

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

CLIMATOLOGICAL MEMORANDUM

No. 51 A

AVERAGES OF MEAN SEA LEVEL BAROMETRIC
PRESSURE AT 9h FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM
1941 — 1970

by

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Figure 1

AVERAGES OF MEAN SEA LEVEL BAROMETRIC PRESSURE AT 9h FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM

Introduction

This memorandum contains tables and maps of monthly and annual averages of barometric pressure at 9h G.M.T. reduced to mean sea level for the period 1941-70. The averages given in Table 1 refer exclusively to this period, small gaps in the observations for any particular place having been completed with estimates taken from monthly pressure maps prepared for publication in the Monthly Weather Report. Figure 1 shows the places for which averages are given.

The new 1941-70 averages are compared with previous 30-year averages for 6 widely-spaced stations and a table of the highest and lowest pressures recorded in the British Isles from 1870-1970 is also given.

Presentation

The 1941-70 averages given in Table 1 are listed under climatological districts and in the same station order as that used in Table 3 of the Monthly Weather Report. It should be noted that the revision of county administrative areas in April 1974 has necessitated some amendments to the climatological district boundaries (see Fig 1). Several new counties have been created and others have changed names. The revised county names are used in this memorandum. The National Grid Reference and height of the barometer cistern above mean sea level are given for each station.

The maps following Table 1 show the distribution of average mean sea level pressure at 9h G.M.T. for each calendar month and for the year as a whole during the period 1941-70. They may be compared with similar maps for the period 1931-60 given in Climatological Memorandum No 51.

The Observations

Mean pressure is expressed in millibars. One millibar = 10^3 dynes/cm² = 10^2 Newtons/m² and is the pressure due to 0.750062 mm of mercury at 0°C and standard gravity of 980.665 cm/sec².* Corrections for index error, gravity, temperature and height are applied to the barometer readings at the time of observation to obtain pressure at mean sea level. For full details of these corrections see the Observers Handbook 1969 edition published by the Meteorological Office.

Before 1945 barometers at Meteorological Office stations were usually read at 7h G.M.T., but the morning hour of observation for climatological purposes was then changed to 9h and has remained so ever since. A correction factor, based on the mean diurnal variation of pressure (see below), has been applied to the readings from official stations taken before 1945 to make them comparable with readings taken at 9h. A large number of the stations for which averages are given took readings at 9h for the whole period 1941-70.

* Standard gravity of 980.62 cm/sec² was used by the Meteorological Office prior to January 1965.

Diurnal Variation

Superimposed on the changes of pressure associated with the movement and development of weather systems are regular small-amplitude oscillations having maxima at 10h and 22h local time and minima at 4h and 16h local time. These diurnal extremes occur at the same hour local time everywhere, the range being greatest at the equator and becoming insignificant north of 60°N. At 52°N the range is about 0.8 mb.

Comparison with previous averages

Figures 2 and 3 present graphically monthly averages of pressure reduced to mean sea level and corrected to 9h, at 6 widely spaced stations for various 30-year periods between 1901 and 1970.

It will be seen that the differences between one 30-year period and another 30-year period are relatively small with a few notable exceptions. In particular, during the early spring mean pressures at all stations for the periods 1901-30 and 1911-40 are very much lower than those for later periods, and in September the periods 1901-30 and 1911-40 give higher pressures than later periods.

Two maxima are clearly indicated in all the graphs, the first being in May (in the north) - June (in the south) and the second being in September. The first maximum is much more pronounced in the north whilst the maxima are about equal in the south.

Highest and Lowest Pressures

Table 2 gives the highest and lowest mean sea level pressures known to have been recorded at official meteorological stations in the British Isles. It is possible that pressures outside these limits have occurred at other times or in other places not recording pressures but the table gives a good indication of the range of values within which pressure may be expected to lie in any particular month.

It will be seen from the table that the extreme maximum and extreme minimum pressures both occur in January. The upper extreme value is lowest in August and the lower extreme value is highest in June. The absolute monthly range of pressure is highest in January and gradually decreases to a minimum of about half the January figure in June. Most of the extreme values are recorded in the northern half of the country and there is a greater range in the monthly minimum values than in the maximum values.

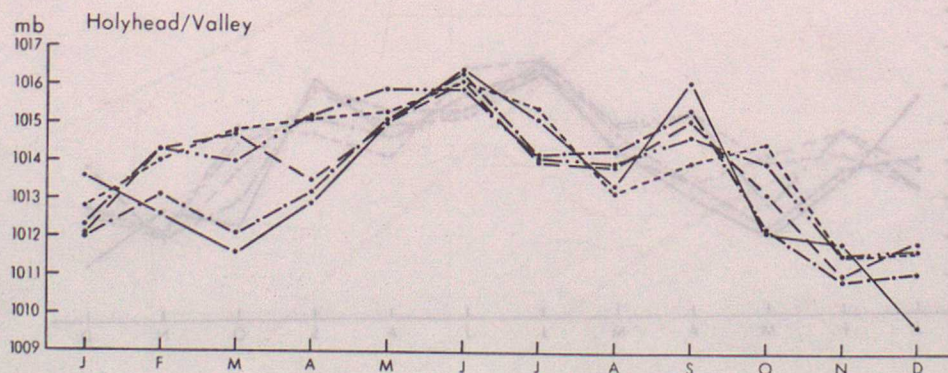
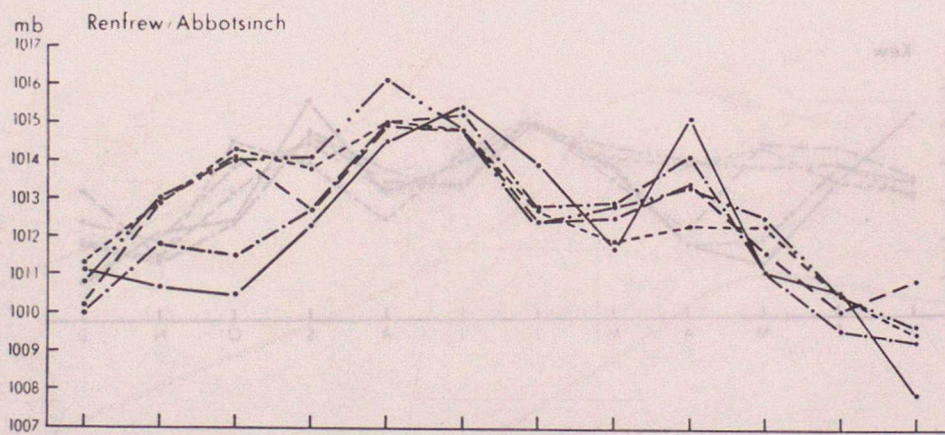
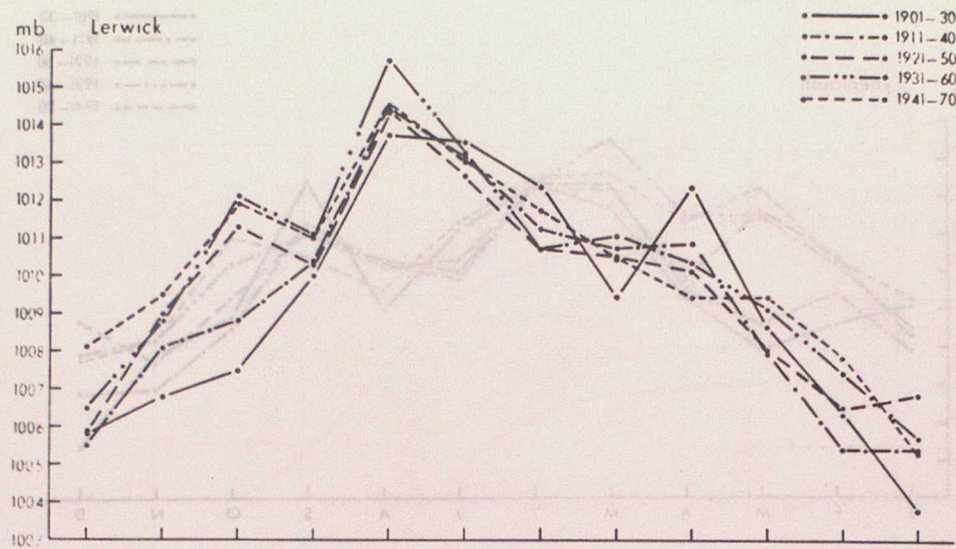


Figure 2 Comparison of 30 year averages

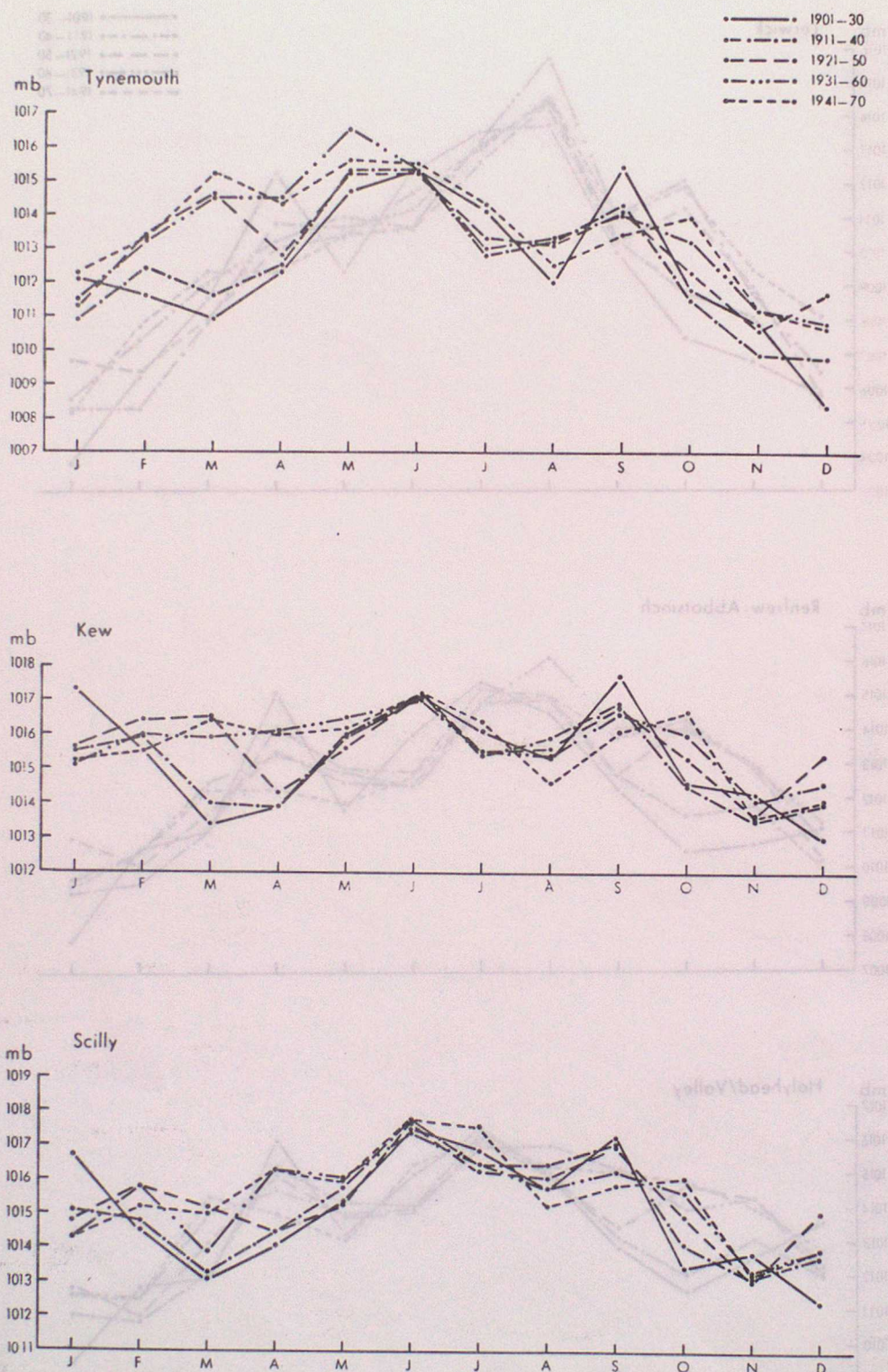


Figure 3 Comparison of 30 year averages

TABLE 1

DISTRICT PLACE AND COUNTY	NAT. GRID REFERENCE	HEIGHT (METRES)	AVERAGE PRESSURES												YEAR (MB)
			JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN (MB -1000)	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
DISTRICT 0 - SCOTLAND NORTH															
BENBECULA	08/782555	7	8.4	10.7	12.1	12.0	14.1	13.5	12.7	10.6	10.1	9.9	8.5	6.5	1010.8
KIRK WALL	310/483076	26	8.6	10.2	12.3	11.6	14.6	13.4	12.1	10.6	9.8	9.9	8.2	6.1	1010.6
LERWICK	411/453397	83	8.1	9.5	11.9	11.0	14.5	13.0	11.7	10.4	9.4	9.4	7.8	5.3	1010.2
STORNOWAY	19/459332	5	8.3	10.5	12.1	11.8	14.3	13.4	12.5	10.7	9.9	9.6	8.4	6.3	1010.7
WICK	39/364522	37	8.9	10.6	12.6	11.9	14.7	13.6	12.4	10.8	10.3	10.2	8.6	6.6	1010.9
DISTRICT 1 - SCOTLAND EAST															
Dyce	38/883125	59	10.4	11.9	13.8	12.8	15.0	14.2	12.9	11.4	11.5	11.7	9.7	8.3	1012.0
Fraserburgh	38/999675	22	9.8	11.2	13.3	12.5	14.9	14.1	12.8	11.3	11.2	11.2	9.2	7.5	1011.6
Kinloss	38/067627	6	9.7	11.4	13.1	12.5	14.8	13.9	12.7	11.1	10.9	10.9	9.3	7.5	1011.5
Leuchars	37/468209	16	10.8	12.2	13.9	13.2	14.9	14.4	13.1	11.5	11.8	12.1	9.9	8.8	1012.2
Turnhouse	36/158739	44	11.3	12.7	14.3	13.7	15.1	14.8	13.6	11.9	12.3	12.7	10.5	9.5	1012.7
DISTRICT 6 - SCOTLAND WEST															
Abbotsinch	26/480667	9	11.3	12.9	14.3	13.8	15.0	14.8	13.7	11.9	12.3	12.3	10.5	9.5	1012.7
Esksdalemuir	36/235026	237	12.2	13.2	14.7	14.1	15.0	14.9	13.8	12.1	12.9	13.5	11.2	10.9	1013.2
Prestwick	26/369261	21	11.3	12.9	14.2	13.8	14.8	14.8	13.8	11.9	12.4	12.8	10.6	9.7	1012.7
Tiree	07/999446	10	9.4	11.5	12.8	12.8	14.3	14.1	13.3	11.2	11.0	11.0	9.3	7.7	1011.5
West Freugh	25/109546	16	11.5	13.1	14.3	14.3	15.0	15.3	14.5	12.4	12.9	13.3	10.7	10.2	1013.1

TABLE 1

DISTRICT		NAT. GRID REFERENCE	HEIGHT (METRES)	AVERAGE PRESSURES												YEAR (MB)
PLACE AND COUNTY				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN (MB -1000)	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC		
DISTRICT 2 - ENGLAND EAST & NORTHEAST																
ACKLINGTON	NORTHUMBERLAND	46/225007	46	11.8	12.8	14.7	14.0	15.2	15.1	13.8	12.2	12.9	13.4	10.6	10.1	1013.0
CRANWELL	LINCOLN	53/003494	64	14.0	14.5	15.9	15.4	15.8	16.4	15.4	13.6	15.0	15.6	12.6	12.8	1014.7
HARROGATE	NORTH YORKS.	44/303579	65	13.1	13.8	15.3	14.5	15.4	15.7	14.6	12.8	14.0	14.5	11.9	11.7	1013.9
KILNSEA	HUMBERSIDE	54/417161	16	13.3	13.9	15.5	15.0	15.7	16.2	15.1	13.3	14.5	15.1	12.0	12.0	1014.3
LECONFIELD	HUMBERSIDE	54/026438	9	13.2	13.9	15.5	14.9	15.7	15.9	14.8	13.0	14.3	14.9	12.0	11.9	1014.2
LEEMING	NORTH YORKS.	44/305890	33	13.0	13.8	15.4	14.8	15.5	15.8	14.6	12.9	14.0	14.6	11.8	11.6	1014.0
MALHAM TARN	NORTH YORKS.	34/893672	400	13.1	13.9	15.4	14.9	15.4	15.7	14.6	12.9	14.0	14.8	11.8	11.7	1014.0
SCARBOROUGH	NORTH YORKS.	54/044884	36	12.7	13.5	15.2	14.6	15.5	15.7	14.4	12.7	13.8	14.5	11.5	11.3	1013.8
TYNEMOUTH	TYNE & WEAR	45/347695	40	12.3	13.3	15.0	14.3	15.6	15.5	14.3	12.5	13.4	13.9	11.2	10.7	1013.5
WADDINGTON	LINCOLN	43/988653	69	13.9	14.5	15.9	15.3	15.8	16.4	15.4	13.6	14.9	15.4	12.6	12.7	1014.7
DISTRICT 3 - EAST ANGLIA																
CAMBRIDGE	CAMBRIDGE	52/453572	12	14.6	15.0	16.2	15.8	16.0	16.9	15.9	14.2	15.6	16.1	13.2	13.6	1015.3
CARDINGTON	BEDFORD	52/081464	29	14.8	15.3	16.3	15.8	16.1	17.0	16.1	14.3	15.8	16.3	13.4	13.8	1015.4
CROMER	NORFOLK	63/208422	24	14.1	14.3	16.0	15.4	15.9	16.5	15.3	13.5	15.1	15.7	12.6	12.9	1014.8
FELIXSTOWE	SUFFOLK	62/286328	5	14.8	15.1	16.3	15.9	16.2	17.0	16.0	14.3	15.8	16.5	13.3	13.8	1015.4
GORLESTON	NORFOLK	63/534037	8	14.3	14.7	16.1	15.5	16.0	16.6	15.6	13.9	15.3	15.9	12.8	13.1	1015.0
MARHAM	NORFOLK	53/726094	24	14.3	14.8	16.1	15.5	15.9	16.6	15.6	13.9	15.4	16.0	12.9	13.2	1015.0
MILDENHALL	SUFFOLK	52/683779	12	14.5	14.9	16.1	15.6	15.9	16.7	15.7	14.0	15.5	16.1	13.0	13.4	1015.1
ROTHAMSTED	HERTFORD	52/132134	121	14.8	15.1	16.1	15.6	15.8	16.8	15.9	14.3	15.6	16.3	13.3	13.8	1015.3
SHOEBURYNNESS	ESSEX	51/948857	5	15.2	15.4	16.5	16.0	16.4	17.2	16.4	14.7	16.2	16.7	13.6	14.1	1015.7
STANSTED	ESSEX	52/531226	102	15.0	15.3	16.4	15.9	16.1	17.0	16.1	14.4	15.8	16.5	13.4	13.9	1015.5
WEST RAYNHAM	NORFOLK	53/847245	80	14.1	14.5	15.9	15.3	15.7	16.4	15.4	13.7	15.2	15.8	12.7	12.8	1014.8
WITTERING	CAMBRIDGE	53/043026	76	14.3	14.8	16.1	15.6	15.9	16.7	15.7	13.9	15.3	15.9	12.9	13.1	1015.0

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			JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN (MB -1000)	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC		
DISTRICT 4 - MIDLAND COUNTIES																
ABINGDON	OXFORD	41/482990	15.0	15.5	16.4	16.1	16.2	17.1	16.5	14.5	15.9	16.5	13.6	14.1	1015.6	
EDGBASTON	WEST MIDLANDS	42/046846	14.4	15.1	16.1	15.8	16.0	16.8	16.0	14.2	15.4	16.0	13.1	13.4	1015.2	
ELMDON	WEST MIDLANDS	42/176839	14.4	15.0	16.0	15.7	15.9	16.7	15.9	14.0	15.3	16.0	13.0	13.3	1015.1	
FINNINGLEY	SOUTH YORKS.	43/658988	13.5	14.4	15.7	15.2	15.7	16.2	15.1	13.4	14.6	15.2	12.2	12.3	1014.5	
GLOUCESTER	GLOUCESTER	32/851177	14.8	15.4	16.3	16.0	16.0	17.1	16.3	14.5	15.7	16.3	13.4	13.9	1015.5	
LITTLE RISSINGTON	GLOUCESTER	42/205191	14.8	15.3	16.1	15.9	16.0	17.0	16.2	14.4	15.8	16.3	13.4	13.8	1015.4	
ROSS-ON-WYE	HEREFORD & WORCS.	32/598237	14.5	15.2	16.0	15.9	15.9	16.9	16.2	14.2	15.5	16.1	13.1	13.6	1015.3	
SHARSBURY	SALOP	33/553222	14.0	14.8	15.8	15.5	15.7	16.5	15.6	13.7	15.2	15.5	12.7	12.9	1014.8	
SHEFFIELD	SOUTH YORKS.	43/339873	13.6	14.3	15.7	15.2	15.7	16.2	15.2	13.4	14.6	15.1	12.4	12.5	1014.5	
WATNALL	NOTTINGHAM	43/503456	13.9	14.5	15.8	15.3	15.6	16.3	15.3	13.5	14.8	15.4	12.5	12.7	1014.6	
DISTRICT 5 - ENGLAND SOUTHEAST & CENTRAL																
BOSCHAMPEL DOWN	WILTSHIRE	41/172403	15.4	15.9	16.6	16.4	16.4	17.5	16.9	15.1	16.3	17.0	14.0	14.6	1016.0	
EASTBOURNE	SUSSEX	50/611980	15.5	15.8	16.6	16.2	16.3	17.6	16.8	15.1	16.4	16.9	13.9	14.5	1016.0	
FOLKESTONE	KENT	61/214369	15.4	15.5	16.6	16.1	16.1	17.1	16.4	14.8	16.1	16.7	13.6	14.4	1015.7	
GATHICK	WEST SUSSEX	51/265407	15.4	15.8	16.6	16.2	16.3	17.3	16.6	14.9	16.3	16.9	13.9	14.5	1015.9	
KEW	GREATER LONDON	51/171757	15.2	15.5	16.4	16.1	16.2	17.2	16.4	14.7	16.1	16.7	13.6	14.2	1015.7	
LARKHILL	WILTSHIRE	41/137447	15.1	15.5	16.2	15.9	15.9	17.0	16.4	14.6	15.3	16.5	13.6	14.2	1015.6	
LONDON (HEATHROW)	GREATER LONDON	51/077769	15.2	15.5	16.4	16.1	16.2	17.2	16.4	14.6	16.0	16.6	13.6	14.1	1015.7	
LYNEHAM	WILTSHIRE	41/014793	15.1	15.6	16.4	16.2	16.3	17.4	16.6	14.7	16.0	16.6	13.7	14.2	1015.7	
SOUTHAMPTON	HAMPSHIRE	41/416112	15.4	15.7	16.4	16.1	16.2	17.4	16.8	15.0	16.2	16.8	13.8	14.5	1015.9	
SOUTH FARNBOROUGH	HAMPSHIRE	41/867548	15.4	15.8	16.6	16.3	16.3	17.3	16.6	14.8	16.2	16.9	13.9	14.5	1015.9	
THORNEY ISLAND	SUSSEX	41/758026	15.5	15.8	16.6	16.3	16.4	17.6	16.8	15.1	16.3	16.9	13.9	14.9	1016.0	
TUNBRIDGE WELLS	KENT	51/588393	15.6	15.7	16.5	16.1	16.2	17.2	16.5	14.8	16.3	16.8	13.8	14.6	1015.8	
WEST MALLING	KENT	51/677553	15.5	15.7	16.6	16.2	16.3	17.2	16.5	14.8	16.3	16.9	13.9	14.5	1015.9	
WORTHING	SUSSEX	51/160035	15.7	15.9	16.7	16.3	16.6	17.5	16.8	15.0	16.3	17.0	14.0	14.8	1016.0	

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				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
DISTRICT 7A - ENGLAND NORTHWEST & ISLE OF MAN																
BIOSTON	MERSEYSIDE	33/287897	62	13.2	14.2	15.3	15.1	15.4	16.1	15.3	13.3	14.3	14.8	12.0	12.0	1014.2
CARLISLE	CUMBRIA	35/384603	28	12.4	13.6	15.0	14.6	15.3	15.5	14.4	12.5	13.3	13.9	11.4	10.8	1013.5
NELSON	LANCASHIRE	34/872384	166	13.1	14.0	15.3	14.8	15.3	15.7	14.7	13.0	14.0	14.7	11.7	11.7	1014.0
POINT OF AYRE	ISLE OF MAN	25/467043	9	11.8	13.2	14.4	14.3	15.0	15.4	14.5	12.4	13.0	13.5	10.8	10.4	1013.2
RINGRAY	GREATER MANCHESTER	33/818850	84	13.5	14.3	15.5	15.2	15.5	16.1	15.2	13.3	14.5	15.1	12.3	12.4	1014.4
RONALDSWAY	ISLE OF MAN	24/279688	21	12.2	13.6	14.7	14.7	15.1	15.7	14.8	12.7	13.4	13.9	11.3	11.1	1013.6
SPEKE	MERSEYSIDE	33/437820	26	13.5	14.5	15.5	15.3	15.5	16.2	15.4	13.3	14.4	15.0	12.3	12.4	1014.4
SQUIRES GATE	LANCASHIRE	34/316317	11	13.0	14.1	15.2	15.0	15.4	16.0	15.1	13.1	14.0	14.6	11.8	11.8	1014.1
DISTRICT 7B - WALES NORTH																
HAWARDEN	CLWYD	33/353655	5	13.5	14.4	15.5	15.3	15.5	16.2	15.4	13.3	14.4	15.0	12.3	12.4	1014.4
LLANDUDNO	GWYNEDD	23/778819	10	13.2	14.3	15.2	15.3	15.5	16.4	15.6	13.5	14.4	14.9	12.1	12.1	1014.4
VALLEY	GWYNEDD	23/310758	11	12.8	14.0	14.8	15.1	15.3	16.1	15.4	13.2	14.0	14.5	11.6	11.7	1014.0
DISTRICT 8A - WALES SOUTH																
ABERPORTH	DYFED	22/242521	134	13.7	15.1	15.2	15.6	15.5	16.7	16.1	13.9	14.8	15.3	12.5	12.9	1014.7
LLANDRINDOD WELLS	POWYS	32/061605	221	14.6	15.3	16.0	16.0	16.1	17.1	16.3	14.3	15.7	16.1	13.1	13.7	1015.3
MILFORD HAVEN	DYFED	12/892054	39	13.9	15.2	15.3	15.9	15.7	17.1	16.6	14.4	15.1	15.5	12.6	13.2	1015.0
PORT TALBOT	WEST GLAMORGAN	21/789867	9	14.7	15.8	16.1	16.3	16.3	17.5	16.8	14.9	15.8	16.4	13.5	14.0	1015.6
RHOOSE	SOUTH GLAMORGAN	31/064679	70	14.9	15.6	16.1	16.2	16.1	17.3	16.7	14.7	15.8	16.4	13.5	14.0	1015.6

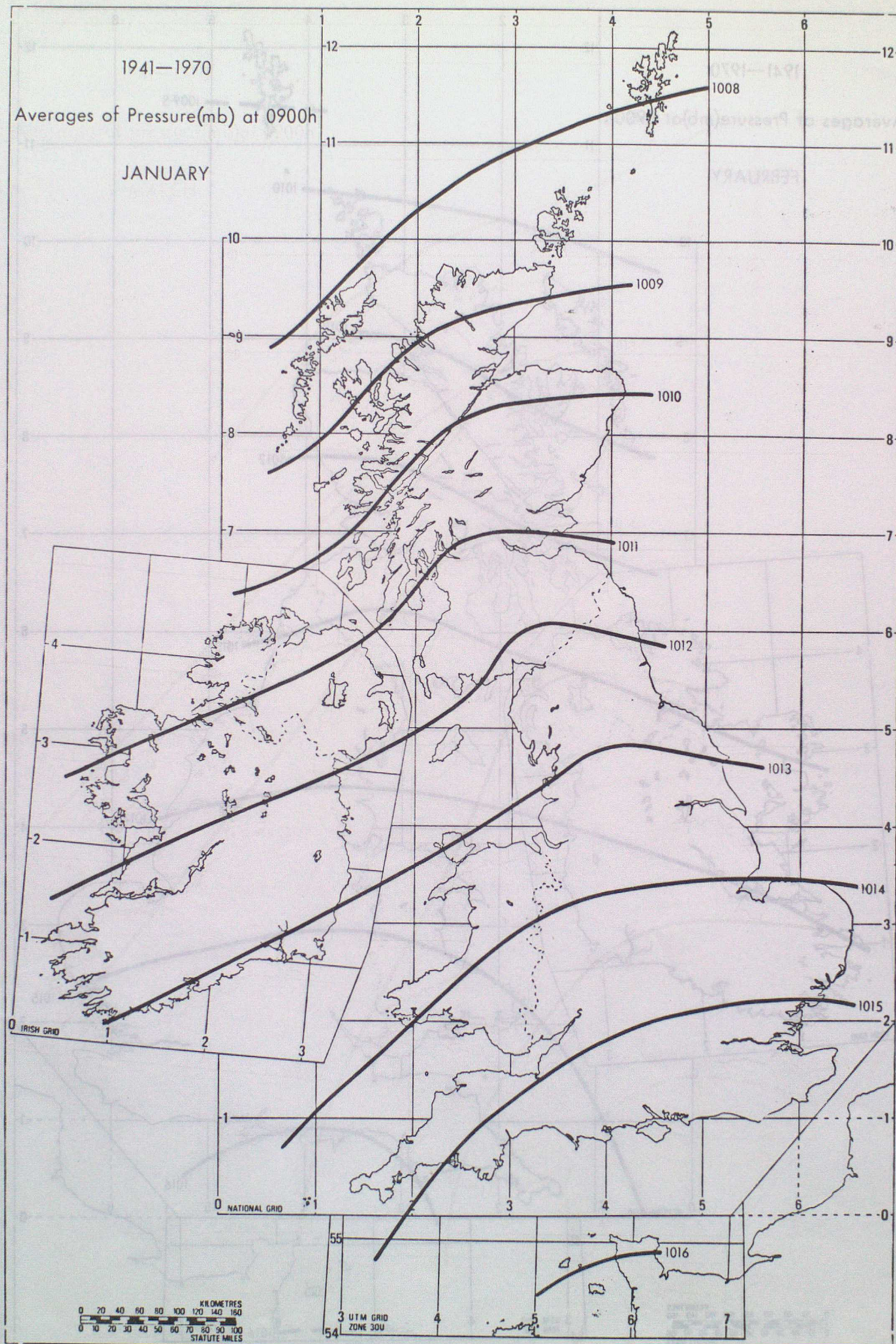
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DISTRICT PLACE AND COUNTY	NAT. GRID REFERENCE	HEIGHT (METRES)	AVERAGE PRESSURES												YEAR (MB)
			JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN (MB -1000)	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
DISTRICT 88 - ENGLAND SOUTHWEST															
BATH	31/751638	134	14.9	15.4	16.1	15.9	15.9	17.1	16.5	14.6	15.7	16.4	13.4	14.0	1015.5
BOURNEMOUTH	40/071917	20	15.7	16.0	16.7	16.6	16.5	18.0	17.3	15.4	16.6	17.2	14.1	14.8	1016.2
BRISTOL(FILTON)APT	31/598802	60	14.9	15.6	16.3	16.3	16.1	17.3	16.5	14.5	15.9	16.4	13.5	14.0	1015.6
CHIVENOR	21/494347	7	14.8	15.6	15.8	16.3	16.1	17.5	17.1	14.9	15.8	16.3	13.4	14.0	1015.6
EXETER	30/001933	38	15.2	15.9	16.2	16.4	16.2	17.6	17.1	15.1	16.2	16.6	13.8	14.5	1015.9
LIZARD	10/701119	73	14.8	15.5	15.5	16.3	16.1	17.8	17.6	15.4	16.0	16.3	13.6	14.3	1015.8
MOUNT BATTEN	20/492529	30	15.2	15.8	16.0	16.4	16.1	17.8	17.4	15.3	16.2	16.6	13.8	14.5	1015.9
ST MAWCAN	10/871642	107	14.6	15.5	15.4	16.1	15.8	17.6	17.2	15.0	15.8	16.2	13.4	14.2	1015.6
SCILLY (ST MARY'S) CORNWALL	00/913121	61	14.3	15.2	15.0	16.3	16.0	17.8	17.6	15.3	15.9	16.1	13.3	14.0	1015.6
NORTHERN IRELAND															
ALDERGROVE	33/147798*	73	10.7	12.6	13.5	13.7	14.5	14.8	14.2	11.9	12.1	12.0	10.3	9.4	1012.5
BALLYKELLY	24/624235*	3	11.6	13.3	14.2	14.3	15.0	15.3	14.6	12.4	12.9	13.3	11.0	10.4	1013.2
CHANNEL ISLANDS															
JERSEY (ST.HELIER)	554/652493*	11	16.2	16.3	16.5	16.9	16.6	18.5	18.1	16.1	17.1	17.4	14.4	15.5	1016.6

* IRISH GRID
\$ U.T.M. GRID

1941—1970
Averages of Pressure(mb) at 0900h

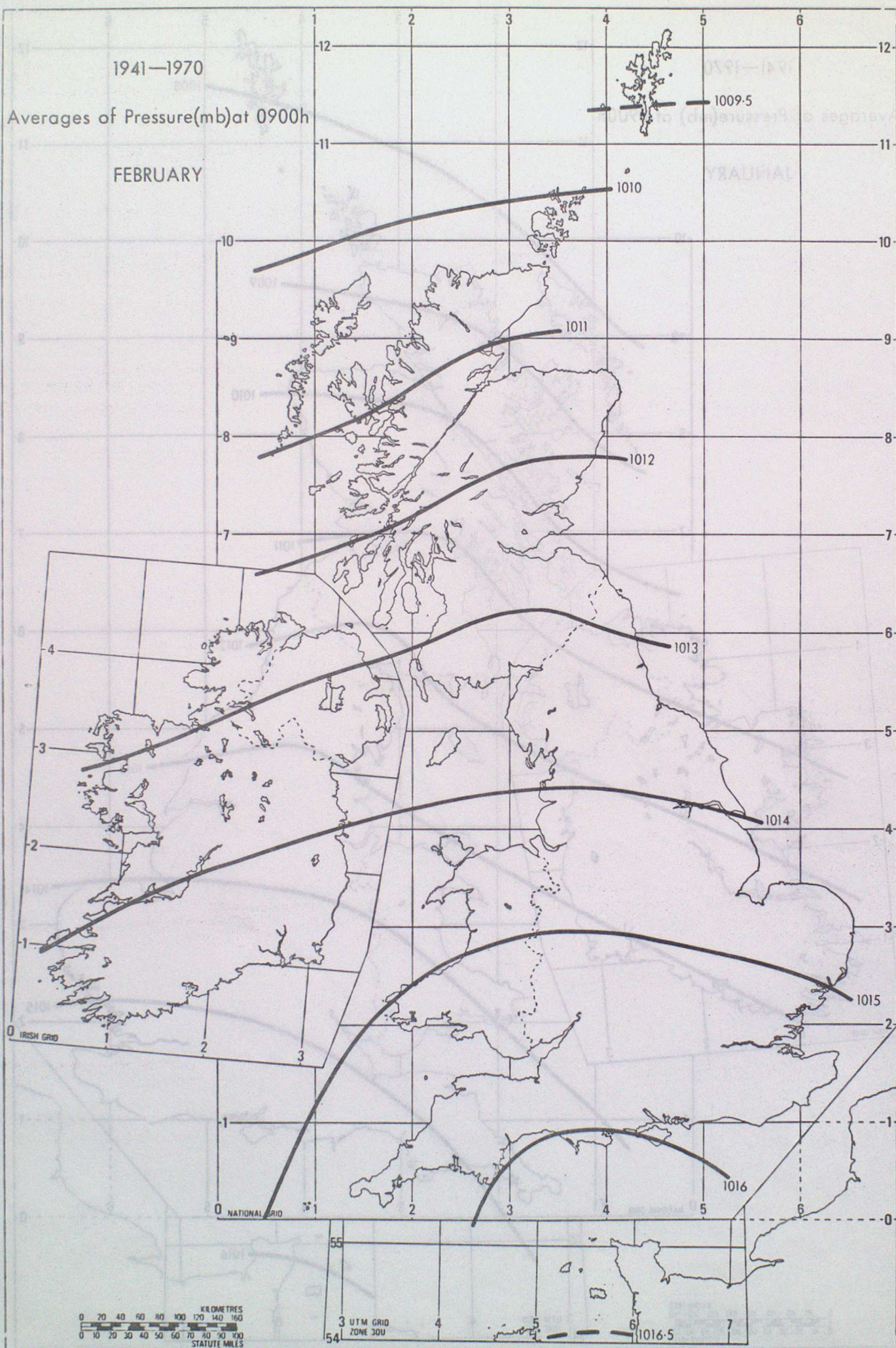
JANUARY

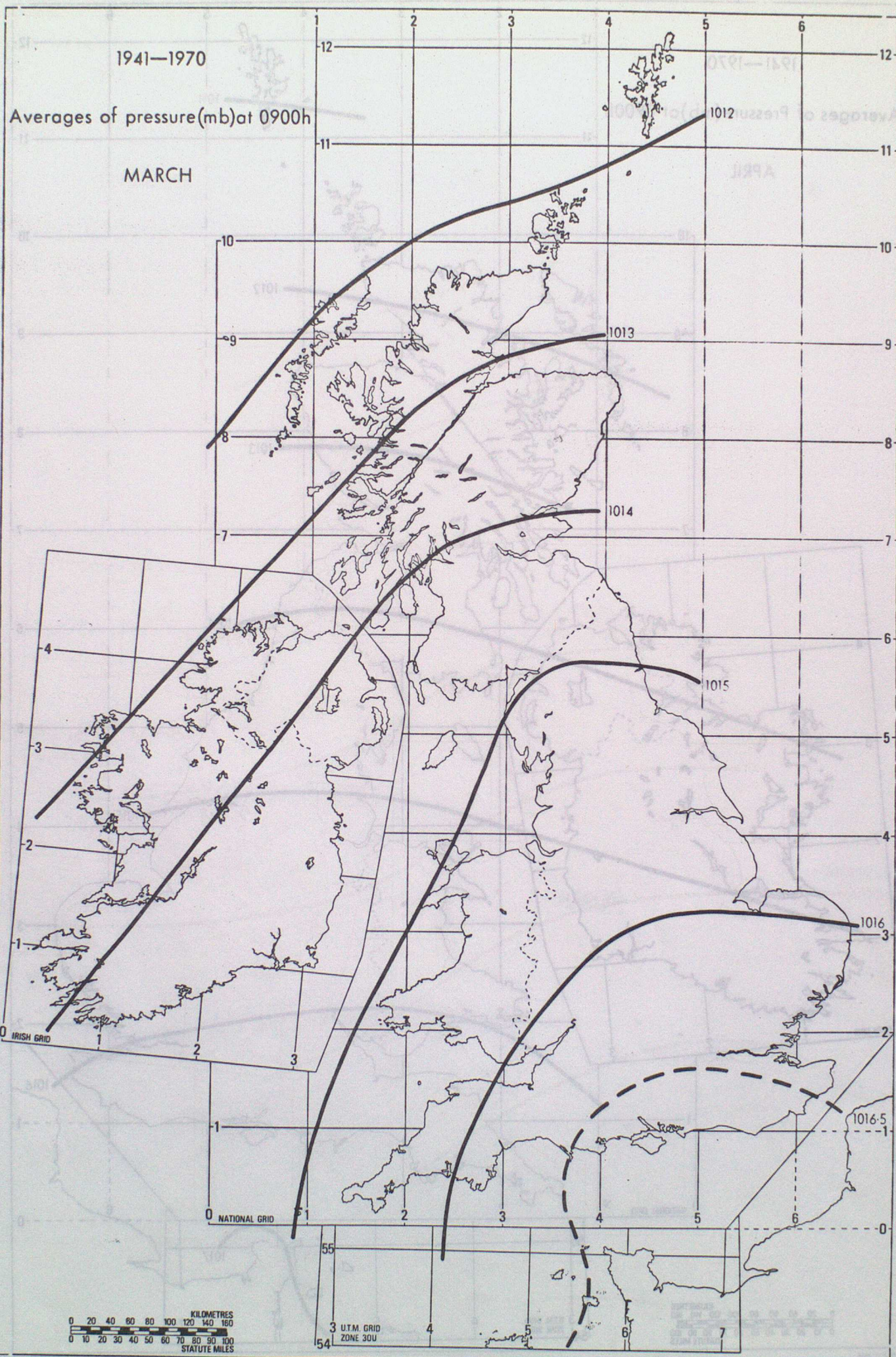


1941—1970

Averages of Pressure(mb)at 0900h

FEBRUARY

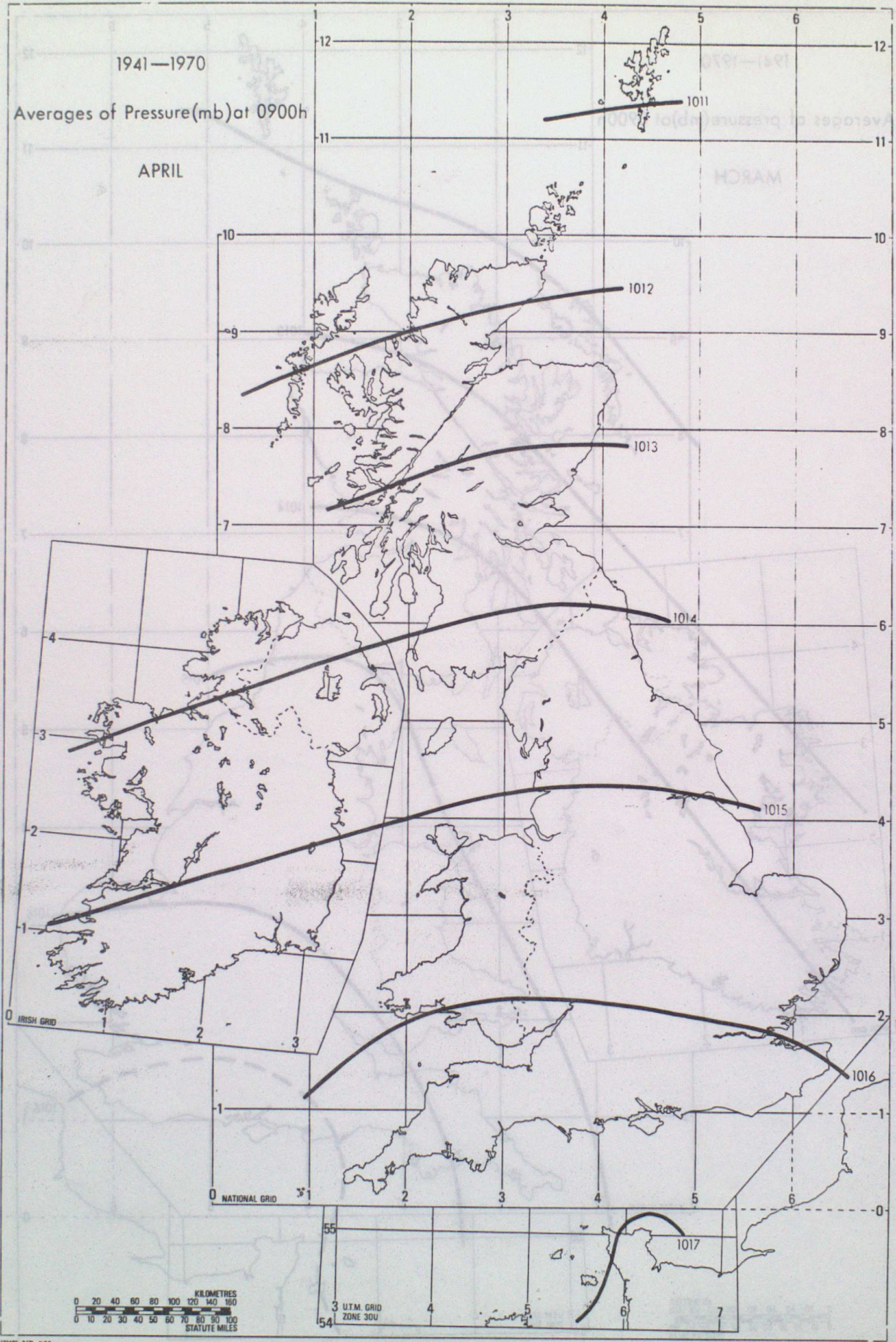


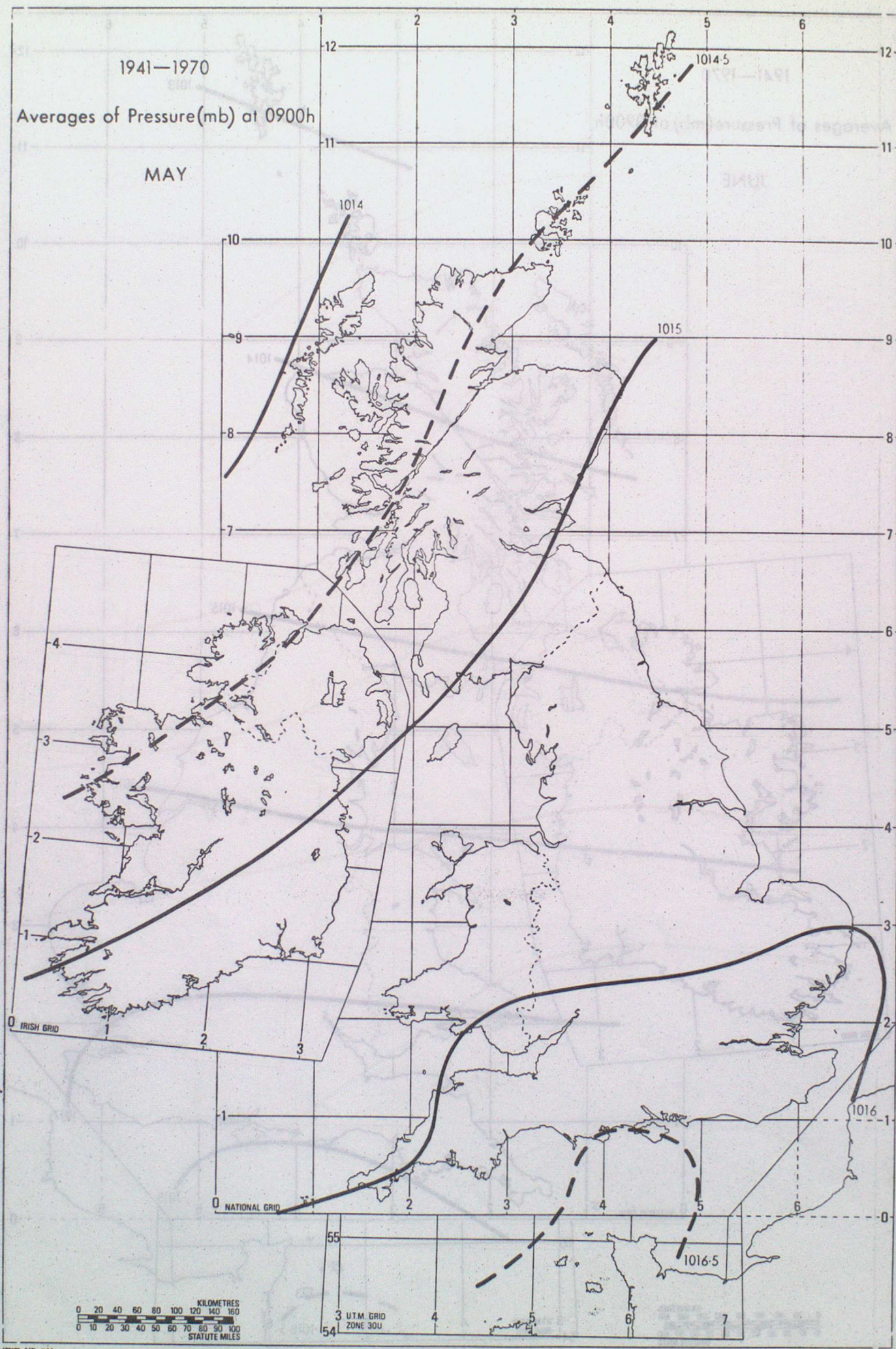


1941—1970

Averages of Pressure(mb)at 0900h

APRIL

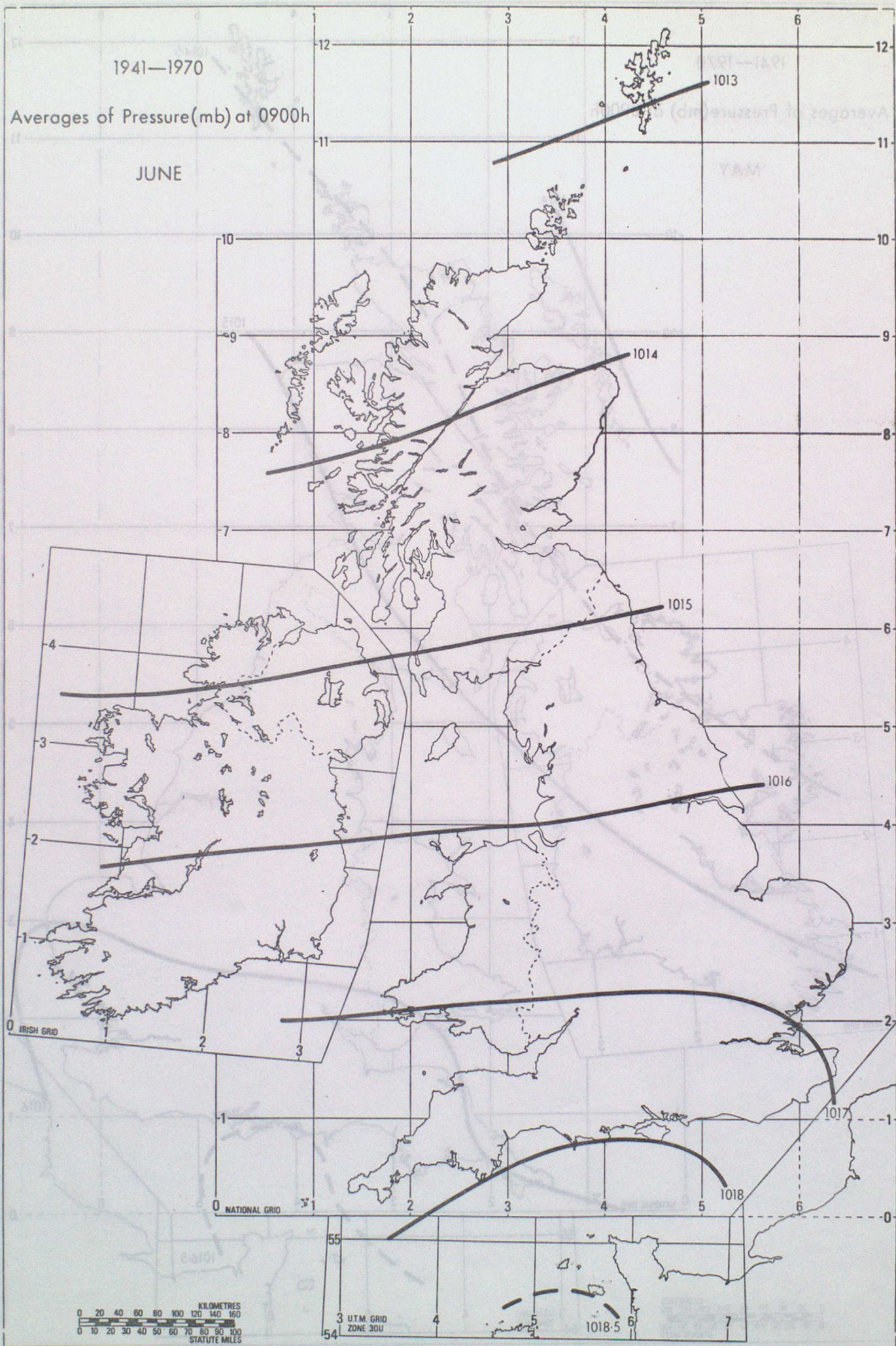




1941—1970

Averages of Pressure(mb) at 0900h

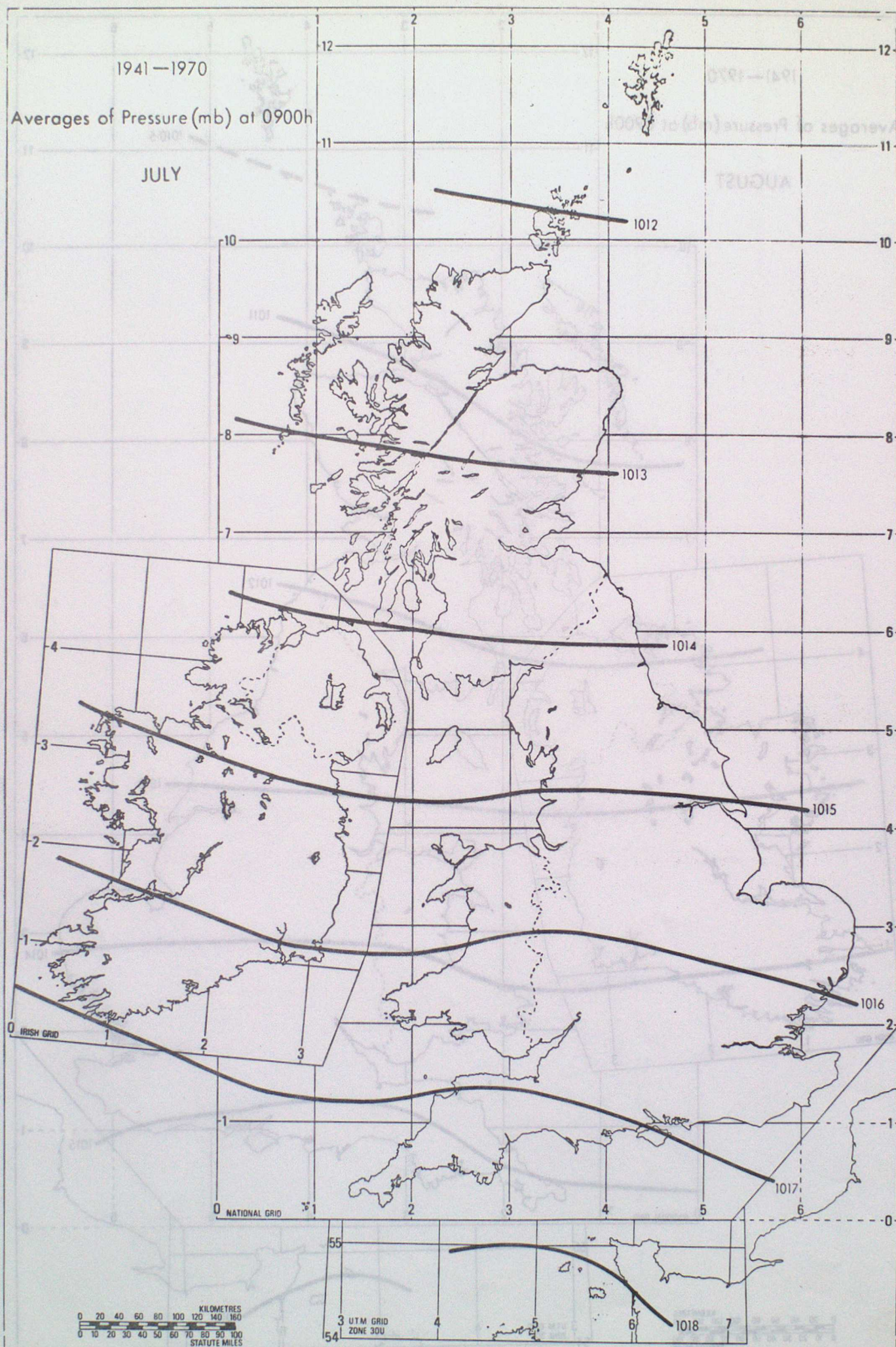
JUNE



1941-1970

Averages of Pressure (mb) at 0900h

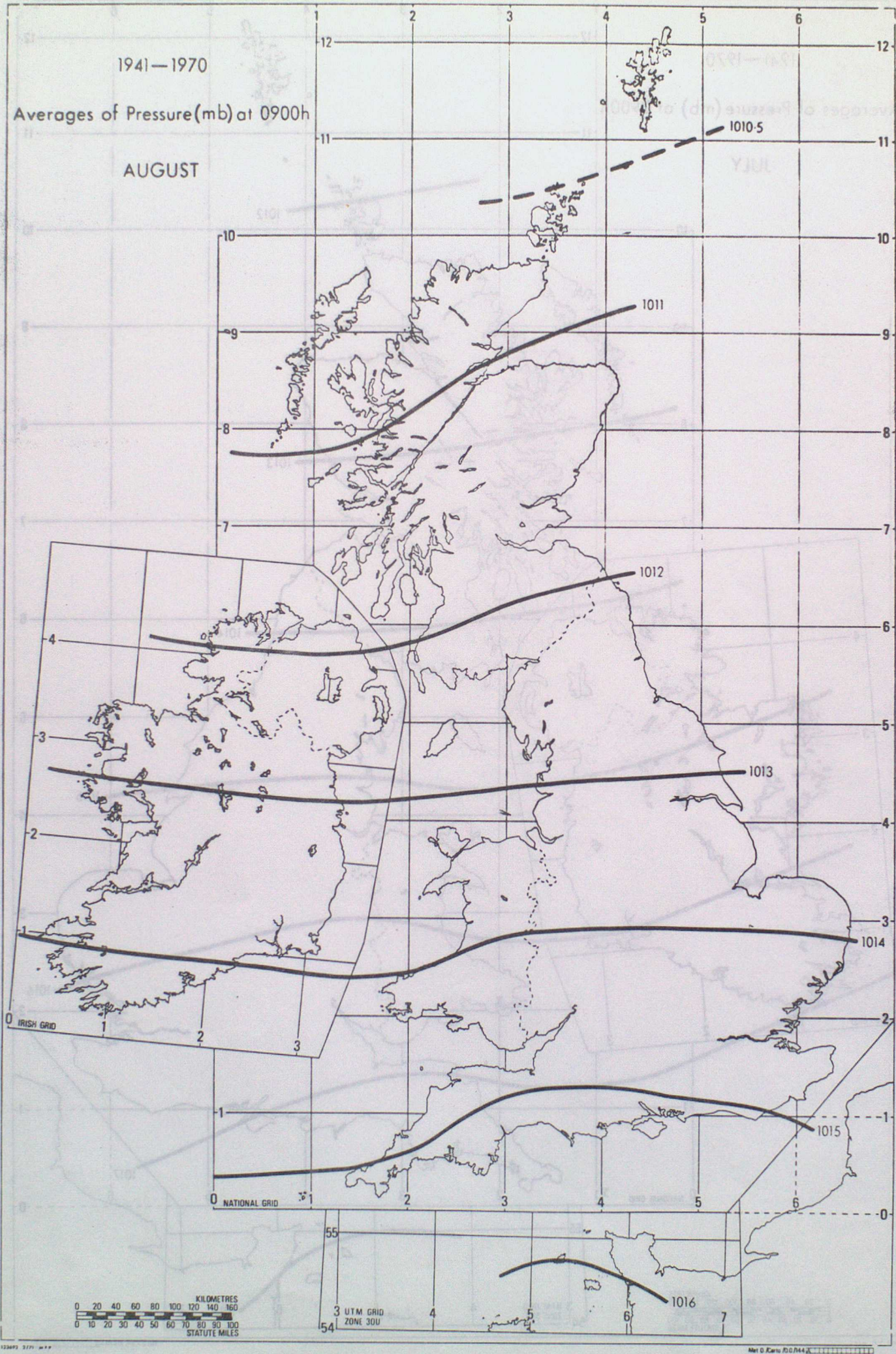
JULY



1941—1970

Averages of Pressure(mb) at 0900h

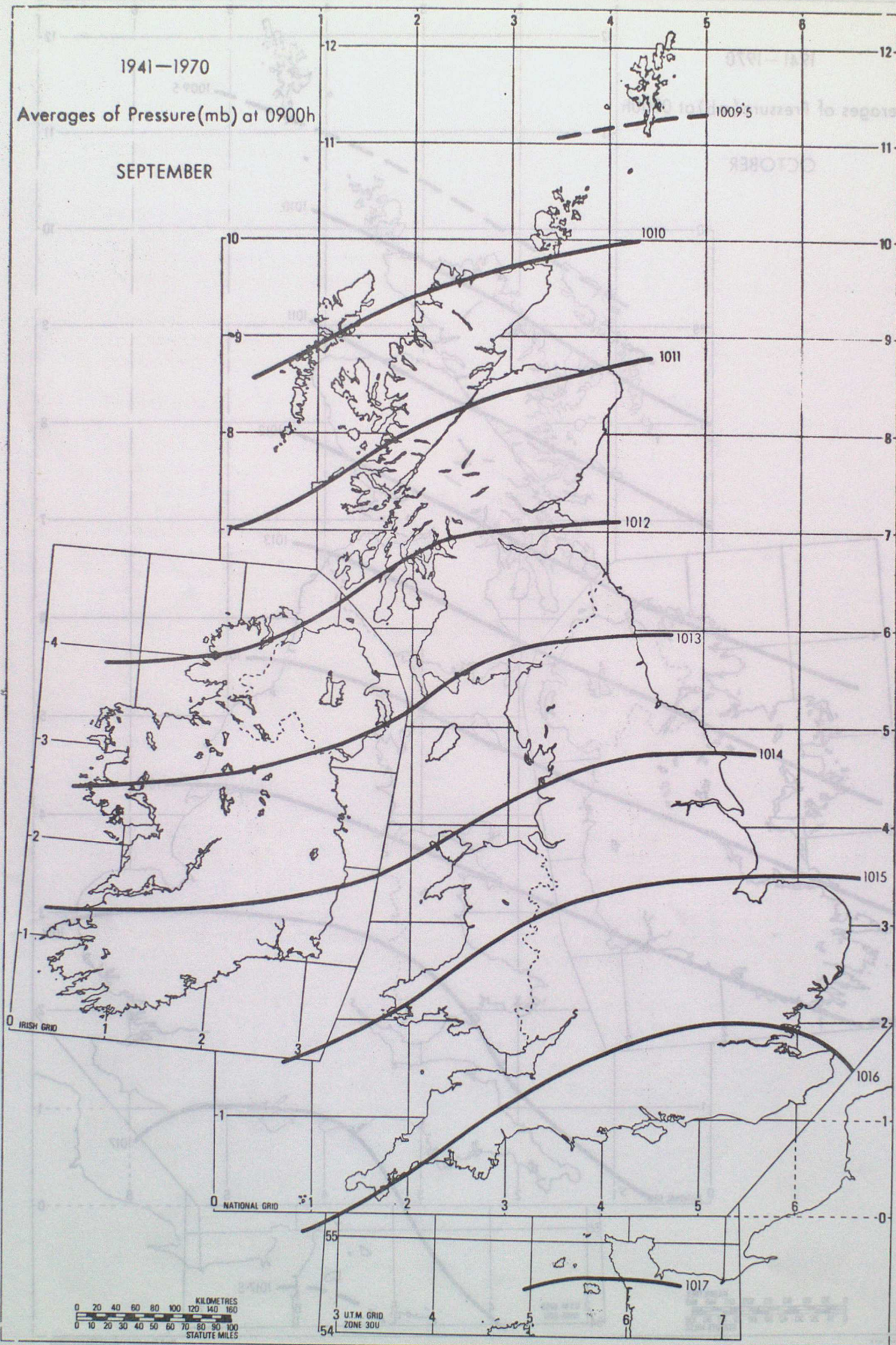
AUGUST

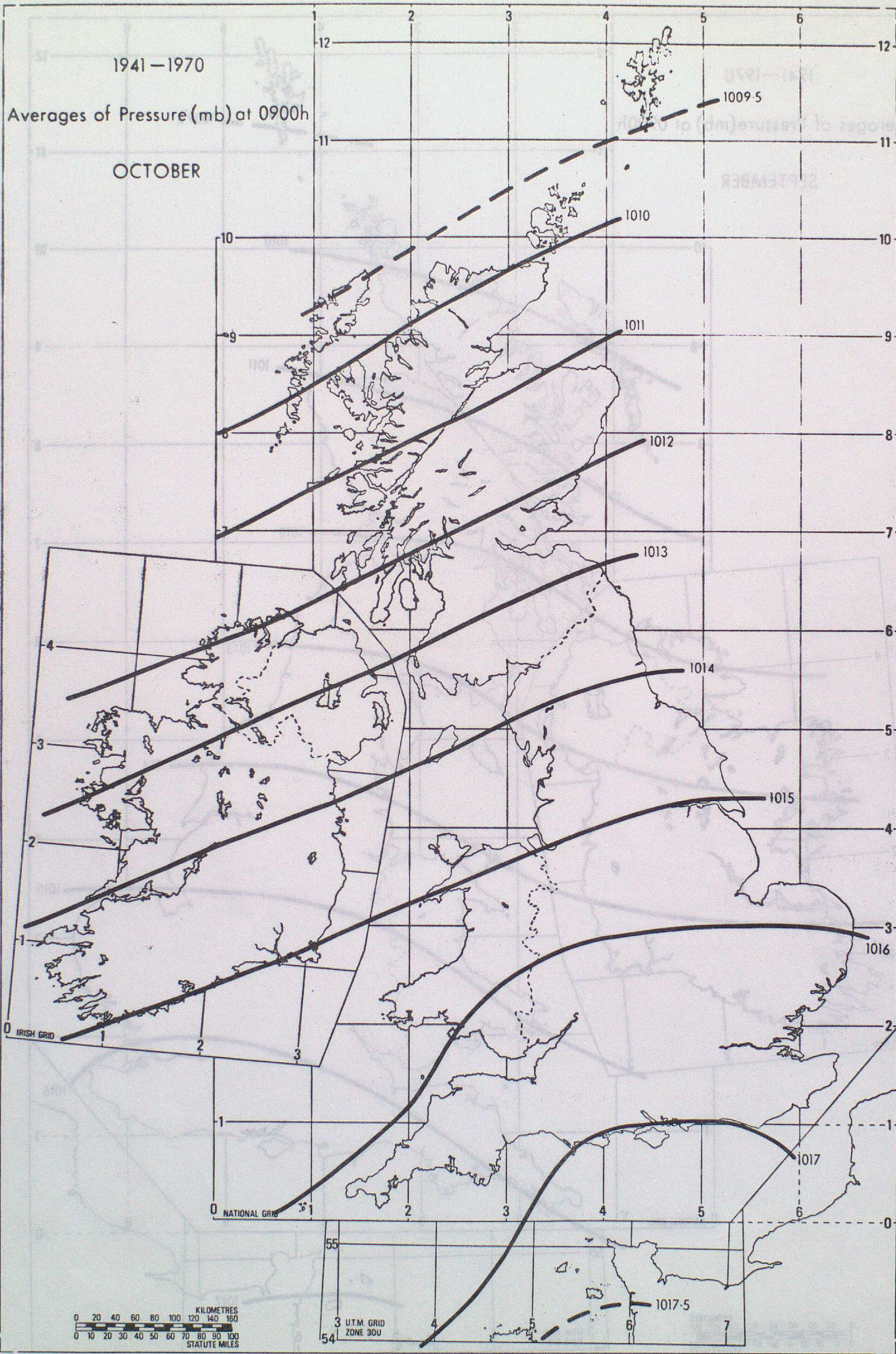


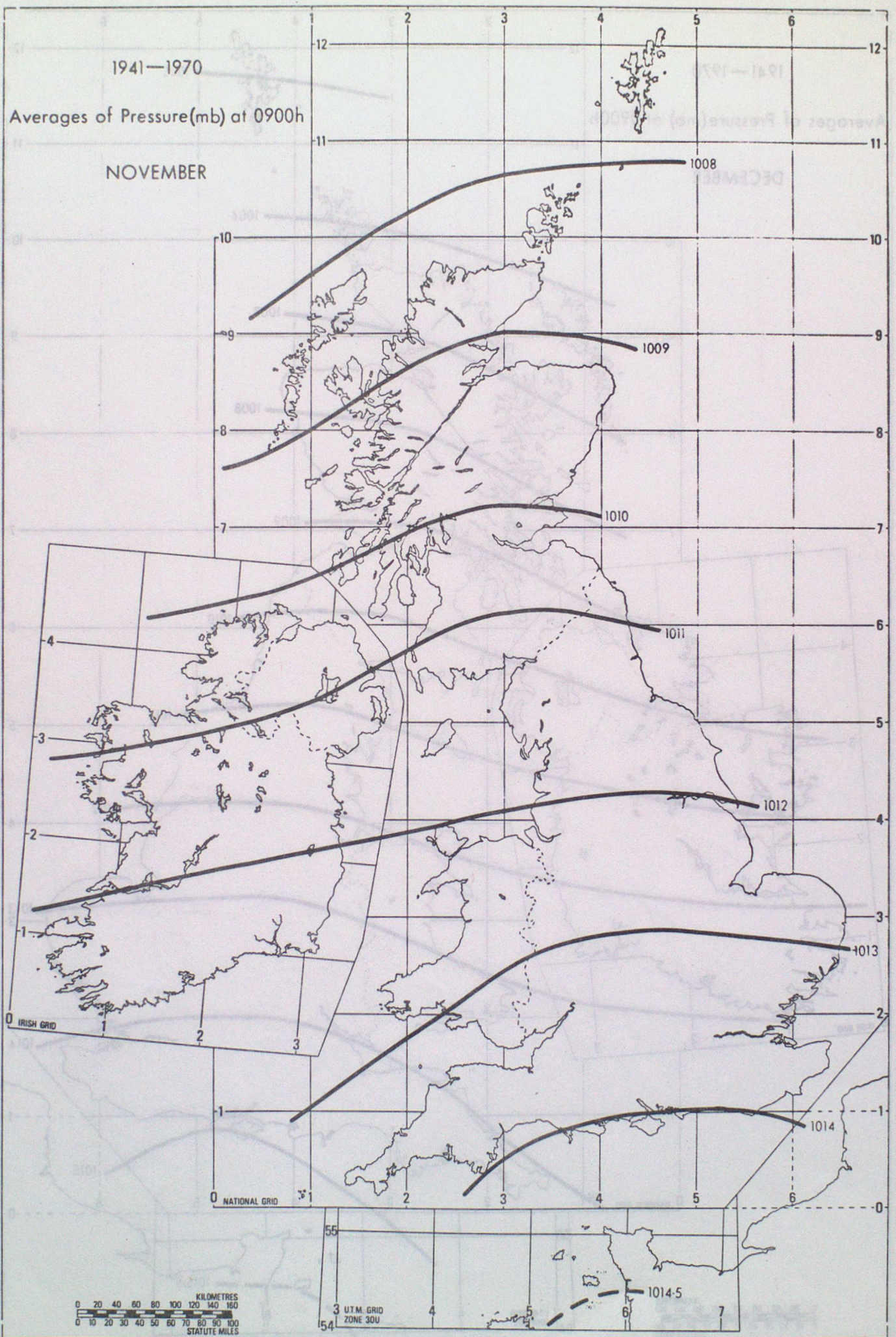
1941-1970

Averages of Pressure(mb) at 0900h

SEPTEMBER







1941—1970

Averages of Pressure(mb) at 0900h

DECEMBER

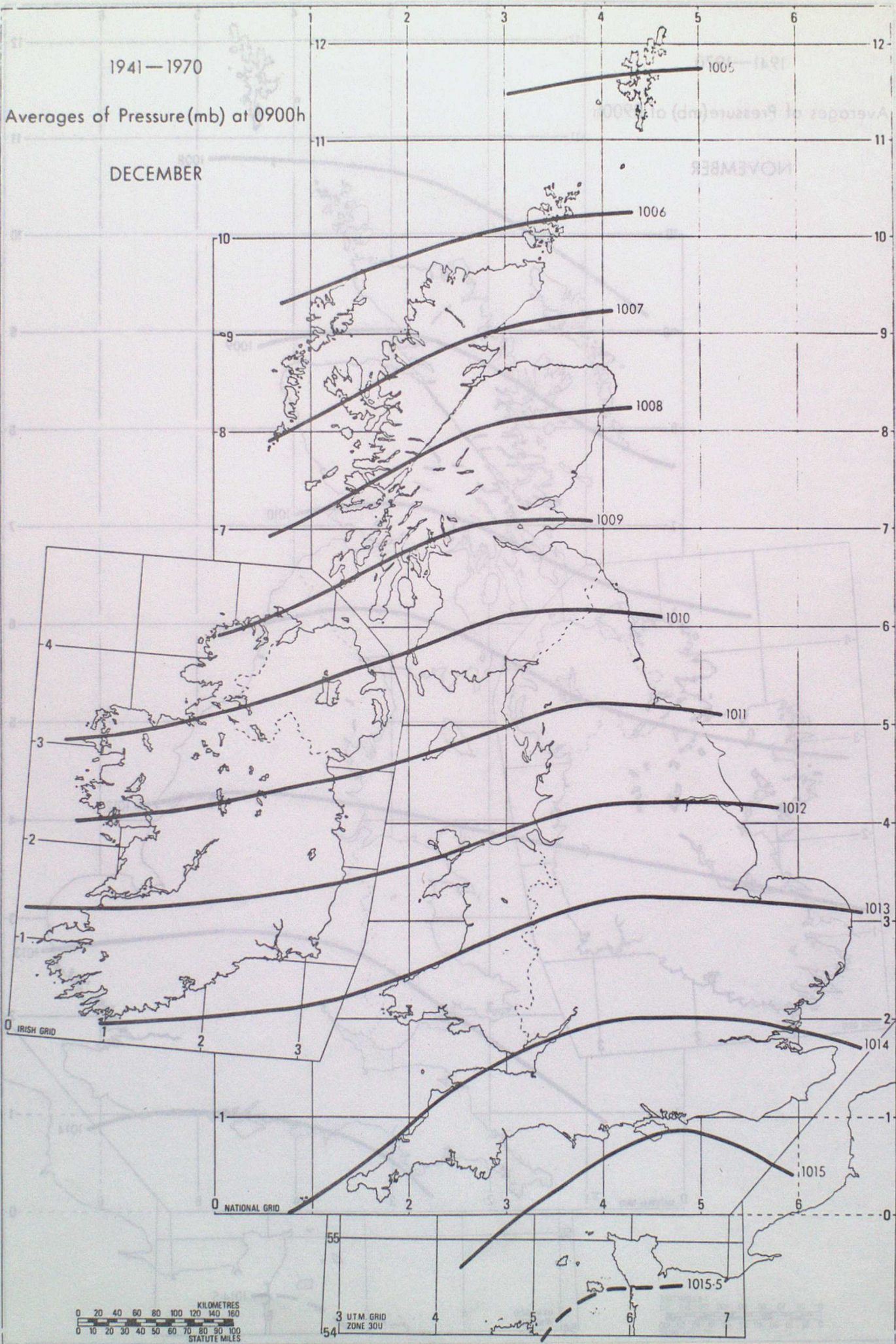


TABLE 2

HIGHEST AND LOWEST M.S.L. PRESSURES RECORDED IN THE BRITISH ISLES (1870-1970)

	HIGHEST PRESSURE MB	DATE	PLACE	LOWEST PRESSURE MB	DATE	PLACE	RANGE MB
JAN.	1054.7	1902	ABERDEEN	925.5	1884	OGHTERTYRE	129.2
FEB.	1051.1	1902	NAIRN	942.3	1951	CORK	108.8
MAR.	1047.1	1900	VALENTIA	946.2	1876	WICK	100.9
APR.	1044.5	1938	ESKDALEMUIR	952.9	1948	MALIN HEAD	91.6
MAY	1042.2	1943	DUBLIN	968.0	1943	SEALAND	74.2
JUNE	1043.1	1959	CLONES	976.8	1944	WICK	66.3
JULY	1038.3	1911	NORTH SHIELDS	976.0	1922	TYNEMOUTH	62.3
AUG.	1036.7	1949	PEMBROKE	967.8	1957	SULE SKERRY	68.9
SEP.	1038.6	1906	KEW	957.1	1953	CLAREMORRIS	81.5
OCT.	1045.6	1956	DYCE	946.8	1891	CAWDOR CASTLE	98.8
NOV.	1044.5	1956	BENBECULA	939.7	1877	MONACH LIGHTHOUSE	104.8
DEC.	1051.9	1926	WICK	927.2	1886	BELFAST	124.7

1941—1970

Averages of Pressure(mb) at 0900h

YEAR

