Unsettled —

some sunshine but dull and wet overall

The weather was generally unsettled during June with the result that the month ended up dull, wet and slightly cooler than normal. The typical weather pattern was scattered showers and fitful sunshine between more organised bands of frontal rain.

The radar picture above shows the rainfall situation at midnight on the night of the 31st May/1st June. Light rain was falling from a front lying over the eastern half of the country. Later that night however, the front’s eastward movement slowed and minor wave disturbances developed and moved northwards along it. The picture across shows the pattern of rainfall by six that morning; the rain had become more extensive and much heavier. By the time the front had completely cleared the east coast an hour or two later, up to 12mm of rain had fallen in some eastern areas.
Low pressure dominant

The month was dominated by Atlantic low pressure systems. Only between the 9th and the 14th did an anticyclone block the eastwards progress of the rainbelts associated with the depressions and give us generally dry conditions. For the rest of the month we had days with scattered showers and fitful sunshine between the passages of more organised bellows of rain.

The period from the 1st to the 5th was typical, with predominantly westerly winds and active fronts moving eastwards across the country. On the 6th a depression centre crossed the country, giving heavy rain early on in the north and northwest; this was followed by a cool blustery northwesterly which made the 6th to the 8th the windiest spell of the month.

There were gale gusts everywhere on Wednesday the 6th and the strongest gust of the month, 49 knots, was recorded at Birr that day. Other days with gale gusts include the 3rd, 19th, 24th and 30th.

Between the 9th and the 13th, a high pressure area approached from the Atlantic, causing winds to slacken and become northeasterly. It remained dry on the 14th as a deep depression, moving north-souths in mid-Atlantic, pushed the anticyclone eastwards towards England and caused a southerly windflow to develop. The cold front associated with the depression affected western areas during the 15th and 16th but it remained dry in the east. Frontal troughs moved eastwards on the 17th and early on the 18th, however, bringing rain to all areas.

Another depression then approached, triggering showers, some accompanied by hail and thunder, between the 18th and 20th. Yet another depression moving eastwards along the south coast on the 21st gave over 30 millimetres (mm) of rain at the Cork stations while areas well to the north had only small amounts. The westerlies returned for the 22nd and 23rd.

The chart across shows the synoptic situation at 1200 GMT on Sunday the 17th. Low pressure is the major influence. The satellite picture was taken a couple of hours later and shows Ireland enjoying a brief sunny interlude between the cloud and rain of two frontal troughs. Behind the second front is a large area of shower activity.
The 26th was both humid and windy, but a cold front moved southeastwards during the evening causing winds to slacken the following day as the front became slow moving near the south coast. A wave disturbance developed on the trailing front and gave heavy rain in many areas as it moved northeastwards during the 26th.

The westerlies resumed on the 27th and at first on the 28th but as a complex low-pressure area developed over Ireland during Friday the 29th, there was over 25mm of rain in places. As the depression shifted slowly northeastwards on the 30th there was widespread shower activity, with thunder and hail in some areas.

Fog was a feature only of the second half of the month; it was most prevalent in the south and southeast. Roselare and Roches Point had 3 days with fog on the 25th, 26th and 27th, while Cork Airport had a total of 6 days with fog, all of which occurred between the 24th and the 30th. Hail was infrequent, occurring mainly during the showery period around the 20th.

Above average everywhere

Rainfall was above normal everywhere. The north and the south of the country were wettest: Cahirciveen measured 122mm of rain while both Roches' Point and Kilkenny had more than twice their normal June rainfall.

It was the wettest June since 1958 at Belmullet and Malin Head, since 1965 at Cahirciveen and since 1966 at Clones. Amounts were somewhat lower across the middle of the country, Casement Aerodrome measuring 49mm, just 1% above the June average there. The period from Saturday the 9th to Thursday the 14th was very wet everywhere, but otherwise the generally unsettled weather meant that every day brought rain or showers somewhere in the country. Up to half-an-inch (12mm) fell in the east on Friday the 1st and there were some heavy falls in coastal areas between the 5th and 7th, but generally most of the heavier falls of rain occurred in the second half of the month. The 17th-18th, 20th-21st, 26th and 29th-30th were wet in most areas.

Thursday the 21st was the wettest day of the month in many southern parts, up to 35mm of rain falling at Roches' Point, the wettest June day there since 1982. The number of days with rain (defined as a day with 0.2mm or more), ranged from 16 at Roches' Point to 22 at Shannon Airport. The apparent discrepancy at Roches' Point between its high rainfall total and relatively low number of days with rain is accounted for by the fact that over 70% of the rain that fell there was measured on just 4 days.
Normal or slightly below

Mean temperatures for the month ranged from 12.2°C at Clarenmore to 13.8°C at Shannon Airport. Along northern and southern coasts, values were almost exactly normal; elsewhere temperatures varied between normal and a degree below. In general it was the notable lack of high daytime values that brought the overall means down: in most places average nighttime minimum values were normal or slightly above.

Most inland stations enjoy 5 days on average in June when the temperature reaches 20°C or more, but some never saw 20°C at all during this month while the luckier stations could only manage 2 such days.

During the first week or so, maximum values rarely exceeded 15°C, with the notable exception of Saturday the 2nd when temperatures of up to 19°C were recorded in many southern parts. The few instances when the temperature rose above 20°C occurred on the 9th, 14th, 17th and 24th. Maximum values were generally a little higher during the second half of the month, with the exception of Thursday the 21st, the longest day of the year, when the temperature exceeded 15°C only at Cork and Sligo. 21.6°C was the highest temperature of the month, recorded at Kilkenny on Sunday the 24th. Kilkenny also recorded the lowest temperature, 3.6°C, which occurred during the nights of the 15th and the 19th.

A dull month everywhere

Sunshine was below normal everywhere during June. The high pressure area that caused the only settled spell of the month - from the 9th to the 14th - was unfortunately located to the west of the country and so brought cool, cloudy weather instead of the sunshine that would have resulted from a continental high.

Malin Head was the sunniest place during the month with an average of 5.1 hours of sunshine a day. The dullest spot was Brean, averaging less than 4 hours a day. The best of the sunshine was to be found in parts of the west, north and north midlands, the southeast of the country faring least well. By comparison with the long-term averages, Mullingar tops the league with 88% while Casement brings up the rear with 67%, just two-thirds of its normal June sunshine.

The sunniest day of the month occurred on Sunday the 10th in Cahir, when the sun shone for a total of 14.6 hours. However, Cahirciveen also saw sunlight. At the distinction of having the greatest number of days with no sun at all - 4 - most other stations having 2 or 3 completely dull days, while Malin Head enjoyed some sunshine every day of the month. The dullest days were the 21st (the exception being Malin Head where the sun shone for 13.4 hours), the 26th and the 29th.
Friday 15th: A rainbelt cleared to the east coast after dawn, leaving a showery day with bright or sunny spells everywhere. South to southwestly moderate to fresh winds veered and eased. Rainfall: 10.0 mm (East Main Head) 16.1 mm elsewhere. Temperature: Max. 16.1°C Min. 10.1°C. Sunshine: 6 hours.

Saturday 16th: A fresh west to northwest airflow covered Ireland. Cloudy with spells of light rain or showers. Winds moderate to fresh west or northwest - later light to moderate west or northwest. Rainfall: Trace to 3.6 mm at north and south, 0.6 mm at east and west. Temperature: Max. 12.0°C Min. 9.1°C. Sunshine: 6 hours.

Sunday 17th: A cold north-westerly airflow over Ireland. Dry but mostly cloudy with the best of the sunshine in the south. Winds light, inland, would moderate to fresh in coastal areas. Rainfall: None generally. Temperature: Max. 11.4°C Min. 9.1°C. Sunshine: 0.6 hours.

Monday 18th: A cold front covered the country during the night, leaving us in a west to southwest airflow. Widely scattered showers at first, some thundery later. Winds light to moderate, southerly ahead of the front veered southwest to west. Rainfall: 2.9 mm at Clones, 10.9 mm at Bridgeport. Temperature: Min. 9.3°C Max. 13.4°C. Sunshine: 7.1 hours in west, north and southeast. 5.4 hours in east, north and midlands.

Tuesday 19th: Fresh to strong gusty south to southwest winds backed southeast to south east in the day. Showers in all areas especially in west. Good rain spells in east. Rainfall: 5.9 mm at west down to trace in east. Temperature: Max. 15.4°C but 14°C at Caherconree. Min. 5.8°C. Sunshine: 4.9 hours generally in west, 10.2 hours in east.

Wednesday 20th: A low moved over the south bringing rain then showers, some thundery, to all areas. Light to moderate more widely scattered winds settled to southwest in direction. Rainfall: 2.3 mm only trace at Belmullet. Temperature: Max. 18.8°C Min. 8.6°C. Sunshine: 6 hours generally, at 3.6 hours at Connemara and north west.

Thursday 21st: A depression moved over Munster. Rain showers in the north and northwest as first to spread to the day. The rain will pass without the just odd shower. Winds becoming light to moderate northwesterly later. Rainfall: 10.5 mm in south, trace in north. Temperature: Max. 18.5°C Min. 9.0°C. Generally 9°C in south. Sunshine: 2 hours generally but 10.3 Hours at Main Head.

Friday 22nd: A cold northwest airflow over Ireland. Showers in the north and northwest to first spread to most areas in the afternoon and evening - a few of them quite heavy. Northwesterly winds light at first, increased moderate during afternoon, and fresh in coastal areas. Rainfall: Upto 5.4 mm generally with 10.9 mm in Malin Head. Temperature: Max. 15.5°C Min. 7.0°C. Sunshine: 4 - 11 hours.

Saturday 23rd: A fresh westerly airflow covered the country, backing southwest-south as a depression approached from the Atlantic. Scattered showers. Rainfall: None generally to trace in west. Temperature: Max. 16.8°C Min. 10.7°C. Sunshine: 4 - 12 hours, best in Dublin, best in Galway and south Leitrim.

Sunday 24th: A weak front crossed the country during the day in a fresh southwest flow. Rainfall: 0.3 - 0.6 mm. Temperature: Max. 15.2°C Min. 7.0°C. Sunshine: 0 - 3 hours.

Monday 25th: A weak warm front with waves moved north into Munster during the early hours. Winds light variable or southwesterly. Rainfall: Trace to 4 mm. Temperature: Max. 15.5°C Min. 9.3°C. Sunshine: less than 1 hour in south, 3.5 hours in west and midlands. 4.8 hours in east and east north.

Tuesday 26th: A frontal depression moved northeastwards across the country. Winds light variable at first - later cyclonic variable. Moderate to fresh. Widely spread, rain, heavy to places. Rainfall: 22.6 mm Caherconree, 17.0 mm Malin Head, 0.2 mm at 12.3 mm elsewhere. Temperature: Max. 13.8°C Min. 10.4°C. 7.8 hours in west, 7.6 hours in north. Sunshine: mostly nil, less than 1 hour in a few places.

Wednesday 27th: A frontal trough moved eastwards across the country during the night leaving us in a unstable westerly airflow. Rain at first, followed by showers. Winds light to moderate cyclonic variable at first, later west or southwest.

Rainfall: Trace to 3 mm. Temperature: Max. 15.6°C Min. 9.0°C. Sunshine: 4 - 7 hours in west and south. 0.7 to 2 hours in west east.

Thursday 28th: A light to moderate southwest flow covered the country. There were showers in most areas during the day. More general rain spread into the southwest later in the day as a depression off the southwest moved towards the country. Rainfall: Generally less than 1 mm from but 2 mm in north midlands and north. Temperature: Max. 16.6°C Min. 9.0°C. Sunshine: 3.4 hours in southeastern half of the country. 4.8 hours in northeast half but 13 hours in Roscommon.

Friday 29th: Low pressure to the southwest fed rain northwesterly to all areas. Rain heaviest in south. Winds between easterly in the north and southerly in the southwest, generally light to moderate but fresh in extreme north. Temperature: Min. 9.0°C at Caherconree, 23.3 mm in Cork area, 0.2 mm at 18.3 mm elsewhere. Temperature: Max. 15.1°C Min. 5.3°C. Sunshine: Nil to trace.

Saturday 30th: A thundery depression moved northeastwards across Ireland. Winds light to moderate southwesterly at first - later cyclonic variable - later still increased moderate to strong with gale gusts from the west or northwest. Rain during the night - showers later, many with thunder. Rainfall: 9.7 mm Dublin, 19.1 mm at Cork Airport, 3.1 mm elsewhere.

Temperature: Max. 16.1°C Min. 11.2°C. Sunshine: 4 - 11 hours in Cork County and Wexford. 3.7 hours in Limerick and Munster, except Cork 1 hour.
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NOTES: Rainfall in millimetres. Temperatures in Degrees Celsius. Sunshine in Hours and Wind in Knots. Gale Gust = Gust of > 33.5 knots. * days with 0.2mm or more.