

Coldest April for 27 years, slightly drier and duller than average

May 12 2016

Armagh Observatory reports that April 2016 was slightly cooler than April 2012 and the coldest April at Armagh since 1989. It was also slightly drier and duller than average.

Total precipitation was 54.05 mm (2.13 inches) including one trace value. This was very close to the long-term (1838-2010) average April rainfall at Armagh (53.27 mm) and slightly less (94%) of the most recent (1981-2010) 30-year average, which is 57.7 mm. The wettest day was the 6th, with 7.5 mm (approximately 0.3 inches) of rainfall.

The mean temperature for the month was 7.04 degrees Celsius (44.7 F), approximately 0.83 C cooler than the long-term (1796-2010) average April temperature at Armagh (7.87 C) and 1.46 C cooler than the most recent 30-year (1981-2010) April average, which is 8.5 C. The warmest day (highest maximum air temperature) was 17.6 C, which occurred on the 20th. The coldest night (lowest minimum air temperature) was -1.5 C, on the 9th.

There were several quite sharp ground frosts, and particularly towards the end of the month a cool breeze established containing showers in which were recorded sleet, snowflakes, snow and ice pellets, as well as hail. There were 21 nights with ground frost (minimum grass [temperature](#) less than or equal to zero C) and 5 with nighttime air frosts. Buzzards were noted circling over the Astropark on the 20th and 22nd

A total of 139.7 hours of strong sunshine were recorded this month at

Armagh, which is slightly less than average for April at Armagh. The long-term (1881-2010) April average is 156.8 hours and the most recent (1981-2010) 30-year average is 142.8 hours. The sunniest day was the 20th, which with 13.5 hours of strong sunshine is one of the sixth sunniest April days on record at Armagh, that is, since daily sunshine records began at Armagh on 21st April 1881.

These data refer to observations at Armagh Observatory, which has been recording the weather at Armagh since 1795.

Provided by Armagh Observatory

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