

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE MONTH.

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February was both unusually mild and wet. With a mean daily temperature of 6.0C (43F), it was the warmest since 1991 and the third warmest in 40 years (1961 saw 6.4C). Air frost numbering 4 was a third of normal whilst ground frost at 4 was about four-fifths usual. All temperatures were above average, some by as much as 4.5C.

However, it was also a wet month with a third more rain than average falling over 22 days, itself 55% above a normal February. Exceptionally, thunder was heard on two occasions, with hail and sleet also noted on two days.

Winds were generally brisk, gusts above gale force occurring on 7 days, the strongest to 53kn (61mph) on the 16th.

Sunshine was a quarter above usual, the number of sunless days being lower