

MAIDENHEAD METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR 2021

2021 was the coolest year since 2013, which was 0.6 degC colder overall. However, both 2015 and 2016 were only very slightly milder than 2021. 2021 was the first year not to reach 35C since 2018 although the air temperature did not fall below -3.9C in the winter months. December was milder than November, while March and April had identical mean temperatures. Overall, it was the days that lowered the average temperature for the year, rather than the nights. The year was drier than normal, with March, April and December being particularly dry. January, June and October were on the wet side. The year was the dullest since 2000 – April was (by far) the sunniest month with May, June and August being notably dull – as were the final three weeks of December. The year had 13 days with snow/sleet falling including 3 days in April and 2 in November (respectively late and early extended-winter falls compared to recent years). The incidence of frost was above normal – with high incidences in April and November.

	2021	Climatological normal	Notes
Air temperature (degC)			
Mean maximum	15.5	15.5	Lowest since 2013
Mean minimum	7.3	7.2	Lowest since 2019
Mean	11.4	11.4	Lowest since 2013
Highest maximum	31.9	31.9	Lowest since 2014
Lowest maximum	0.2	0.9	Lowest since 2018
Highest minimum	18.1	18.9	Lowest since 2015
Lowest minimum	-3.9	-5.9	Lowest since 2019
No. of days with minimum below -5C	0	1.9	
No. of days with maximum 25C or more	24	29.0	Lowest count since 2019
No. of days with maximum below 0C	0	0.6	
No. of days with minimum 15C or more	33	23.7	Highest count since 2018
Grass temperature (degC)			
Lowest minimum	-6.4	-8.9	Equal highest since 2011
Mean grass minimum	4.9	4.7	
Soil temperature (degC)			
5cm mean	10.1	10.0	
10cm mean	10.2	10.2	
20cm mean	11.0	11.1	
30cm mean	11.5	11.6	Lowest since 2013
50cm mean	11.3	11.4	
100cm mean	11.5	11.5	Lowest since 2015
5cm maximum	20.6		
5cm minimum	-0.6		
10cm maximum	21.0		
10cm minimum	0.0		
20cm maximum	21.6		
20cm minimum	1.2		
30cm maximum	20.7		
30cm minimum	2.5		
50cm maximum	19.6		
50cm minimum	3.0		
100cm maximum	17.6		
100cm minimum	5.3		
Sunshine (hr)			
Mean daily sunshine amount	4.03	4.34	
Total sunshine	1474.3	1585.2	Dullest year since 2000
Maximum daily sunshine	15.6	14.8	
Number of sunless days	59	65.3	Equal lowest count since 2014
No. of days with over 12h	19	18.1	
Precipitation (mm)			
Total fall	690.8	678.0	Lowest total since 2019
Highest daily total	38.7	35.7	
No. of days with 0.2mm or more	157	160.7	Lowest count since 2018
No. of days with 1.0mm or more	119	117.5	
No. of days with 5.0mm or more	45	46.4	
Number of days with			
Snow or sleet falling	12	10.3	Most snow days since 2013
50% snow cover on round at 0900GMT	4	3.5	Highest count since 2018
Hail or ice pellets falling	6	5.3	
Thunder heard	7	11.3	Equal lowest count since 2014
Fog at 0900GMT	8	7.5	Highest count since 2016
Air frost	40	37.7	Equal highest count since 2016
Ground frost	100	85.7	Highest count since 2013
Gale	0	0.2	
Air pressure			
Mean at 0900GMT	1016.8	1015.9	
Miscellaneous			
Mean relative humidity at 0900GMT	81	81.0	
Number of hours with rain	466.3	555.5	
Number of hours with air frost	261.4	247.4	
Most hours of rain in a day	13.0	17.2	
Mean cloud cover at 0700GMT (eighths)	6.1	5.7	
Mean wind speed at 0700GMT (knots)	3.6	4.5	
Total piche evaporation (ml)	493.8	563.9	
Greatest daily evaporation (ml)	4.8	5.5	

Climatological normals refer to 1991-2020