

## DURLSTON COUNTRY PARK WEATHER RECORDS ANNUAL SUMMARY 2010

In another year of marked contrasts 2010 began and ended very cold, with frost, ice and snow. December 2010 was exceptional in this. Countrywide it was the coldest since records began, as was the monthly mean temperature in Durlston. This anomaly was caused by an unusual position of the jet stream, which curved south to keep Atlantic weather away from the west, and allowed the penetration of a continuous flow of Arctic or Siberian air over the country. This reduced the customary progression of rainbearing westerlies, which meant a lower than average total precipitation. Although last winter was wet, the subsequent spring, summer and autumn were relatively dry, even with above average monthly totals in March, August and November. The 745.9mm (29.4in) annual total was the third lowest on record.

Temperatures remained well down into spring, easing somewhat at the equinox but falling back until May, struggling to reach a seasonal level at the summer solstice. The highest daily maximum was 26.2C (79.2F) on the 26<sup>th</sup> July, but throughout the summer the maximum only reached 70F on 14 days. Autumn was cool, with the prevalence of northerly winds, and in late November and December it became biting cold, frosty, and icy with some snow.

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Jan. very cold; frost, snow; heavy rain at times, stormy  
Feb. cold, frosty, wet and windy; low pressure  
Mar. Wintry and dry until warmer wet equinox, ending cold  
Apr. Began wet; very dry from 5<sup>th</sup>, cool  
May. Very dry and cool, almost drought conditions until 26th  
Jun. Wet start, very dry from 8<sup>th</sup>, warm  
Jul. Warm and dry; cooler mid-month  
Aug. Wet, cool, until sunny last week  
Sep. Low rainfall, seasonal temps. But some cool nights  
Oct. Wet first week then mainly dry, warm start and end  
Nov. Mild and wet until 20<sup>th</sup>, then dry and very cold NE winds  
Dec. Very cold, very frosty, some snow, low precipitation total