

JULY SUMMARY.

July was generally a very unsettled month with rainfall well above average, sunshine slightly below, and 3 thunderstorms spread across the month.

All mean air temperatures ended below the 30-year means, the maximum being down by 0.6°C , and the minimum by 0.2°C and the mean daily by 0.5°C . Only the absolute maximum, at $28.6^{\circ}\text{C}/83.5^{\circ}\text{F}$ on the 29th was above expectation. Consequently most soil and earth temperatures ended with negative anomalies, ranging from -0.6°C at 10cm to -0.3°C at 30cm and 50cm depths. Despite this the black bulb maximum of $62.4^{\circ}\text{C}/144.3^{\circ}\text{F}$ on the 29th was $7.1^{\circ}\text{C}/12.8^{\circ}\text{F}$ above the 30-year mean, aided by the very clear air associated with the heavy rainfall. The month eventually ended as the coolest since 2000.

Rainfall totalled 76.7mm/3.02ins making it the wettest July since 1988. Rain fell on 15 days for a total of 43.4 hours, the maximum daily fall of 26.5mm/1.04ins occurring on the 30th giving the wettest July day since 1992. Rainfall was heavy and accompanied by thunder on three days, the most intense fall being of 65mm/2.56ins per hour during the thunderstorm on the 30th. Despite the thundery activity, no hail was reported.

Sunshine was 4% down on average at 191.4 hours, the lowest since 1999 with just 1 day sunless, July 31st. The highest daily total of 14.1 hours was registered on the 14th, this also being the lowest figure since 1999. The 15 hours per day threshold has not been breached since 1996.

The month was less windy than normal with a mean speed of 4.8 knots/6 mph coming from a predominantly WSW direction. The highest gust of 26 knots/31mph occurred on the 1st that resulted in another month free from gale force gusts.

In all 5 days saw maximum temperatures in excess of $25^{\circ}\text{C}/77^{\circ}\text{F}$ though we failed again to breach the $30^{\circ}\text{C}/86^{\circ}\text{F}$ mark, a figure last seen on June 26th 2001.