

DURLSTON COUNTRY PARK WEATHER RECORDS

ANNUAL SUMMARY, 2005.

In a year with a total precipitation of 834.0mm (32.8in), 11% more than down in Swanage, the seasonal distribution was surprising: a relatively dry winter, driest here since 1997 (in the UK since 1962/3), followed by a wet spring, and an even wetter summer in which the totals were two thirds above the average for Durlston (based on records since 1988). The wettest months were April, June, August, and October. The rain was often in the form of blustery showers, with storm force winds on two occasions when maximum gusts recorded were 66 and 67 mph. There were some heavy falls of rain, 30.6mm (1.2in) on the 23/24th July, and the heaviest in October on the 24th, 37.4mm, and 25th, 34.1mm, measuring 2.8 inches in all. Thunderstorms were reported in March, April, June, August and September.

In general it was a warm year with some cold snaps, particularly in the first three months, and again in December. The highest maximum temperature, 25.4C (77.7F) was recorded on the 11th August, the lowest minimum, -4.6C (23.7F) on the 28th December. Snow flurries were reported in January, but unfortunately none in the very cold, frosty spell around Christmas. On the last day there was a dramatic change to strong southerly and then westerly winds bringing warmer conditions and rain.

MONTHLY SUMMARY

JAN Mild except 5 day cold snap. 3 frosts; storm, gust 66mph 7/8th
FEB Dry, mild spells; ending with 9 day cold snap, 7 frosts.
MAR Continued cold snap for $\square < 6$ days, 5 frosts; low rainfall; equinoctial thunderstorm
APR. Unsettled, wet, thunderstorms with hail, 1 frost behind cold front
MAY Long dry periods but above average rain, some heavy, blustery showers.
JUN. In total very wet, but long dry periods. Warm; thunderstorms 23rd, 24th, 28th
JUL. Long dry periods, max. 25.4C, then very wet, 30.6mm (1.2in) 23/24th
AUG. Wet; 27.5mm (1.1in) 18/19th with thunder; sea breezes reduced heat
SEP. Unusually dry; blustery showers during final week; mild
OCT. Very wet: 37.4 and 34.1mm 23/24/25th with gales, 56mph gust; warm end
NOV. Below average rainfall; high pressure, 1042mb, 23rd; frosty final week
DEC. Varied: first low pressure, heavy rain, then high to very high pressure, 1046mb and cold, white with frost, but not on Christmas Day. Ended wet.