South-east England and the Channel Isles had 42% of possible duration, and Southern Ireland only 21%. The third week was the sunniest generally. A number of stations reported daily durations of 13 hours or more, Tunbridge Wells having 15.1 hours on the 26th. At Torquay the total for the month was the lowest for June since 1912, and at Valencia the total of 91 hours was the lowest for June in more than 40 years.

Very dense fog occurred in the English Channel on the 25th and 26th, notably from the Straits of Dover to Southampton, causing considerable delays to shipping.

**Abroad June 1924.[[4]](#endnote-4)**

During June 1924 the weather on the continent was mainly unsettled, but high temperatures were recorded, the highest being 104 F [40 C] at Turin on the 25th. On the 8th a severe storm was reported at Dusseldorf. A significant amount of damage was done to property, but there were few casualties. At 1400 the sky darkened followed by very heavy rain and hail, which flooded the town. To the south-west a whirlwind uprooted tree, blew down factory chimneys, as well as the steeple of St Martin’s church. On the 17th, in dense fog, at Vest Fjord, northern Norway, there was a collision between two passenger steamers and 17 people were drowned.

Heavy rain was reported from Smyrna [Izmir, Turkey] and other parts of Asia Minor, the resulting flooding did much damage to the crops.

A report in the Times noted that the temperature in Calcutta [Kolkata], on the 31st May, was 115 F [46 C], which was the highest then recorded in the city. A note in The Meteorological Magazine mentions that 108 F [42 C] was the highest temperature recorded at Alipore Observatory between 1878 and 1920, which was the authority for Calcutta at that time. About the middle of the month heavy rain was reported in the vicinity of The Bay of Bengal, but in the extreme north of India rainfall was scant.

Once again there were reports of flooding in the USA, but this time it was from Tennessee. The towns of Carter’s Bluff and Hunter, together with many villages, were inundated and partially destroyed; there were also reports of a number of fatalities. On the 28th, during late afternoon, a “violent hurricane” passed along the southern shore of Lake Erie which resulted in a heavy loss of life. At Lorain the State Theatre collapsed, around 300 people were reported killed, and many houses in the main street were blown down. It was understood that three pleasure steamers on the lake were sunk, however full details of the incident were not known at the time The Meteorological Magazine went to press.

It was reported that “useful rains” had fallen in Queensland and New South Wales.

In the north of Brazil, the rainfall total was 73 mm above average, in the central districts’ rainfall was 40 mm above, while in the south the rain was only 8 mm above average. It is understood however that “the distribution [of rain] in the last two districts” was irregular. Anticyclonic activity had been more frequent, and the depressions more active during June, than in April or May. Generally, the pressure distribution had been abnormal during the previous few months. At Rio de Janeiro the [mean] temperature had been 5 F [2.5 C] above average, while pressure was only slightly above.

**From The Press.**

It was noted that a Bill “to amend the laws relating to Smoke Nuisance and for other purposes connected therewith” was to be introduced in the House of Lords by the Earl de la Warr on behalf of the government. The comment in the Meteorological Magazine suggested that “the effect of the measure will be to increase the penalties for the production of smoke in such quantities as to constitute a nuisance”. The first modern “Clean Air Act” maybe?[[5]](#endnote-5)

**June 1724.**

They write from Portsmouth, that His Majesty’s ship The Captain, a guard ship, had broke from her moorings, by a sudden gust of wind, ran foul of several wherries, and had sunk one with a man in it, who was drowned.[[6]](#endnote-6)

They write from Zamoski, that the great quantity of hail which has fallen on the Palatinate of Belez [south-west Germany], has destroyed all the fruits of the earth.[[7]](#endnote-7)

We hear from Gloucester, that several cows were killed in the meadows near the city, by the lightning which fell there on the 11th instant.

The 11th instant was remarkable here [Worcester] for a most terrible storm of thunder and lightning. Several officers and ladies, who boarded at a house in this town, were sitting at table, when one of the young ladies, who was more fearful than the rest, desired to sit by her husband with her back to the window, and in the instant of removing, she was struck dead by the lightning; no other person was hurt, though several of them were mov’d out of their places by it. Two houses adjoining to that, wherein the lady as kill’d, were damaged…We have to add to what is above, that by all our accounts from York, there was the same time a more dreadful storm of thunder, lightning, and rain in that county, than was felt with us. They tell us, ;tis impossible to describe the fury of it; the damage it has done is very great, though not yet fully known, and the consternation it occasioned amongst the people, is inexpressible.

They write from Hurste-Green in Sussex, that the 12th instant, they had also there a most terrible storm of thunder, lightning, and rain, attended with hail; the stones of which were of a surprising bigness, and several shapes, insomuch that for about three miles in length, and a mile and a half in breadth; all the wheat, barley, pease, oats, and about 17 or 18 hop-gardens, were destroyed: All this mischief was done in the course of a few hours; for those who were pleasing themselves with the prospect of their rich fields of corn, and plentiful crop of hops, at 12 o’clock saw all ruined by four in the afternoon.[[8]](#endnote-8)

We have the prospect of the finest harvest for all sort of grain that ever was known in this county, and the plenty we are to have of fruit, exceed the former if possible; the people are obliged to beat off the apples and pears, there being more upon the trees than the boughs can bear, or the trees nourish.

In the thunderstorm, which happened last Wednesday in the afternoon, there fell a vast quantity of rain about Acton, Hampstead, Highgate, and those parts, accompany’d with hail stones so large, that the like were hardly ever seen there before. And by the thunder which we had here the next day about the same time, a ship lying in Cherry Garden Hole, Rotherhith, had several masts split and shivered.[[9]](#endnote-9)

[Kington notes, “volcanic dust veil (total DVI 420)”, Iceland eruption.” DVI=Dust Veil Index. The volcano involved was probably Krafla, moderate, but explosive eruption, into the troposphere, duration 5 years, starting 17 May 1724. There were other Icelandic eruptions between 1724 and 1729.][[10]](#endnote-10)

**Central England Data.[[11]](#endnote-11) (Averaging period is 1891 to 1920.)**

Mean Maximum Temperature: 17.7 C. Average: 18.7 C.

Mean Minimum Temperature: 10.0 C. Average: 9.6 C.

Mean Temperature: 13.9 C. Average: 14.1 C.

England and Wales Rainfall: 67.2 mm. Average: 63.3 mm.

**Midlands Data. (Averaging period is 1911 to 1920).**

Midlands Mean Maximum Temperature: 18.0 C. Average: 18.7 C.

Midlands Mean Minimum Temperature: 8.9 C. Average: 8.3 C.

Midlands Mean Temperature: 13.4 C. Average: 13.5 C.

Midlands Rainfall: 58.2 mm. Average: 53.7 mm.

**Central England Data 2024 (Provisional) (Averaging period is 1991-2020).**

Mean Maximum Temperature: 18.8 C. Average: 19.2 C.

Mean Minimum Temperature: 9.2 C. Average: 10.0 C.

Mean Temperature: 14.0 C. Average: 14.6 C.

England and Wales Rainfall: 33.7 mm. Average: 70.2 mm.

**Midlands Data.**

Mean Maximum Temperature: 18.9 C. Average: 19.2 C.

Mean Minimum Temperature: 9.1 C. Average: 9.6 C.

Mean Temperature: 14.0 C. Average: 14.4 C.

Midlands Rainfall: 34.0 mm. Average: 65.4 mm.

Sunshine: 199.3 hours. Average: 179.5 hours.

1. Many thanks to T Scholey, by email. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Meteorological Magazine, July 1924, Meteorological Office, HMSO, July 1924, p. 144. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Climate and Weather, Kington J, New Naturalist Library, Harper Collins, 2010, p. 403. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Meteorological Magazine, July 1924, Meteorological Office, HMSO, July 1924, pp. 144-145. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Meteorological Magazine, July 1924, Meteorological Office, HMSO, July 1924, p. 134. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Stamford Mercury, 11 June 1724. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Stamford Mercury, 25 June 1724. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Stamford Mercury, 25 June 1724. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Stamford Mercury, 18 June 1724. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. Volcanoes of the World, third edition, Siebert L, Simkin T, and Kimberly P, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, University of California Press, Los Angeles, California, 2010, p. 249. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Hadley Centre, Central England and Midlands, Meteorological Office. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)