Tayside and Fife set to be as warm as Portugal

HEATWAVE: Thunderstorms expected to give way to warmer climes

BLAIR DINGWALL

Tayside and Fife will be hit by thunderstorms, downpours and sweltering heat this week as erratic weather moves across the UK.

Despite predictions of severe conditions across Courier Country this morning, Scotland is expected to enjoy its warmest day of the year tomorrow as a heatwave endures across the UK.

Yesterday a yellow Met Office warning for thunderstorms was put in place across the whole of Tayside and Fife alongside Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) flood alerts for Dundee, Angus and Fife. They are effective until this morning.

However the poor conditions will clear in the afternoon to once again give way to warmer climes with Dundee expected to enjoy 25C heat and Perthshire 23C.

The weather is expected to peak tomorrow with temperatures of up to 30C due in parts of Scotland – hotter than the likes of Barbados, which is due to be 29C, and Lisbon, Portugal, which is expected to be 27C.

Locally the hottest place is expected to be Perthshire where the mercury could climb to 27C.

The Met Office says there is a chance that Scotland’s 2019 high of 30C, set on June 28 at Auchnagatt, may be broken tomorrow.

There is also a chance that the UK’s all-time record of 38.5C could be bested south of the border tomorrow.

It comes after temperatures hit a high of 28.1C in Scotland yesterday with the hottest local spots being Leuchars at 24.8C and Strathallan Airfield at 24.6C. The UK’s hottest place was Northolt, London, which at 33.7C.

Met Office meteorologist Luke Miall said: “We have got a thunderstorm warning in force until 9am today. What we are going to see is basically an area of thunderstorms coming up from France and Spain. There is a risk of potentially frequent lightning, rainfall, large hail as well and quite significant winds. They will clear off very rapidly and basically once we get to 10am-11am we should have completely turned dry and then it is mostly a dry and sunny day.

“Essentially you have got hot weather lasting for a couple of more days across Scotland.

“As we go through tomorrow most places will be dry with some sunshine.

“Temperatures will continue to peak today and tomorrow particularly in the south-east of the UK. Temperatures for tomorrow across Scotland as a whole will be 29C-30C.”

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Hot weather brought sun lovers out onto the beach at Monifieth yesterday Picture: Kim Cessford.

What’s happening this week?

The extreme heat in the UK at the moment is being caused by the jetstream sitting in an unusual position.

The jetstream is a core of strong winds six miles above the Earth’s surface that shapes our weather in Scotland and indeed across all of northern Europe.

Right now the jetstream is deflected far north of the UK, causing hot air from the Mediterranean to be carried northwards to the UK and giving us this short heatwave.

Although Scotland will not feel the full brunt of the heat, thermometers are expected to hit 37C in London tomorrow.

Is climate change the cause?

It is impossible to say whether individual events – such as this week’s heatwave – are caused by climate change.

The kind of weather pattern delivering today’s hot air, a deflected jetstream, is not itself caused by climate change.

Indeed the famous 1976 heatwave was a result of similar meteorological conditions.

What is different now is that the global temperature is about 1C hotter than in 1976, meaning that when these unusual weather patterns occur, the heatwave is more severe.

Met Office scientists found that last summer’s heatwave – during which Scotland experienced its hottest day on record – was 30 times more likely because of global warming.

Climate change is “loading the dice” for heatwaves, making them much more likely and much more severe.

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