

December 2023 weather summary

Very wet and mild, but very dull.

Rainfall: 99.0mm (147% of normal).

Another wet month continuing the trend with the previous months since June, which was the last below the 1991-2020 average this year. December 2023 was the wettest since 2019 but the 14th wettest in the past 102 years, with 1934 the wettest with 149.6mm.

The wettest day was 13.8mm on 11th, with 8.0mm falling in 1 hour and a maximum rate of 127mm/hr.

However, another high rainfall rate was recorded on 12th when 110mm/hr fell, producing 4.4mm in the hour.

The number of rain days (0.2mm or more), were 24 (7 more than average) the highest number of days since 1999. The number of wet days (1.0mm or more) was 16 days (5 more than normal), but only the highest since 2020 and before that 2002 (also 17 days), making it the 3rd highest this millennium (equal with 2009 and 2013).

Temperature:

The **mean maxima** were 10.5c (+2.1 above normal), and the 3rd mildest in the past 102 years, with 2015 (13.3c) being the mildest and the 2nd mildest this millennium.

The highest temperature recorded was 14.8c on 24th. Whilst not the 'warmest day' on the December records, this was 15.8c on 2nd 1985 and 17th 2015. it was the 5th highest recorded in December in 102 years and a new RECORD for that date (24th) over the same period.

There were 21 days at or above 10c which is 7 days above normal.

The lowest maximum temperature was 2.6c on 1st. However, the maximum temperature on the 2nd between 00 hours and 24:00 hours only reached minus 1.0c but recovered during the early hours of the 3rd to reach 5.0c by 09:00 observation time and avoided a freezing day. By contrast December 2021 had 2 freezing days.

The **mean minima** were 5.4c (+2.9c), and the 4th mildest in 102 years, behind 2015, 1934 and 1974.

The 'coldest night' was -3.2c on 1st. This was one of 5 air frosts and 5 days below normal. The mildest night was 11.1c (25th), also setting a new RECORD for that date.

The **mean temperature** 8.0c (+2.5c above normal) and this was the 3rd highest mean temperature in 102 years behind 2015, 1934 and equal with 1974.

There were 7 ground frosts and lowest grass minimum recorded was -8.3c (1st).

Sunshine: 30.4 hours (51% of normal), making it the 2nd dullest (equal with 1998) since 1991.

. There were 11 days that were sunless day (about normal), but the sunniest day 4.0 hours (8th) which is the lowest hours recorded for the sunniest day since at least 1991 (32 years).

Thunder; there were 0 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 2 days with fog observed, the 2nd with freezing fog and the 6th.

Named Storms

- STORM Elin (9th) mainly impacted Ireland.
- STORM Fergus (10th) mainly impacted Ireland.
- STORM Pia (21st) strong winds, with tree damage some local roads blocked and rail line Ascot to Bagshot closed for a time due to fallen tree.
- STORM Gerrit (27th) main impact over northern UK, but strong winds here.

Wind gusts 50km/hr or more; 6 days reached this criteria,

- 21st 70km/hr during STORN Pia (WSW) and the highest gust of the month.
- 23rd 50km.hr (WSW)
- 24th 63km/hr (SW)
- 27th 57km/hr (SSW) during Storm Gerrit
- 28th 57km/hr (SW)
- 30th 58km/hr (SSE)



Photo: Sunset with mist forming on 17th December 2023 taken from Finchampstead. Courtesy of Jonathan Mott