

Durlston weather summary 2018

2018 started with Storm Eleanor on Jan 3rd when large waves affected the coasts of the south and west.

The UK experienced a spell of severe weather with very low temperatures and significant snowfall in late February and early March – informally referred to as “The Beast from the East”. Daytime temperatures remained widely below freezing on Feb 28th to March 1st with a strong east wind. This was the most significant spell of snow and low temperatures for the UK since Dec 2010. At Durlston the maximum temperature on Feb 28th was -1.2C, the minimum -5.9C with a covering of snow. The arrival of Storm Emma on March 1st brought freezing rain and black ice to Durlston and snow drifts to SW England.

In contrast the UK experienced some unusually high temperatures from 18th-22th April with high pressure drawing very warm air from the south, breaking April records around the country.

Summer brought plenty of warm, dry, sunny weather, often under the influence of high pressure, particularly during June and July. This was the UK’s joint hottest summer on record (together with 2006, 2003 and 1976), the driest since 2003 and the sunniest since 1995. June was exceptionally dry across parts of southern England. Durlston recorded 3.7mm rain, Swanage only 1.2mm with rain on only 4 days in the period June 2nd to July 28th.

At Durlston, the total rainfall for 2018 was 857mm, about 90% of the 10 year mean of 950mm with above average rainfall in Jan, March and Dec and low rainfall in May, June, July, Sep and Oct.

The maximum temperature recorded was 26.7C on August 5th, the minimum was – 5.9C on Feb 28th with sub-zero temperatures on 15 nights in Feb and March.

January – warm, windy and wet, gusts of 60mph (Storm Eleanor) on 3rd

February – cold with NE winds and frosts particularly at the end of the month, snow on 28th

March – snow and freezing rain at the beginning and middle of the month with NE winds

April – very mild from 18th-26th, lightning storm

May – mild, low rainfall

June – one of the driest months on record for Durlston

July – mostly dry until 28th

August – hot, dry start (26.7C on 5th) then milder with rain

September – mostly dry

October – strong winds and rain mid month (storm Callum and low pressure fronts)

November – wet and windy

December – above average rainfall