

### Durlston weather summary 2013

A spell of severe weather brought significant snowfalls and unseasonably low temperatures to many parts of the UK from around 10<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> April. The most severe weather occurred from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March as frontal systems associated with an area of low pressure to the west of the UK moved north. In SW England, most of the precipitation fell as rain, leading to localised flooding. However there were prolonged and heavy snowfalls across North Wales, northern England, SW Scotland and Northern Ireland. 20cm or more of snow fell quite widely with significant drifting in easterly winds. As low temperatures continued, much of the snow lay across the higher ground until early April. The unseasonably late severe winter weather particularly affected hill farmers during the lambing season and several thousand sheep and lambs died.

In July, many areas in the UK, particularly in the south and west experienced a spell of hot, sunny weather with almost unbroken sunshine with an area of high pressure established across the UK. This heat wave was notable for its duration rather than its intensity, a contrast to the run of mainly unsettled summers from 2007 to 2012 and the most significant UK heat wave since July 2006.

A powerful autumn storm brought damaging winds across much of southern England on 28<sup>th</sup> October. Most of the damage was associated with falling trees which were still in full leaf.

From mid-December to early January, the UK experienced a spell of extreme weather as a succession of major winter storms brought widespread impacts to the UK, caused by a powerful jet stream driving a succession of low pressure systems across the Atlantic. The first storm of 5<sup>th</sup> December caused a major storm surge affecting North Sea coasts. The storm of 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December caused widespread flooding across southern England, stretching through Dorset, Hampshire Surrey and Kent.

At Durlston, the total rainfall for 2013 was 986.6mm, drier than 2012. There was significant and above average rainfall in Jan and Dec with 54.2mm rain recorded on 24<sup>th</sup> December.

The maximum temperature recorded was 28.6C on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept, the minimum was -2.5C on 12 March. Sub-zero temperatures were recorded on 15 days (Jan, Feb, March, April).

**January** – mixed, snow lying on 18th, torrential and above average rainfall, 54.3mm on 23<sup>rd</sup>, fog

**February** – mostly fair, cold, high pressure

**March** – mostly cloudy, snow lying on 12<sup>th</sup>, then heavy rain and easterly winds, low temperatures

**April** – frosts at beginning of month, high pressure, mostly dry, fog

**May** – mixture of fair and cloudy days, some heavy rain

**June** – mixture of fair and cloudy days, fog, high pressure

**July** – heavy rain then fine and hot until 22<sup>nd</sup> (26.8C on 16<sup>th</sup>) with high pressure and light winds, humidity rising then rain and fog

**August** – mostly fair, very heavy rain (59.5mm) on 18<sup>th</sup>

**September** – fair at start of month (28.6C on 3<sup>rd</sup>) then periods of heavy rain, gales on 14<sup>th</sup>, fog

**October** – fair at start of month then periods of heavy rains and storm force wind on 28th

**November** – periods of heavy rain and storms then fair and cloudy

**December** – fair with gales then storm force winds and rain (69mph gust on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 54.2mm rain on 24<sup>th</sup>), above average monthly rainfall (221.7mm), fair by year-end