

# April 2023 weather summary

**Above average rainfall, slightly below temperature, but close to normal sunshine**

**Rainfall:** 59.5mm (117% of normal).

After two months of extreme rainfall, February with drought and the wettest March in 102 years, April has seen rainfall totals slightly above normal.

In context it was the wettest since 2018 and the 12<sup>th</sup> wettest in the past 32 years.

The number of rain days (0.2mm or more), were 18 (5 more than average), and the highest since 2016. The number of wet days (1.0mm or more) was 12 days (3 more than normal), is also the highest since 2016.

The wettest day was 9.0mm on 11<sup>th</sup>. The highest rainfall rate was 57mm/hr at 13:49 on 24<sup>th</sup>.

The longest period with no measurable rainfall was 3 days, on two occasions, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> April and 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**Road closures** – Mill Lane (Sindlesham) and Sandford Lane (Hurst) was closed due to the River Loddon bursting banks on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>

## **3 months (February – March – April)**

The last 3 months total, covering February to April 2023 totals 194.9mm 135% of normal. This is a slight increase on the previous 3-month total in percentage terms.

With such a wet March, and now an above average April Spring is already showing 134% of average rainfall with May still to come.

## **12 months (May 2022 to April 2023)**

The 12-month period (May 2022 to April 2023) now totals 744.3mm (107%), a dramatic change from the recent 12-month period of March 2022 to February 2023.

## **Temperature:**

Overall, the mean maxima was 14.3c (minus 0.4c below normal). This was only the lowest since 2021, but there have been 13 cooler Aprils in the last 32 years. The highest temperature was 19.0c (28<sup>th</sup>) and this has been the 8<sup>th</sup> occurrence that an April day has failed to reach 20c this millennium but not as low as 17.7c in 2000.

There were 11 days reaching 15c or more, this was 2 days below normal and the lowest since 2016 (equal with 2021).

The mean minima was 4.6c (minus 0.2c below normal). This was the highest mean minima temperature since 2020, and there have been 13 cooler Aprils during the past 32 years.

The lowest minimum temperature was minus 2.6c which occurred on 4<sup>th</sup>. This temperature makes it into the 9<sup>th</sup> lowest for April since 1981. There were 3 air frosts, which is normal and the lowest since 2020.

There were 11.0 hours being below zero this month. This is the lowest since 2020.

The mean temperature was 9.5c (minus 0.2c below normal). There have been 12 colder mean temperatures for April in the past 32 years.

There were 11 ground frosts and lowest grass minimum recorded was -7.2c (4<sup>th</sup>). By contrast 2022 had 20 ground frosts.

### **3 months (February – March – April)**

The mean maximum for the period was 11.8c (+0.2c above normal). Being close to normal it was the 10<sup>th</sup> mildest this millennium. The mean minima for the same period were 3.9c (+0.5c above normal). This was the 6<sup>th</sup> mildest this millennium.

**Sunshine:** 162.2 hours (97% of normal)

It was the dullest April since 2018 and the 17<sup>th</sup> dullest in 32 years. However, there was only 1 sunless day (2 less than normal).

There were 15 days with 5.0 hours or more (normal), and the lowest since 2018.

The sunniest day was 12.2 hours (4<sup>th</sup>), the lowest value since 2008.

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

**Hail;** there were 1 day with hail (<5mm).

**Snow falling** 0 days with snow falling. **Snow lying** at 0900 GMT 0 days.

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

### **Storms**

There was one named storm during April, Noa on the 12th that impacted on the south of the UK and for here there was some tree damage and the rail line between Reading and Ascot was blocked by a fallen tree at Martins Heron.

**Wind gusts 50km/hr or more;** 10<sup>th</sup> 60km/hr (W'ly), 11<sup>th</sup> 50km/hr (SSE'ly), 12<sup>th</sup> 77km/hr (NW'ly),

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

N	0.0%	E	6.7%	S	3.3%	W	0.0%	Calm	0.0%
NNE	3.3%	ESE	0.0%	SSW	3.3%	WNW	6.7%		
NE	20.0%	SE	10.0%	SW	3.3%	NW	16.7%		
ENE	6.7%	SSE	6.7%	WSW	3.3%	NNW	6.7%		



**Photo: Early morning frost at Finchampstead on 3<sup>rd</sup> April – photo credit to Paul Richards**