



Weather chart for 1200 GMT on 15 August 1952

Daily weather extremes

Highest Maximum Temperature:
23.9 °C at Mildenhall (Suffolk)

Lowest Maximum Temperature:
12.2 °C at Cape Wrath (Sutherland)

Lowest Minimum Temperature:
6.1 °C at Eskdalemuir (Dumfriesshire)

Lowest Grass Minimum Temperature:
1.7 °C at West Freugh (Dumfriesshire)

Most Rainfall:
228.6 mm at Longstone Barrow (Devon)

Most Sunshine:
13.5 hours at Lerwick (Shetland)

General summary

Apart from some heavy and persistent rain across parts of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, it was a generally dry night across the United Kingdom with patchy cloud allowing a few mist or fog patches to develop by dawn. During the morning, the area of rain already into Cornwall by dawn slowly moved north and eastwards to affect other parts of southwest England and South Wales. Elsewhere, except for one or two showers across southern England, it was a largely dry but rather cloudy morning. The far north of Scotland had mainly clear skies with a good deal of sunshine.

The afternoon saw the rain continuing across southwest England and South Wales, turning increasingly heavy and thundery. Rain also broke out across other counties of southern England. For the rest of the United Kingdom, away from northern Scotland, it was a cloudy afternoon and apart from the odd isolated patch of drizzle in northwest England, it was dry. Northern Scotland was mainly sunny and dry for much of the day.

Winds were generally light and from the east or northeast.

Temperatures were about or slightly below normal for mid-August generally but warm across East Anglia.

Significant weather event

Continuous rain began on the Isles of Scilly and at Culdrose (Cornwall) during the early hours and spread to all parts of Devon, Cornwall and Somerset by midday. At Chivenor (Devon), the nearest synoptic reporting station to Lynmouth, and at St. Eval, in north Cornwall, the rain was almost incessant for 18 hours or more. At Longstone Barrow on Exmoor, 9 inches of rain were recorded in 24 hours from 0900 GMT on 15 August. The highest rate of rainfall was estimated to be more than an inch per hour, which occurred between 2030 GMT and 2230 GMT on the 15th.

24-hour rainfall totals

	Rainfall	
	(mm)	(in.)
Longstone Barrow (Devon)	228.6	9.00
Challacombe (Devon)	192.5	7.58
Simonsbath (Somerset)	186.7	7.35
Furzehill (Devon)	127.0	5.00
Lower Thorne (Somerset)	127.0	5.00
Span Head (Somerset)	121.9	4.80
Kingsford Quarry (Somerset)	121.9	4.80
Brendon Barton (Devon)	114.3	4.50

Daily weather statistics

	London	Edinburgh	Cardiff	Belfast
Maximum Temperature/°C:	20.6	17.8	16.7	16.7
Minimum Temperature/°C:	12.8	11.7	12.8	6.7
Rainfall Amount/mm:	22.0	0.0	33.8	0.0 (trace)
Sunshine Amount/hours:	2.5	9.4	0.3	7.5