

Durlston weather summary 2011

Nationally, Spring 2011 (March, April and May) was remarkable for the unusual warmth during April and the persistent lack of rainfall during March and April, particularly over England and Wales.

It was the warmest Spring across the UK in the previous 100 years, just warmer than Spring 2007, and the second driest Spring across England and Wales, with 1990 marginally drier. April was an exceptionally warm, dry and sunny month – the warmest and third sunniest April on record for the UK. This had adverse effects on the environment and agriculture, with eastern counties most affected.

At Durlston, the total rainfall for 2011 was 668.4mm, just over 70% of the 10 year mean of 949.8mm. January, June and August were the only months with above average rainfall.

The maximum temperature recorded was 23.8C on 25th June, the minimum was -3C on 1st Feb. In total, below zero temperatures were recorded on 16 nights (Jan, Feb, March).

January – above average rain, gales, fog, waterlogged ground, then high pressure, frosts and NE winds

February – frost, then mostly W winds, stormy, occasional heavy rain, thick fog

March - mixture of cold NE winds with overnight frosts and mild with SW winds, low rainfall

April – very dry, 5.1mm rain (10 year mean 72.4mm), recorded on 6 days, fair, high pressure, warm max temp 21.4C

May – mostly fair, variable winds, mini-whirlwind on 6th, dry, salt laden southerly gales at the end of the month, a gust of 80mph on 29/30 May, one of the highest recorded at Durlston

June – variable, warm at start and end of month (23.8C max of 2011 on 25th), gales and heavy rain

July – mostly fair interspersed with periods of wind and heavy rain

August – mostly fair, rainfall recorded on 14 days, total 75.5mm, above 10 year mean of 47mm

September – mostly fair, warm overnight, interspersed with periods of wind and heavy rain

October – mostly fair, high pressure, warm winds, below average rainfall

November – mostly fair, warm, below average rainfall, wind speeds not recorded

December – heavy rain, 112mm in total, periods of low pressure, variable wind direction