

WEATHER & CLIMATE

Name

Weather is the state of the at any given place & . It is short term & , covering , humidity, , precipitation and .

Climate is the average conditions for a place over years - -term and often applied to a area.

Britain's climate is and difficult to . It is also - it rarely has extremes such as great heat or , or storms.

In general terms, Britain has summers, winters and a steady, rainfall which is fairly evenly through the year (not). But there are significant variations between parts of Britain:-

* Between North and , East & * (between summer and winter)

TEMPERATURE

Latitude The further from the equator, the more the rays of the are out over a larger and have to pass through a distance of atmosphere, where heat is lost to gases, and . Nearer the equator suns rays are more , and temperatures are . This causes the of Britain to be warmer than the , especially in .

Distance from the sea Water absorbs heat than the and warms to a greater , so therefore warms up more than the . It also more heat and it more effectively, so the sea down more than the . Places near the sea are therefore in summer and in winter. This marine influence is spread inland by prevailing and rainfall. Temperatures are more near the coast which is near the ocean - the largest heat store near Britain - and from which blow the winds (south-).

Prevailing winds Britains prevailing (most) winds are from the -, which bring air that is in winter and in summer. Winds from the east (from) bring air that is in summer and in winter.

Ocean currents The North Atlantic Drift is a current that flows from the Gulf of towards western . This makes Britain warmer than other places in similar .

Altitude Temperatures with altitude by about per 100m. As the highest parts of Britain are over m above sea level, they are at least colder than at level, causing to cover the ground for much periods. Also, it will probably feel even colder due to winds increasing the factor.

Albedo Darker surfaces (tarmac, vegetation) absorb solar radiation effectively than surfaces (snow, ice or sand). The % which is reflected is called the .

Aspect In Britain, south facing slopes make the angle of the sun more and hours of daylight . North facing slopes are , and in the hills retain cover longer.