

ANNUAL SUMMARY 2007

Although not the wettest year since the millenium, this year's total precipitation, 1025.8mm (40.4in), was well above the average for Durlston, which is 924.7mm, (36.4in). The winter was wet; the spring total was average, a very dry April (2.5mm) contrasting with a very wet May; a very wet summer, July being the wettest here at Durlston (160mm, 6.3in) in the 19 years of keeping records; and autumn was relatively dry. The year ended with a wet December. The heaviest fall was 49.2mm (1.9in) on 27-28th May. The rain frequently fell in heavy showers with strong, gusty winds; the maximum gust recorded was 67mph, storm force, on March 6th, and 61 mph occurred on 2nd December.

Nationally 2007 was the second warmest year since 1914 but here temperatures were only marginally above average. July, August and September were rather cool, but April was very warm for spring. The coastal location and southerly aspect on the cliff modified summer temperatures and in autumn and winter reduced the incidence of frost. The prevalence of cloud was another important factor.

Jan: Warmest since 1989. Average rainfall, gusty winds. Cold snap 23-28th, frosty.
Feb: Very wet and windy. Max. gust 58mph. Thunderstorm 24th
Mar: Windy, 67mph 6th; mostly very mild, but cold snap 18-25th with snow shower
Apr: High pressure, very warm, 71.6F on 26th, tempered by sea breezes. Very dry.
May: Very wet, max. fall 49.2mm 27th, with cold Arctic winds, cf. 72F on 17th
Jun: Wettest June since 1991 here, after early dry spell. Cloudy but warm
Jul: Very wet, windy and cloudy. Wettest July on record here.
Aug: End of wettest summer on record here; 38.9mm (1.5in) 13/14th; 74.5F on 23rd
Sep: High pressure, low rainfall, cloudy, windy; warm at first, cool later
Oct: Generally dry, mild. Some frontal rain with gusty winds.
Nov: Dry at first; wet from 18th when 24.5mm (almost 1 in) fell.
Dec: Wet, some heavy falls, windy, max. gust 61 mph. Mild with short cold snap pre-Xmas.