

SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 1999

December was another wet month with a surplus of 21.3mm of rain, the wettest since 1993. Rain fell on 24 days of the month, also the worst figures since 1993 which had 26. During one storm on the 10th rain was falling at the rate of 60mm/hr for a short period. Precipitation in some form or another was falling for 137.4 hours, though for just 80.9 hours at the rate of 0.1mm/hour or more though this was 19% above the December average.

It was, however, a sunny month, the 51.9 hours showing a surplus of 7 hours over a normal December making it the sunniest for 4 years. In all 10 days were sunless, slightly better than average, though the maximum sunshine of 7 hours on the 19th equalled the highest December daily total first set in 1976.

Temperatures were near to average, only the mean minimum being down, and this by just 0.3C. However, the coldest night, the 20th with minus 7.9C was some 2.3C below the 30 year mean. In addition most soil and earth temperatures are all below average, most by around 1C.

Snow or sleet fell on 11 occasions, the most since 1995 (12) and three times the December norm. Snow flakes occurred on 9 days, also three times above average though it lay on only 3 days at 09hrs.

Thunder was heard once with hail reported on one occasion. Winds were predominantly WSW at 7.3 knots, the maximum gust being to 44 knots on the 2nd. In all 5 days produced gusts above gale force.