

February 2024 weather summary

Exceptionally wet, Record temperature, and dull

Rainfall: 121.7mm (245% of normal).

An exceptionally wet February, which on average is one the driest. The total for the month was the 3rd wettest at least 123 years (since 1901). The wettest remains as 1951 but more recently 2014 was wetter with 128.8mm. By contrast February 2023 was the 3rd driest in at least 121 years (1901).

The wettest day was 18.4mm on 8th, which was the highest since 2020 (18.8mm). The number of rain days (0.2mm or more), were 21 (6 days more than average) the highest number of days since 2014 (24) but equal with 2020. The number of wet days (1.0mm or more) was 18 days (8 days more than normal), but only the highest since 2020 and 2014 (19 days which are the highest number of days on record).

The maximum rate of rainfall was 36mm/hr on 12th and the most in 1 hour was 5.2mm on 17th. The highest duration (0.2mm/hr or more) in a 24-hour rainfall day was 19.6 hours (09hr 8th to 09hr 9th)

Mill Lane (Sindlesham) and Sandford Lane (Hurst/Woodley) were closed due to river flooding from the Loddon on the 9th to 12th inclusive. However, many water courses had burst their banks through most of the month flooding adjacent land.

Temperature:

The **mean maxima** were 11.6c (+3.0c above normal), the mildest since at least 1921 on local records.

The highest temperature recorded was 16.9c (15th), which is the 5th highest since 1991 and the highest since 2019 which holds the record of 19.3c.

The lowest maximum temperature was 6.3c on 7th and the lowest since 2021 which had a freezing day. 21 days were at or above 10c, equal highest with 1990 and 2022 (since 1981).

The **mean minima** were 5.6c (+3.6c above normal), and the highest since 1921 on local records.

The highest temperature was 11.9c (15th) and is now the highest since at least 1991. In fact, three minima temperatures 11.9(15th), 11.0c (4th) and 10.8c (18th) all feature in the top six mildest nights since 1991. The lowest temperature was -2.1c (25th) and the mildest since 2014.

There were 3 nights with an air frost, the lowest since only 2020, which gave 14.6 hours below zero. However, the nights that fell to 5c or more were 16 (10 above normal), with 3 nights at 10c or more, both the highest number since at least 1991.

The **mean temperature** 8.6c (+3.3c above normal) and the mildest February on locals records back to (1921).

There were 10 ground frosts and lowest grass minimum recorded was -6.7c (24th).

Sunshine: 64.1 hours (79.1% of normal), making it the dullest since 2017 making it the 6th dullest this millennium.

There were 10 days that were sunless day (6 more than normal), and the most since 2011 and only 4 days with 5 hour or more the lowest since 2005. The sunniest day was 8.3 hours (12th), the lowest number of hours since 2020.

Thunder; there were 0 days with thunder heard.

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

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

Fog; at the 0900am observation there were 1 day with fog observed, 25th 500m.

Named Storms

There were no named Storms during the month.

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

- 9th 56km/hr (S).
- 21st 52km.hr (SSW)
- 26th 53km/hr (NE)



Photo: Sunset 2nd February 2024