

DECEMBER WEATHER IN OUTLINE

A cold and frosty month with the day maximum of 12C (52F) on the 2nd being the lowest since 1981. The daytime maximum of only minus 1C (30F) of the 29th was the first such occurrence of continuous December daytime frost since 1985. All means were down on the 30-year values, the mean daily by 1.1C at 3.2C (38F) making this the lowest value for 11 years and the 8th lowest on record.

Rainfall at 80.4mm (3.56ins) was marginally above the 30-year mean, but the fall of 31.2mm (1.23ins) in a little over 15 hours on the 1st gave the wettest December day since 1979 and the 6th worst on record.

Sunshine was a little above expectation at 49 hours, due to the mainly anticyclonic conditions, with 14 sunless days.

Fog occurred at 9 am on two mornings but the incidence of rime (ice accumulation from mist or fog) was quite common from mid-month onwards. No sleet or snow was reported, quite rare for December, and only the sixth time this has occurred since 1956.