

July 2023 weather summary

Wet, below normal temperatures and dull

Rainfall: 88.0mm (171% of normal).

The wettest July since 2017, and the 15th wettest in 102 years.

The wettest day was 26.4mm on 4th and the highest 24 hour fall in July since 2017.

The highest rainfall rate was 114mm/hr at 12:12hr on 16th. The most rainfall in 1 hour (fell in 10 minutes) was 4.0mm (12:10 to 12:20 hr)

The number of rain days (0.2mm or more), were 14 (4 more than average), but only the highest since 2021. The number of wet days (1.0mm or more) was 12 days (4 more than normal), and the highest since 2012. This makes it the 5th highest in the past 50 years.

Last 3 months May to July

The last 3 months total, covering May to July 2023 totals 149.3mm 99% of normal. This includes the wet first half of May, but the 27-day drought period since 15th May and dry June, followed by a wet July.

Last 12 months August 2022 to July 2023

The 12-month period (August 2022 to July 2023) now totals 803.1mm (115%).

Temperature:

The mean maxima were 21.5c (-1.7 below normal) and the lowest since 2012. In the last 102 years there have been 60 warmer years. However, the mean maxima difference between June and July was 3.2c lower. This was the largest negative (cooler) change between the two summer months in 102 years.

The highest temperature recorded was 28.4c on 7th, nearly 10 degrees below last year's record breaking high and the lowest since 2011. It was one of only 2 days that reached 25c or greater, the lowest number of days since 2007 (equal with 2012). It was also only the second year in the last 10 not to reach 30c or more.

The lowest maximum temperature was 17.0c on 4th, and this was the lowest recorded since 2015.

There was a yellow health heat alert issued on 7th.

The mean minima were 13.0c (+0.2c), but only the lowest since 2020, the 29th mildest in 102 years. The 'warmest night' was the 8th when the temperature didn't fall below 16.6c, making it the 10th highest since 1991.

The 'coldest night' was 8.6c on 26th but this was only the lowest recorded since 2022 and in 2020 it fell to 6.1c.

The mean temperature 17.2c (-0.8c below normal) and was the lowest mean temperature since 2015. There have been 10 cooler mean temperatures in the past 32 years (since 1991)

There were zero ground frosts and lowest grass minimum recorded was 3.9c (26th).

Last 3 months May to July

The last 3 months covering the period (May, June and July), the mean maxima were 21.6c (+ 0.9c above normal), making it the 4th mildest since 2000. The mean minima was 11.1c (+0.7c above normal). This was the 6th mildest since 2000.

Sunshine: 170.7 hours (85% of normal)

The dullest July since 2012 and the 11th dullest in the past 32 years. There was 1 sunless day (which is normal), There were 18 days with 5 hours or more the lowest since 2016 and 3 days with 10 hours or more the lowest since at least 1990 (equal with 1998 and 2009)

The sunniest day was 15.5 hours (7th).

Last 3 months May to July

The last three months has seen total sunshine hours reach 664.4 hours 111% of normal, which was the 5th sunniest April to June period since 1991. The June sunshine was 93.3 hours more than July. This was the largest negative (less sunshine in July) since at least 1991.

Thunder; there were 2 days with thunder heard.

Hail; there were 0 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.

Storms

There were no named storms during the month.

Wind gusts 50km/hr or more; 3 days reached this criteria, 3rd 53km/hr (WSW), 10th 50km/hr (SSW), 15th 52km/hr (S),

Wind direction (at 0900am observation GMT)

N	3.2%	E	3.2%	S	16.1%	W	3.2%	Calm	0.0%
NNE	0.0%	ESE	3.2%	SSW	22.6%	WNW	3.2%		
NE	0.0%	SE	0.0%	SW	19.4%	NW	0.0%		
ENE	0.0%	SSE	3.2%	WSW	22.6%	NNW	0.0%		



Photo: 2nd July sunny spells at Dinton Pastures courtesy of Jonathan Mott