

## APRIL STATISTICS RECORDED AT LERWICK OBSERVATORY

	April 2008	Averages 1971-2000
Mean maximum temperature	8.1°C	7.7°C
Mean minimum temperature	3.9°C	2.9°C
Daily mean temperature	5.9°C	5.3°C
Mean sea-level pressure	1010.3 hPa (mb)	1012.7 hPa (mb)
Total rainfall	66.7 mm	74.2 mm
Wet days => 1 mm	17 days	14.4 days
Sunshine	151.7 hours	129.9 hours
Air frosts	1 day	4.3 days
Ground frosts	8 days	11 days
Snow/sleet	6 days	7.5 days
Days with gale	2 days	1.9 days
Maximum daily mean temp.	8.9°C on 27th	
Minimum daily mean temp.	1.8°C on 5th	
Highest maximum	12.7°C on 27th	
Lowest day maximum	3.1°C on 5th	
Highest night minimum	10.3°C on 27th	
Lowest minimum	-0.8°C on 5th	
Lowest grass minimum	-3.5°C on 16th	
Wettest day	14.8 mm on 7th	
Sunniest day	13.2 hours on 27th	
Highest mean hourly wind	37 knots 6th	
Highest gust	57 knots on 6th	

### MILDER, DRIER AND SUNNIER THAN AVERAGE

#### **UK Overview**

**Mean temperatures close to average across the whole of the UK. England, Wales and the UK all had their coldest April since 2001. Rainfall generally above average, and well above average across parts of eastern Scotland and north-east England. However, rainfall was actually below average most of Northern Ireland. Sunshine generally above average, but below average across parts of northern England and southern Scotland.**

**Hull (Kingston upon Hull) recorded a maximum temperature of 23.0 °C on the 26th. Warcop Range (Cumbria) recorded a minimum temperature of -6.0 °C on the 6th. During the 6th an area of sleet and snow moved across much of the Midlands and SE England with 5 to 10 cm reported fairly widely, causing Heathrow airport to close for a time.**

#### **Scotland diary of highlights.**

1st to 4th: Rain at first on the 1st, then sunny intervals and showers, these heavy at times. Westerly winds were strong to gale force at times in the south. Patchy rain in the west on the 2nd, but brighter in the east. The 3rd was mainly dry, with the best of the sunshine in the east, with temperatures of 19.1 °C at Fettercairn (Aberdeenshire) and 18.9 °C at Inverbervie (Aberdeenshire). Rain at first on the 4th, then sunny spells and scattered showers, but more rain during the evening.

5th to 17th: Wintry showers for the 5th, these most frequent across the north with snow to low levels during the evening, and strong to gale-force winds. Sunny spells and wintry showers on the 6th and 7th. Strong to gale-force northerly winds gave blizzard conditions over hills, although winds eased inland during the evening. Lerwick (Shetland) recorded a gust of 66 m.p.h. on the 6th. On the 8th, persistent rain affected north-east Scotland, edging south later, with snow on high ground. Brighter in the west with isolated showers. Dyce (Aberdeen Airport) only recorded a maximum temperature of 5.4 °C on the 8th. On the 9th, sleet and snow affected Aberdeenshire, otherwise it was rather cloudy with scattered showers. Rather cloudy on the 10th with rain pushing north-east during the early morning, preceded by snow on high ground. Brighter, showery weather followed from the south-west. The 11th to the 15th saw sunny spells and showers, heavy and thundery at times, with some hill snow. Mainly sunny on the 16th with isolated light showers. The 17th was dry at first but rain in the south later. Loch Glascarnoch (Highlands) recorded a temperature of -4.7 °C on the 16th and Carterhouse (Scottish borders) recorded a temperature of -5.1 °C on the 17th. Eskdalemuir (Dumfries & Galloway) recorded 12 consecutive air frosts between the 6th and 17th.

18th to 23rd: On the 18th, there was patchy rain in the south then scattered showers. There was also some sunshine, but northern areas became cloudier. The 19th was dry, cool and bright. The 20th remained dry in most parts, but patchy light rain reached the south later. The 21st and 22nd were mainly dry with variable cloud. On the 23rd rain in the west moved north-eastwards, with drier and brighter weather following behind

24th to 30th: The north had a mainly dry morning on the 24th with mist patches clearing. Rain in the south-west edged northwards with brighter, showery weather following, and some thunderstorms broke out over southern Scotland. The 25th was mainly dry but rain spread from the south-west during the afternoon, this heavy at times in the west. A wet night in the west Highlands with Lusa (Skye) recording a total of 42.4 mm on the 25th. Rain cleared south on the 26th, with brighter skies following. Temperatures at Rosehearty (Aberdeenshire) and Lossiemouth (Moray) reached 18.5 °C on the 26th. Mostly fine on the 27th with some spells of warm sunshine. However, fog developed in eastern coastal districts in the afternoon with heavy thundery showers moving into the south during the evening. Rain at first on the 28th, then sunny intervals and showers these heavy with hail and thunder at times. More showers heavy and thundery with hail on the 29th. On the 30th a band of rain spread across from the east, followed by showers, some heavy with thunder in the south.

**Dave Wheeler**

**Initial Statistical details for Scotland as a whole (1961-1990 average) for April:**

**Mean Temperature** – 5.7°C (0.1°C above average).

**Rainfall** – 97.5 mm (113% of average).

**Sunshine** – 154.2 hours (118% of average).

**Data from the UK Met Office**