

October 2023 weather summary

Wetter, milder and sunnier than normal.

Rainfall: 112.3mm (145% of normal).

Reasonably dry first 10 days, but then turning wet and cyclonic. The rainfall total of 112.3mm was only the highest since 2020, but the 17th wettest since 1921, with 6 wetter Octobers since 2000. It was also the wettest 2nd half of the month since 2000.

The wettest day was 19.5mm on 19th, with 5.6mm falling in 1 hour that day.

The highest rainfall rate was 91mm/hr at 09:20hr on 29th when 5.0mm fell in 1 hour.

The number of rain days (0.2mm or more), were 17 (1 more than average) and there have been 9 Octobers with a higher number of days since 2000. The number of wet days (1.0mm or more) was 14 days (3 more than normal), and there have been 8 Octobers with a higher number of days since 2000.

Temperature:

The **mean maxima** were 16.9c (+1.6 above normal), and the 9th mildest since 1921.

The highest temperature recorded was 23.7c on 9th. This was the 14th highest temperature recorded in October since at least 1921. There were 6 days at 20c or more, the highest since at least 1981, equal to 1995.

The lowest maximum temperature was 11.1c on 15th, and the lowest since 2019.

The **mean minima** were 13.1c (+2.9c), and the 6th mildest since at least 1921 (102 years).

The 'coldest night' was -0.4c on 16th, this was the first in October since 2019. It was also the first air frost since 8th April, making it 190 nights frost-free.

The **mean temperature** 13.2c (+1.7c above normal) and this was the **6th mildest** since at least 1921. All except 1921 are since 1995.

There were 2 ground frosts and lowest grass minimum recorded was -3.3c (21st and 22nd). The last grass frost was on 20th May, and the first on 15th October making it 147 nights frost-free.

Sunshine: 134.2 hours (118% of normal)

Despite such a wet month it was sunnier than average and the 5th sunniest this millennium, and the 7th sunniest since in the past 32 years. There were 4 days that were sunless day (about a 1 day less than normal).

The sunniest day was 9.3 hours (15th), which was the highest total for the 15th or later in the month since 2011.

Thunder; there were 1 day 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

STORM Babet impacted the UK between 18th and 21st October. High rainfall totals were the biggest influence with 38.4mm over the 4 day period and 32.4mm over the first 48 hours,

Wind gusts 50km/hr or more; 0 days reached this criteria.

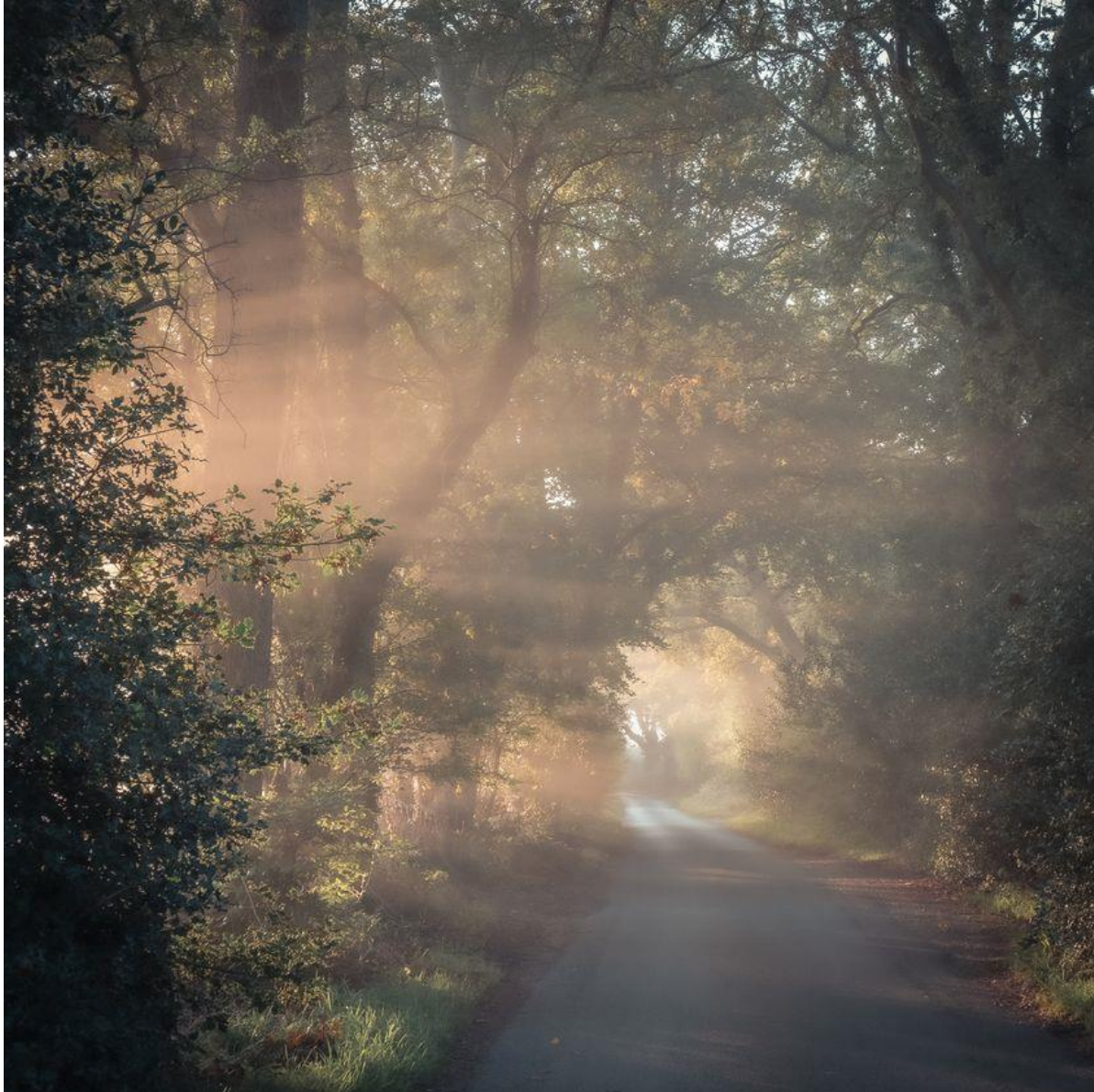


Photo: Sun's rays piercing through the trees at White Horse Lane Finchampstead 10th October 2023 – photo courtesy of Paul Richards.