Some highs and lows

Highest air temperatures:

36.4 °C	10 August 2003
35.5 °C	3 August 1990

Lowest air temperature:

-14.5 °C	14 January 1982

Wettest days:

76.3 mm	22 September 1992
59.5 mm	18 August 2011

Longest droughts (37 days):

15 August – 20 September 1959
21 July – 26 August 1976

Greatest snow depths:

31 cm	3 January 1963
27 cm	2 January 1963
27 cm	6 January 2010

Hottest month (average temperature):

21.1 °C	July 2006

Coldest month (average temperature):

-2.0 °C	January 1963

Wettest month:

174.3 mm	October 1960

Driest month:

0.5 mm	June 1925

Wettest year:

961.4 mm	1903

Driest year:

404.7 mm	1921

Sunniest month:

305.6 h	June 1975

Dullest month:

7.8 h	December 1956

A brief guide to the climatology of Reading

(Statistics refer to the 30 year-period 1981-2010)

Average temperature (Jan)	4.8 °C
Average temperature (July)	17.6 °C
Average temperature (year)	10.6 °C
Air frosts (year)	41 days
Ground frosts (year)	123 days
Precipitation (Jan)	60.4 mm
Precipitation (July)	45.9 mm
Precipitation (year)	635 mm
Days with 1 mm or more of rain:	
(Jan)	11 days
(July)	8 days
(year)	111 days
Sunshine (Jan)	56.5 h
Sunshine (July)	197.5 h
Sunshine (year)	1522 h
Days with snowfall (year)	11 days
Days with 50 % snow cover at 09 GMT (year)	6 days
Days with thunder (year)	9 days
Days with fog at 09 GMT (year)	13 days

Need more information?

- Department of Meteorology, University of Reading, Whiteknights, RG6 6AH
- Email: r.brugge@reading.ac.uk
- www.met.reading.ac.uk/weatherdata/
- www.met.reading.ac.uk/~brugge

Over 100 years of weather observations at the University of Reading

University of Reading

A history

While rainfall records date back to 1901, comprehensive climatological observations at the University commenced in 1908 – subsequently being made at 0900 GMT every day. In 1968 the weather station site moved to Whiteknights.

The current weather station.

Early observations were made by the Geography Dept., being taken over later by the Meteorology Dept. Our measurements are provided to the Met Office for climatological purposes.

In 2012 the station became partially automatic with some observations made every hour.

The Snowdon raingauge after a light fall of snow.

Some of our instruments

The design of many meteorological instruments dates back over 120 years.

A large thermometer screen shields instruments, including the thermometers from direct sunshine and rainfall.

The anemometer measures wind speed and direction at a height of 10 metres above the ground.

The Campbell-Stokes sunshine recorder measures the sunshine by burning a trace on a card.

Some notable events

5 March 1915 – the cloud observations mention a 'zepp' fright. 'Zepp No.2' was seen 16 days later.

Winter 1947 – wintry weather started in mid-January and lasted for two months.

Winter 1962-63 – a long cold spell; snow lay continuously for 50 days from 27 December. Snow was over 30 cm deep for a time.

11 June 1974 – a small whirlwind was sighted at Earley Gate – a 'roaring' sound but no damage seen.

Hot summer of 1976 – the last week of June and the first week of July brought temperatures of 30 °C every day for a fortnight.

16 October 1987 – the 'Great Storm' gave a gust of 77 mph.

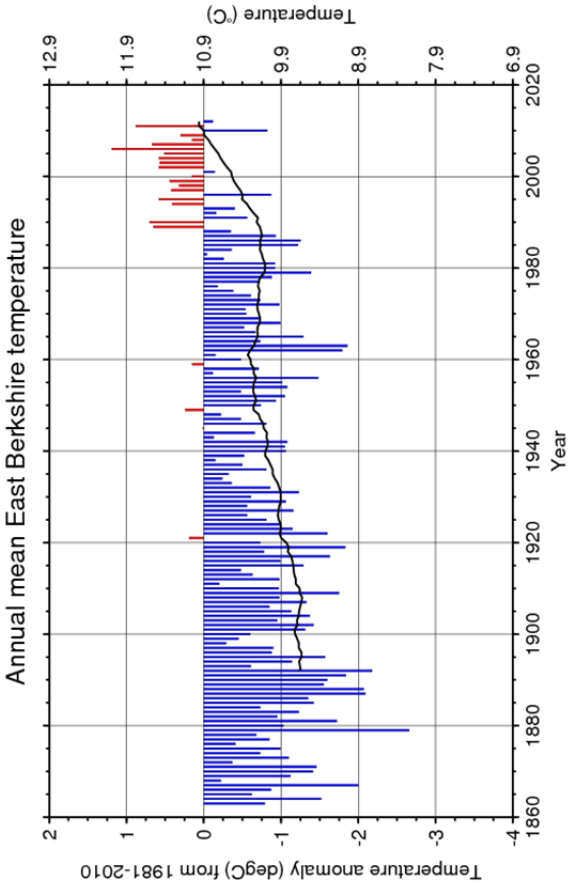
Wet year 2012 – after an unusually dry three months the rain never seemed to end; in the 12 months from 1 April over 913 mm of rain and snow fell.

DECEMBER 1981

Month / Date	Total Cloud	WIND Direction	WIND Speed	Present Weather	Visibility	SCREEN Dry Bulb	SCREEN Wet Bulb	SCREEN Max.	SCREEN Min.	GRASS MIN. at 09h	CONCRETE MIN. at 09h	SOIL or EARTH TEMPERATURES At depth 10 cm	At depth 20 cm	At depth 30 cm	At depth 50 cm	At depth 100 cm	STATE OF GROUND	SNOW Total
12																		
B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
9	7	26	04	10	4	-1·2	-1·2	-0·5	-4·7	-8·0	-6·5	1·9	3·4	5·5	6·6	8·4	7	8
10	9	00	00	45	3	-3·4	-3·5	0·2	-5·4	-11·4	-7·0	1·2	2·7	5·1	6·3	8·2	7	7
11	9	03	04	73	3	-0·1	-0·1	-0·1	-4·6	-4·9	-3·3	1·7	2·8	4·9	6·0	8·0	7	15
12	5	00	00	02	5	-8·8	-8·8	-0·2	-9·0	-10·6	-12·1	1·5	2·6	4·6	5·6	7·7	7	18
13	8	00	00	02	4	-8·4	-8·4	-0·2	-13·4	-16·1	-12·0	0·4	2·1	4·3	5·5	7·5	7	14

Part of the pocket register record for December 1981 – during a very cold and snowy spell.

Changing temperatures in East Berkshire



The climate of Reading and its environs has changed noticeably over the past 30 years. This image shows how (by combining observations from Reading with nearby weather stations) we can see changes in the average annual air temperature.