

SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 1999.

January was a wet month, almost 121mm of rain falling over a total of 212 hours, the wettest since 1988 and the 4th wettest in over half a century of recordings. Rain fell on 22 days, a fifth above normal, the worst since 1993 (23). The heaviest fall of 24.2mm occurred on the 15th. The rain was not evenly spread across the month, 47 mm falling during the first 10 day period and 53.2mm over the following 10 days.

Temperatures remained quite high with positive anomalies for all mean air temperatures of as much as 1.6C for the mean daily, making this the warmest January since 1993 (5.5C). The final 11 day period was by far the cooler of the month with a mean daily of 4.6C.

Sunshine was well above expectation with 68.6 hours recorded from a norm of 48.4 hours, the sunniest since 1994 (71.6 hours). The daily total of 7.7 hours registered on the 21st equalled the record first set on January 25th 1986. In all 8 days were sunless from a norm of 14, equalling 1994.

Snow or sleet occurred on 3 occasions with snow lying on only one morning and then to a depth marginally below 1cm, continuing the spell of recent snowless winters. Ground frosts at 21 were up on normal, whilst air frosts at 6 were well down.

No gale occurred, the maximum gust of 36 knots occurring on the 1st. Winds showed a westerly component on 18 occasions from W, WSW, SW or SSW. In all 15 days had mean temperatures in the range 5C to 10C.

The prevailing wind was WSW at 6-8 knots with gale force gusts occurring on 2 days.