

DURLSTON COUNTRY PARK WEATHER RECORDS

ANNUAL SUMMARY, 2004

The total precipitation, 835.8mm (32.9in), was the lowest since 1992 at Durlston Country Park, but included some very wet spells, particularly in January, July, August, and October. January and October were the wettest months, with rainfall exceeding 100mm (4 in). The torrential rainfall, 32.6mm, of mid-December was only exceeded by a fall of 34.2mm on the 8th July.

Showery conditions predominated, often very windy; gusts of over 60 mph were recorded on 7/01, 31/01, 14/03, 24/06, 17/12. The wettest seasons were winter and autumn, the driest months May, June, and November. Measurable snow fell on 28th January, but not over Christmas when so much of the country was white. Here it was a sharp frost.

Although nationally 2004 was the fifth warmest year on record and globally probably the fourth since 1861, the temperatures here were generally close to average. Proximity to the sea and frequency of cloud cover tempering the hot spells and reducing the hours of sunshine, as well as keeping us warmer in winter.

The highest maximum was 26.7C (80.1F) on the 14th June. Minimum temperatures below freezing were infrequent - January (3), February (7), March (2), and December (2).

Monthly summary

- Jan. Very variable: snow, thunderstorm, very wet, sometimes mild
Max. gust 69mph
- Feb. Began wet and windy, turned cold, north winds, windchill, frosty,
some short-lived snow showers.
- Mar. Cold alternated with very mild, calm with very windy, storm 14th
- Apr. Very showery, wet, storm 3/04, but very mild at Easter
- May Wet 4-5th, otherwise high pressure, dry, 71F on 20th, then cool,
Thunderstorm on 10th
- Jun. Mostly dry, near drought, heat wave; ending stormy rain showers
- Jul. Torrential rain storms gave way to high pressure and heat wave
- Aug. Dry, warm (74F) start and end, wet in the middle with thunder
- Sep. Began dry and warm (75F), then changeable, frequently wet,
(thunder 13th, 14th), cool.
- Oct. Very wet, frequent wild heavy showers, (thunder 16th).
- Nov. Frequent northerly winds, low night temperatures, low rainfall.
- Dec. Cool, dry first half, storm, torrential rain in middle, then quiet cold
and frosty for Christmas, ending the year mild.