

March 2024 weather summary

Exceptionally wet, very mild, and duller than normal

Rainfall: 82.9mm (189% of normal).

An exceptionally wet March, the 11th wettest in the past 103 years and the 17th wettest in the past 123 years (1901). It was also the 6th wettest start (January to March) to a year in the last 123 years. It was, however, not as wet as March 2023 which was the wettest on record (back to 1901), but before that it was the wettest since 2018.

March 2024 was the 9th consecutive month with rainfall above average, the last month below being June 2023.

The wettest day was 16.1mm on 26th, which was the highest since 2020 (18.8mm), after the exceptional fall on 31st March 2023 (41.8mm). The number of rain days (0.2mm or more), were 21 (7 days more than average). The number of wet days (1.0mm or more) was 11 days (2 days more than normal).

The maximum rate of rainfall was 117mm/hr on 28th and the most in 1 hour was 4.2mm on 28th. The highest duration (0.2mm/hr or more) in a 24-hour rainfall day was 8.7 hours (09hr 26th to 09hr 27th).

Mill Lane (Sindlesham) and Sandford Lane (Hurst/Woodley) were closed due to river flooding from the Loddon on the 2nd to 4th inclusive and 29th to 31st inclusive.

Temperature:

The **mean maxima** were 12.7c (+1.3c above normal), but only the mildest since at least 2022 on local records and the 10th mildest since 1981 (43 years).

The highest temperature recorded was 17.1c (20th), but this doesn't feature in the top 10 temperatures this millennium, with the highest temperature 22.9c (30th) 2021.

The lowest maximum temperature was 7.9c (2nd) and the highest since 2019. The lowest this millennium was minus 1.0c on 1st 2018 when the 'Beast from the East' hit this part of the UK.

The **mean minima** were 5.3c (+2.0c above normal), and the highest since 2017 (equal 2019).

The highest temperature was 11.2c (15th) and is now the 2nd highest since at least 1991. In fact, three minima temperatures 11.2(15th), 10.8c (19th) and 10.2c (20th) all feature in the top ten mildest nights since 1991. The lowest temperature was -1.9c (3rd) and the mildest since 2019.

There were 2 nights with an air frost, the lowest since 2019, which gave 15.8 hours below zero.

The **mean temperature** 9.0c (+1.7c above normal) and the mildest March since 2017 and before that 1997.

There were 12 ground frosts and lowest grass minimum recorded was -6.7c (3rd).

Sunshine: 114.9 hours (95% of normal). Not as dull as 2023, but before that the dullest since 2019. There were 4 days that were sunless day (1 less than normal). The sunniest day was 10.3 hours (24th), higher than 2023 but before that the lowest since 2018.

Thunder; there were 1 day with thunder heard.

Hail; there were 3 day with hail (<6mm).

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

Fog; at the 0900am observation there were 2 days with fog observed, 3rd (750m) and 6th (250m).

Named Storms

There was one named Storm that impacted the UK and this are on 28th Storm Nelson (named by Amet Spanish Met Office).

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

- 28th 71km/hr SSE during Storm Nelson some tree damage.



Photo: Fog at 09am on 6th March 2024 with Sindlesham Oak just visible on Bearwood Recreation Ground.