

# March 2023 weather summary

## **RECORD Rainfall, above average temperature and very dull**

**Rainfall:** 132.1mm (301% of normal).

The two months of February and March have seen both extremes, with February being exceptionally dry and the 3<sup>rd</sup> driest in 102 years to March becoming a **RECORD** breaker with a total of 132.1mm surpassing the previous highest in 1947 (118.4mm).

Another **RECORD** was broken this month, the daily total on 31<sup>st</sup> was 41.8mm. This is the highest daily total for March in the 102 years.

The number of rain days (0.2mm or more), were 24 (10 more than average), and the highest since 1979 (equal with 1981, 1992 and 2018). The number of wet days (1.0mm or more) was 20 days (11 more than normal) equal highest with 1981 and a **RECORD** breaking highest in 102 years.

The longest period with no measurable rainfall was 9 days (25<sup>th</sup> February to 5<sup>th</sup> March).

## **3 - months (January – February – March)**

The last 3 months total, covering January to March 2023 totals 211.0mm 130% of normal. This is a significant change from the Winter period (December to February) that totalled 80% of average rainfall and included a very wet 2<sup>nd</sup> half of December and 1<sup>st</sup> half of January.

January 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> totalled 74.4mm making it the 2<sup>nd</sup> wettest start to a January in at least 102 years. However, the 16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> only recorded 1.2mm making it one of the driest in the same period.

February was the 3<sup>rd</sup> driest in 102 years and included a 43-day period with no measurable rainfall, the longest in 102 years.

The monthly totals were January 75.6mm (110%), February 3.3mm (7%) and March 132.1mm (301%)

With such a wet March, Spring is already showing 93% of average rainfall with April and May to come.

## **12 months April 2022 to March 2023**

The 12-month period (April 2022 to March 2023) now totals 700.4mm (101%), a dramatic change from the March 2022 to February 2023.

## **Temperature:**

A colder first half of the month and milder second with the mean maxima were 11.0c (-0.4c below normal), and the coolest March since 2018. It was the 16<sup>th</sup> coolest since 1981 (42 years).

The highest maximum temperature was 15.9c (30<sup>th</sup>). The lowest maximum was 3.2c (8<sup>th</sup>), the lowest since 2018.

All the air frosts occurred up to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, and the mean minima were 4.7 (+1.4c above normal). This was the mildest since 2019, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> mildest this millennium and the 8<sup>th</sup> mildest in the past 42 years.

The highest minimum was 10.3c on 17<sup>th</sup>, the highest since 2017 and the 8<sup>th</sup> highest temperature in the past 42 years.

The lowest minimum was minus 3.9 (10<sup>th</sup>), the lowest recorded since 2018.

There were 3 air frosts, which is 3 days lower than normal, and the lowest since 2019. It was the 3rd lowest this millennium and 9th lowest in 42 years.

The mean temperature was 7.9c (+0.6c above normal), the 18<sup>th</sup> mildest in 42 years.

The lowest grass minimum recorded was -7.8c (11<sup>th</sup>). This was the lowest value since 2018. There were 7 ground frosts this was lowest this millennium.

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

The mean maxima for the 3-month period were 9.7C (+0.4c above normal). Being close to average it was the 11th mildest this millennium. The mean minima for the same period were 3.0c (+0.2c above normal). This was the mildest since 2020 and the 7th lowest this millennium.

However, there were some significant contrasts within the season.

January had the 3rd mildest start, but 6th coldest end in 42 years.

**Sunshine:** 68.4 hours (56% of normal)

It was the dullest March since 2013 and the 5<sup>th</sup> dullest in 32 years. There were 9 sunless days (4 more than normal) and the highest since 2013.

There were 5 days with 5.0 hours or more (6 less than normal), and the lowest since 1992 (equal with 2001 and 2013).

The sunniest day was 8.7 hours (2<sup>nd</sup>), the lowest value since 1992.

**Thunder;** there were 0 days with thunder heard.

**Hail;** there were 0 day with hail (<5mm).

**Snow falling** 3 days with snow falling (1 day above normal). **Snow lying** at 0900 GMT 1 days (normally once every 3 years)

**Fog;** at the 0900am observation there were 0 days with fog observed (2 days more than normal).

### **Storms**

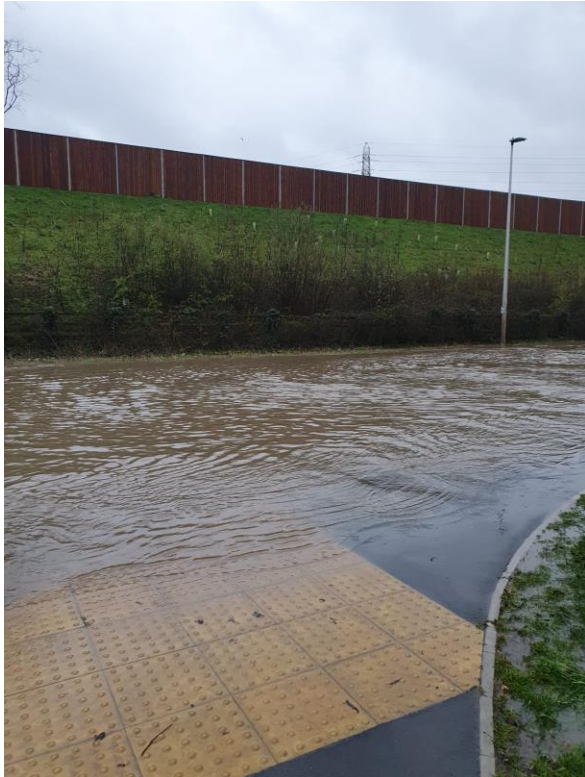
There was one named storm during March, MATHIS on the 31<sup>st</sup> that impacted on the south of the UK and for here the severe rainfall totals and flooding. Max gust was 49km/hr (SSW).

### **Wind gusts**

The highest wind gust above 50km/hr were 74km/hr (SSW) on 13<sup>th</sup>, 59km/hr (s) on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 53km/hr (SSE) on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 53km/hr (SW) on 25<sup>th</sup>, and 55km/hr (SSW) on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Wind direction (at 0900am observation GMT)**

N	6.5%	E	3.2%	S	6.5%	W	3.2%	Calm	3.2%
NNE	9.7%	ESE	0.0%	SSW	16.1%	WNW	3.2%		
NE	3.2%	SE	6.5%	SW	6.5%	NW	0.0%		
ENE	3.2%	SSE	12.9%	WSW	9.7%	NNW	6.5%		



**Photo: Flooding at Longdon Road Winnersh, during RECORD breaking rainfall event. Credit to Lesley Doyle.**