

Forecast Issued: 23/01/2010

Ireland – Monday

During Monday an elongated high pressure system extending from the Azores to Scandinavia brings some settled weather to the southern counties of Ireland. A train of weather systems located in the North Atlantic Ocean aligned from south-west to north-east will bring a mild and moist air-stream into the north and west of Ireland. In these northern counties low cloud and overcast weather will persist though-out the morning, although most other counties will remain largely dry. Cloud or light rain and drizzle may affect the west coasts of Connaught later in the afternoon associated with a general region of low cloud in the north. Generally light and variable winds are expected for much of the country throughout Monday. It will feel rather pleasant in the south with maximum temperatures of up to 11C in parts of south Munster. The deep bank of cloud and patchy light rain in the north will make it feel rather cool, with temperatures reaching around 6C in urban regions of Northern Ireland. As Monday draws to a close, clearing skies over the country lead to a rather cool night with minimum temperatures falling to around 3C in the Midlands.

Ireland - Tuesday

In the northern counties and coast of Northern Ireland and Ulster, Tuesday starts off rather damp with murky skies and low cloud. The dank weather is associated with a warm front clipping or trailing the northern edges of the country. Meanwhile, a large region of high pressure building to the south of Ireland leads to some mainly bright or sunny conditions for many southern counties. A west – east temperature gradient dominates the country during Tuesday, with maximum temperatures at the western coasts reaching a pleasant 10C. In the east maximum temperatures are not likely to rise above a chilly 7C. There will be some cooler weather in south Leinster associated with calm or light south-easterly winds in the vicinity of a local high pressure system. During the afternoon a period light rain in the northern counties clears to leave a largely dry end to Tuesday by dusk. Extensive mist or fog patches form later in the evening as the mild and moist Atlantic air begins to subside and some moisture becomes incorporated into the high pressure system. Mist patches begin to form into the evening in much of the Midlands and eastern counties, some of this mist may become dense along north-eastern facing counties of Leinster and Northern-Ireland resulting in some travel related issues. The mist and low cloud will tend to spread to more western counties later in the night. Overnight the east-west split in temperature remains over Ireland with lows typically ranging from 5C in the east to 11C in the west.

Ireland – Wednesday

During Wednesday morning any early morning mist clears over most counties of Ireland, with exception to the Eastern coasts of Leinster and the valleys of the Midlands where some patchy drizzle or mist may be slow to clear. Ireland will initially be both under the

influence of a mild Atlantic air-mass combined with light winds and anticyclonic conditions. This will lead to a largely fine, mild and sunny weather during the afternoon across all counties. Maximum temperatures during Wednesday afternoon are likely to reach 12C in the west, which will feel rather mild and pleasant in the light winds and sunshine. In contrast maximum temperatures within parts of southern Leinster will not generally exceed 7C due to the overcast skies. A high pressure system to the south of the country gives way to Arctic winds to the north-east and Scandinavia during the course of Wednesday, leading to the onset of cooler conditions throughout the evening and overnight period. Overnight on Wednesday temperatures will tend to fall quite rapidly under clearing skies to 3C in some rural spots of Northern Ireland, as the high pressure slips westward and a light northerly flow develops. Milder, but mostly clear conditions to the south-west, may see minimum temperatures fall no lower than 10C.

Ireland – Thursday

The synoptic conditions on Thursday are dominated by a weakening high pressure system located in the North Atlantic Ocean to the west of Ireland. A strong north-westerly flow will affect much of Scandinavia associated with two compact low pressure systems. As a result the weather of Ireland will be largely dry and bright, with lengthy periods of sunshine throughout the entire day. The exception will be the northern counties, where low cloud or mist patches will persist throughout the day. Thursday will be another mild day for all counties, with maximum temperatures of 11C at the west coasts of Connaught and Ulster. On the whole the maximum temperatures are not expected to exceed double figures over the majority of the country. Some patchy low cloud may affect North Ireland during the afternoon period and into the evening. A fresh north-westerly wind will tend to develop into the evening, as a compact low pressure system moves into Scotland from the north on its south-westerly track towards Northern Ireland. A bank of thick low cloud will migrate from the north during the late afternoon associated with this development. During the night-time period, minimum temperatures will remain above 5C throughout the country, as cloud cover tends to increase after dusk across the country.

Ireland – Friday

Friday morning begins largely overcast for much of the country, with a fresh northerly flow making it feel rather cool outside. A high pressure system situated in the North Atlantic Ocean allows some moist maritime air to over-spill into the country. Further to the east an Arctic maritime flow dominates the scene for Scandinavia and Scotland, as some cooler air filters down from the north. The cooler air-stream is likely to affect the northern parts of Ireland later on Friday. During the day on Friday any cloud in the southern counties of Ireland tend to become patchier as winds veer towards a cooler and more northerly direction. As a result the outside temperatures tend to fall slightly during the day, with maximums typically reaching between 8 and 11C by around mid-day. There may be some cold Arctic air moving into parts of Northern Ireland by the evening period where it will remain largely overcast throughout the whole day on Friday. Overnight on Friday there are early indications that the weather will turn increasingly cooler from the

north-east, and temperatures overnight across the country will take a tumble to around 0C in rural spots in the north, to around 6C in the south-west of the country.

Ireland 7-14 Day Outlook

Saturday January 30 – Friday February 5

Early in this period it is likely that an area of high pressure will build over the country leading to largely dry and sunny conditions for the entire country. Temperatures will begin generally around average for the time of year, although night-time minimums may be on the low side compared to the seasonal average. The light winds and dry weather will make it feel rather pleasant during this period, with maximums typically in the range of 5 to 10C across all counties. There is an early indication that winds may turn to more north-easterly flow later during this period leading to far colder conditions as cold continental air infiltrates from an established Siberian high pressure system. Due to this development, some frosty and perhaps cold conditions may affect the northern counties of Ireland, particularly in the north-east during early February. It is likely that the south-western counties are likely to remain milder with night-time minima above freezing.

Ireland 15-21 Day Outlook

Saturday February 6 – Friday February 12

During this period there is likely to be a mixed-bag of weather types affecting the counties of Ireland. At times milder but overcast conditions will affect parts of Ireland associated with over-spilling maritime air to the north of a blocking high pressure located in the North Atlantic Ocean. The majority of cloud and rainfall associated with this weather type will be in the northern counties of Ireland. At other times drier and brighter periods will affect parts of Ireland, with isolated frost and mist patches in the midlands and Northern Ireland, whilst milder air affects the south-west counties of Ireland. Temperatures across all counties are generally expected to be close to the seasonal average during this period.

Ireland 22-30 Day Outlook

Saturday February 13 – Thursday February 22

At this stage there is a great deal of uncertainty about the Irish weather during this period. It is likely that the cold continental air located over Europe and western-Siberia will continue to dominate the weather of Ireland. As this air-mass comes into contact with milder Atlantic air, it is likely that some periods of heavy snowfall may affect more northern counties of Ireland associated with a north-easterly or easterly continental flow. There is a risk of frosts during this period, and some of these frosts may be extreme in parts of the north and the Midlands. Temperatures are generally expected to be below the seasonal average during the majority of this period.