

March 2022 weather summary

Average rainfall, temperature mild by day but average by night and very sunny.

Rainfall: 45.1mm (103% of normal).

It was the wettest March since 2019 (52.6mm). The wettest day was only 14.7mm on 1st, making it the wettest March day since 2016 (21.0mm), and the 5th wettest day since 2000.

There were 11 'rain days' (0.2mm or more), this was 3 days less than normal. There were 7 'wet days' (1.0mm or more), this was 2 days less than normal. Daily totals of 5mm or more were 3 days 1 day lower than normal.

The highest rainfall rate was 38mm/hr at 13:52 on 16th when Sahara dust fell leaving orange deposits on surfaces when the water evaporated.

From 17th to 31st only 1.3mm fell, the 5th lowest in this same date range since 1991.

The last 3 months - (January – February - March)

The 3-month period total was 123.2mm (76% of normal), making it the driest since 2012 and the 22nd driest in 101 years. The monthly totals were January 17.5mm (25%), February 60.6mm (122%) and 45.1mm (103%).

The **12-month period** (April 2021 to March 2022) provides a total of 651.7mm (94% of average). This period includes the 12th driest April and 3rd driest November and the 6th driest January in the last 100 years.

Temperature:

The mean maxima were 12.9c (+1.5c above normal), the mildest since 2017 but 7th mildest since 1981 (41 years). The highest maximum temperature was 20.0 (23rd). This was the 10th highest in 41 years. The lowest maximum was 7.1c on 5th, the highest since 2019.

The mean minima were 3.5c (+0.2c above normal), the mildest since only 2019.

The lowest minimum was -2.2c (21st), the highest since 2019. The highest minimum was 8.7c (10th), the lowest since 2018.

The lowest grass minimum recorded was -7.2c (8th).

There were 4 air frosts, which is 2 days lower than normal, with a total air frost duration of 17.3 hours. There were 17 ground frosts.

The last 3 months - (January – February - March)

The 3-month period indicates a mean maxima of 10.5c (+1.2c), making it the mildest since 2014 (11.1c).

The mean minima were 2.7c (+0.2c), making it the mildest only since 2020.

Sunshine: 182.1 hours (150% of normal)

Although very sunny, it was the 5th sunniest since 2000, with 2020 (190.8 hours) being the sunniest. The number of sunless days was 6, 1 day higher than normal. However, there were 10 days with 5.0 hours or more (all occurred during a continuous run of days 17th to 26th) and the highest since at least 2000 and 8 days more than normal.

The sunniest day was 11.5 hours (26th).

The last 3 months - (January – February - March)

The three-month period totalled 377.4 hours (141% of normal). This made it the sunniest January to March period since 2003 (393.5 hours).

Thunder: there was zero days with thunder heard.

Hail: there was 1 day with hail.

Snow falling 1 day (1 day less than normal). **Snow lying** at 0900 GMT 0 days (normally once every 3 years)

Fog: at the 0900am observation there were 1 day with fog observed at 09:00 GMT. This is normal.

Storms

There were no named storms during March, but the highest wind gust was 53 km/hr on 31st (NNW).

Wind direction (at 0900am observation GMT)

N	6.5%	E	3.2%	S	0.0%	W	3.2%	Calm	9.7%
NNE	6.5%	ESE	9.7%	SSW	6.5%	WNW	0.0%		
NE	16.1%	SE	6.5%	SW	0.0%	NW	3.2%		
ENE	22.6%	SSE	6.5%	WSW	0.0%	NNW	0.0%		



Photo: Fog on the morning of 28th March in Finchampstead – courtesy of Paul Richards