

National Oceanographic Library – Archive

UK Daily Weather Summaries

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UK Daily Weather Summaries

The United Kingdom Meteorological Office has produced a Daily Weather Report for the United Kingdom since September 1860 and they are still produced today as a Daily Weather Summary. This provides a summary of the observed weather for each day for a selection of stations with charts and tables and textual descriptions of the weather on the day. The format and context of the Daily Weather Summary varies over the many years of publication, including atmospheric pressure, temperature, wind direction and force, cloud amounts, and weather conditions i.e. rain, thunder and fog.

The Meteorological Office was founded in 1854 under the leadership of Captain, (later Vice Admiral), Robert Fitzroy. From this naval background Fitzroy had a strong understanding of the importance of weather to the lives of those at sea. Initially observations were produced for the seas around Britain and Ireland, then quickly followed by observations for land forecasting.

The Daily Weather Report and later Daily Weather Summary have continued to be produced and reflect the activities of the Meteorological Office. Over time they have evolved to include many types of forecast, increasingly detailed data, special observation such as those from ocean weather ship observations, and numerous varieties of charts and even satellite imagery.

These examples of the UK Daily Weather Summaries, which were originally held as part of the National Oceanography Library stock, have now been deposited in the National Oceanographic Library Archive for their varied and significant weather patterns in and around UK waters and on land, with examples of Dundee University Satellite Imagery, (also from the National Oceanographic Library stock) which complement the UK Daily Weather Summaries.

A detailed explanation is kept with each folder describing the weather pattern that occurred.

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