

**MAIDENHEAD METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR 2023**

The year was 0.1 degC cooler than 2022 and marginally warmer than 2006, so it ranks as the second warmest over the past 100 years. The total sunshine duration was slightly above average overall but it was duller than 2022 by about 200 hours of bright sunshine. Rainfall totalled 880 mm, so we had our wettest year since 2000; 1951 was marginally wetter than 2023 but in 1903 1036 mm fell locally. In 2023 there were 19 days with thunder being heard (ranging from a single clap to a severe storm), the most thunder days since 1982 when thunder was observed on 23 days at the Grassland Research Institute in Hurley. Only 4.6 mm of rain in February and in the 44-day period from 16 January only 6.3 mm fell. March ended with the wettest March day since 1964 when 36.1 mm fell locally in 24 hours. It was the wettest March overall since 1981 when 123.7 mm fell in the town. Hail 1 cm in diameter fell during a thunderstorm on 6 April - and smaller hail fell continuously for more than 10 minutes. This was the first spring not to reach 25C since 1994 and it was the wettest spring locally since 1981. The warmest June locally since before 1953 and a thunderstorm on the 12th led to local flooding after 19.8 mm fell in about 25 minutes. The coldest and dullest July since 2012 but September brought some late summery warmth. On 21 October a funnel cloud was seen over the town. The average MSL air pressure in November was the lowest for four years; the 2nd brought the lowest 0900 GMT air pressure locally in any month since before 1910; the extreme minimum was 956.0 mb.

	2023	Climatological normal	Notes
<b>Air temperature (degC)</b>			
Mean maximum	16.4	15.5	0.5 degC cooler than 2022
Mean minimum	8.0	7.2	Highest on record
Mean	12.2	11.4	0.1 degC lower than 2022
Highest maximum	31.9	31.9	This occurred in September
Lowest maximum	-0.3	0.9	
Highest minimum	18.2	18.9	This occurred in September
Lowest minimum	-7.7	-5.9	The lowest temperature since 2012
No. of days with minimum below -5C	5	1.9	
No. of days with maximum 25C or more	38	29.0	
No. of days with maximum below 0C	1	0.6	
No. of days with minimum 15C or more	40	23.7	The highest count since 2018
<b>Grass temperature (degC)</b>			
Lowest minimum	-10.2	-8.9	The lowest grass temperature since 2010
Mean grass minimum	5.1	4.7	
<b>Soil temperature (degC)</b>			
5cm mean	10.4	10.0	
10cm mean	10.9	10.2	
20cm mean	11.5	11.1	
30cm mean	12.0	11.6	
50cm mean	11.8	11.4	
100cm mean	11.9	11.5	
5cm maximum	19.4		
5cm minimum	-1.1		
10cm maximum	19.6		
10cm minimum	-0.1		
20cm maximum	20.0		
20cm minimum	1.2		
30cm maximum	19.9		
30cm minimum	2.6		
50cm maximum	19.1		
50cm minimum	3.3		
100cm maximum	17.9		
100cm minimum	6.0		
<b>Sunshine (hr)</b>			
Mean daily sunshine amount	4.46	4.34	
Total sunshine	1626.0	1585.2	
Maximum daily sunshine	15.2	14.8	
Number of sunless days	58	65.3	
No. of days with over 12h	20	18.1	
<b>Precipitation (mm)</b>			
Total fall	880.7	678.0	The wettest year since 2000
Highest daily total	37.5	35.7	
No. of days with 0.2mm or more	180	160.7	The highest count since 2014
No. of days with 1.0mm or more	134	117.5	The highest count since 2014
No. of days with 5.0mm or more	63	46.4	Equalling the totals in 1998 and 2002
<b>Number of days with</b>			
Snow or sleet falling	3	10.3	The fewest snow days since 1 in 2020
50% snow cover on round at 0900GMT	1	3.5	
Hail or ice pellets falling	6	5.3	
Thunder heard	19	11.3	The most thunder days since 1982
Fog at 0900GMT	6	7.5	
Air frost	32	37.7	
Ground frost	77	85.7	
Gale	0	0.2	
<b>Air pressure</b>			
Mean at 0900GMT	1014.5	1015.9	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>			
Mean relative humidity at 0900GMT	80	81.0	
Number of hours with rain	565.3	555.5	
Number of hours with air frost	274.8	247.4	
Most hours of rain in a day	15.1	17.2	
Mean cloud cover at 0700GMT (eighths)	6.0	5.7	
Mean wind speed at 0700GMT (knots)	3.6	4.5	
Total piche evaporation (ml)	512.5	563.9	
Greatest daily evaporation (ml)	5.1	5.5	