

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE MONTH.

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December was basically a very unsettled month with predominantly SW winds and a succession of low pressure areas.

It was a wet month, rain falling on 26 days, the wettest spell since 1966 and the second wettest on record. The 98.3mm (3.87ins) of rain was a third above average and the wettest since 1989. Snow or sleet occurred on 6 days with snow lying on one, the 28th.

It was a slightly warmer month than November, temperatures being about average at all levels, and ranging from 13.5C (56F) on the 19th to minus 5.5C (22F) on the 27th. Ground frosts at 18 were up on the 30-year mean, though air frosts were near normal for December.

Sunshine broke about even with 47 hours, 5.5 hours occurring on the 10th. The 10 sunless days was the best since 1979 which had 9, the normal being 14.

It was the windiest December since 1986 with 243 gusts above gale force.