

January 2024 weather summary

Near normal rainfall, average temperature, but cold and mild periods, very sunny

Rainfall: 63.4mm (92% of normal).

A wet start to the month, continuing the trend from December with a record January daily fall of 25.0mm on the 4th (equal with 2010) the highest in the area for over 103 years. 22.4mm fell in 5.4 hours. Extensive flooding around the River Loddon followed with several roads closed due to river flooding including the A329 Reading Road (Westbound) and Lower Earley Way North at Showcase roundabout Winnersh. As the flooding receded in the River Loddon catchment, it transferred to the River Thames which had extensive flooding with Sonning bridge closed until 15th.

However, it was largely dry from 6th to 19th as much colder air had moved into the area, but this was interrupted by Storm Isha with a daily rainfall total of 14.6mm on 21st. The 26th to the end of the month was largely dry.

The wettest day was 25.0mm on 4th, with 6.8mm falling in 1 hour.

The number of rain days (0.2mm or more), were 12 (6 days less than average) the lowest number of days since 2019. The number of wet days (1.0mm or more) was 9 days (3 days less than normal), but only the lowest since 2022.

Temperature:

The **mean maxima** were 8.1c (normal). The month went from mild and wet periods to cold and dry.

The highest temperature recorded was 13.3c on 23rd. This is 0.4c above the average maxima for the 30-year period (1991-2020) and only the highest since 2022, but before that 2016.

The lowest maximum temperature was 2.8c on 18th. Recent years have been lower with a minus 0.3c in 2023.

The **mean minima** were 2.2c (normal), but the highest since 2020. There were large contrasts through the month as the air source transferred between a mild Atlantic influence and a cold Arctic. The highest minima was 8.7c on 3rd soon after Storm Henk, and this temperature is nearly 7c above normal for the date. The lowest was minus 6.2c on 18th and this was 7.7c below the normal for that date.

The **mean temperature** 5.1c (normal)

There were 11 air frosts (1 day higher than normal) and similar to recent January's. There were 85.8 hours of air frost. There were 15 ground frosts and lowest grass minimum recorded was -11.7c (18th).

Sunshine: 90.7 hours (141% of normal), making it the sunniest since 2012 and the 3rd sunniest since at least 1991.

There were 6 days that were sunless day (about normal), but the sunniest day 7.7 hours (18th).

Thunder; there were 0 days with thunder heard.

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

Snow falling was 1 day with snow falling. **Snow lying** at 0900 GMT 0 days.

Fog; at the 0900am observation there were 0 days with fog observed,

Named Storms

- STORM Henk (2nd) – travel disruptions due to fallen trees.
- STORM Irene (17th) – little impact over France.
- STORM Isha (21/22) - travel disruptions due to fallen trees, but not as extensive as Storm Henk
- STORM Jocelyn (23/24) strong winds but main impact over northern UK.
- STORM Ingunn (31st) – breezy here main impact northern and Western Scotland

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

- 2nd 76km/hr during STORN Henk (SSW) and the highest gust of the month.
- 21st 73km.hr (SSW) during Storm Isha
- 22nd 63km/hr (SSW) during Storm Isha
- 23rd 58km/hr (SSW) during Storm Jocelyn
- 24th 70km/hr (SW) during Storm Jocelyn
- 26th 52km/hr (SW)



Photo: Flooding at showcase roundabout 6th January 2024.

