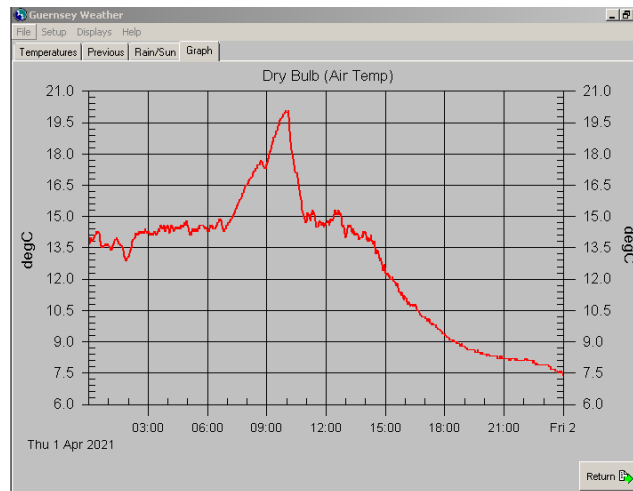


## April 2021

The last few days of March saw little in the way of rainfall and the start of April continued in much the same vein. Dry, settled conditions with a belt of receding high pressure over Central and Eastern Europe managed to briefly push up a plume of warm air through the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> with temperatures peaking at 20.1°C around 1100hrs but a cold Arctic plunge was already streaming south over the UK, arriving at our shores that evening as air temperatures dropped swiftly through the afternoon to be in single figures that evening.



Air Temperature graph for Guernsey Airport showing a peak of 20.1°C late morning on the 1<sup>st</sup> followed by a steady decline to just 7.5°C by the evening (Times are GMT)

Winds aloft initially brought in a covering of Saharan dust too, but this was short-lived once our winds backed in to the northeast by day's end as another belt of high pressure to the south of Iceland extended a ridge across northern and central parts of the British Isles.

This high maintained a cool northeasterly flow along the Channel for the next couple of days, with variable amounts of cloud and pegging temperatures back to just single figures for the most part. By the 5<sup>th</sup> that high had edged back out in to the North Atlantic, and with deep low pressure now developing off the north coast of Norway, a very cold plunge of Arctic air was developing across the country, with heavy snow showers across many northern and central parts. Locally we saw a few light rain showers on the initial clearing cold front late on the 5<sup>th</sup>, but by dawn on the 6<sup>th</sup> we started to see some more potent showers bubbling up in the Channel with a scattering of wintry showers developing through the day. Most of these were fairly light, but it was the first time we've recorded snow at the airport in April since 2013.

This Arctic Maritime airflow was cold and very dry, and as a result we experienced excellent visibility outside the showers with humidity levels dropping as low as 35% at times. A chilly start to the day then on the 7<sup>th</sup> as overnight winds fell light under clearing skies, with air temperatures dipping to just 0.9°C and -3.0°C on the grass around dawn. A few more isolated showers ran through the islands during the day, but with air temperatures nudging 8°C, they fell as rain rather than anything more solid.

As that high transferred south and east to be centred over Central Europe by the 8<sup>th</sup>, pressure fell across northern parts of the UK with periods of rain and strong westerly winds across Scotland. We remained mostly clear in the Channel until late on the 9<sup>th</sup> as the clearing cold front from this system dropped south across the British Isles with yet another cold plunge following in its wake. Cloudier conditions locally with outbreaks of rain overnight continued through the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> before clearing by noon to a smattering of showers by the evening.

That front was a little reluctant to clear, but it did so by dawn on the 11<sup>th</sup>, still with a few showers in the airflow initially as we returned once again to a cool, dry, northeasterly flow as pressure built to the west of Ireland. This airflow produced a few wintry showers locally, with hail reported late on the 12<sup>th</sup>, but outside of these showers we enjoyed excellent visibility and low air humidity. Gradually the high edged eastward to be atop the UK by the 13<sup>th</sup> with the next couple of days seeing plenty of sunshine and light northeast winds. Air temperatures remained disappointing though, barely making double figures during the day and clear skies overnight allowing air temperatures to drop to just a few degrees above freezing.

Freshening winds down the Channel on the 15<sup>th</sup> saw a scattering of showers, but these died away through the morning to leave us with another cool and bright afternoon. By the halfway stage of the month we'd recorded just 8.4mm of rain and the monthly mean temperature was some 2.5°C below the long term average.

That high started to drift away to the northeast over the next few days, but with a ridge still covering most of central and southern UK, we continued with the cool, dry and bright regime.



Lovely Mackerel Sky of *Altocumulus* at 14,000' over Sark on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Photo credit: B Bonnefin

Weak fronts lying out to the west over parts of Ireland and Scotland started to bring cloud and rain to those parts by the 18<sup>th</sup> and by the 19<sup>th</sup> a few isolated showers had nudged in to the western Channel, although none came close enough to affect the islands. Temperatures started to pick up too and by the 20<sup>th</sup> we managed a maximum air temperature of 14.5°C, the highest since that very warm start to the month.

High pressure continued to dominate over the next few days, still centred over the UK with a brisk northeasterly down the Channel and temperatures pegged back to the low teens. A change was in the offing for the last few days of the month though, as low pressure off the south coast of Iceland started to develop and edge southeast towards Scotland by the 26<sup>th</sup>. This feature continued its way south across the country, bringing periods of much needed rain to many parts of the UK. By the time the associated weather fronts reached the islands overnight into the 28<sup>th</sup> however, they had weakened sufficiently to be just a scattering of light showers with only a few drops recorded locally around noon on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

With a mostly anticyclonic dominated month, this April ended up being the coldest since 2013 and the sunniest since sunshine records began back in 1894. With a notable absence of Atlantic influenced weather it ended up the 9<sup>th</sup> driest April since 1843, 5<sup>th</sup> driest at the airport and driest since 2011. The period 11<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> received 0.1mm of rain or less daily with a drought declared on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Cool, clear nights led to the lowest average daily minimum temperature since 1986, the 2<sup>nd</sup> equal lowest recorded at the airport. Those same cool nights allowed ground temperatures to fall below freezing on 10 occasions through the month, a record equalling figure for April and incidentally the same number of ground frosts as recorded for the whole of 2020.

We also recorded no days with any fog this month, a record equal with 2012. It was also interesting to note that the mean monthly temperature for April was actually lower than that of March, due to the much lower minimum temperatures recorded through the month.

April 2021

DAY	DATE	TEMPERATURE deg C											RAIN	SUN	WEATHER			
		BAROMETER	AIR			GRASS		SOIL		DIR'N	SPEED(knots)							
		at 9a.m.	MAX	MIN	MEAN	MIN	30cm	100cm	9a.m.	9a.m.	MEAN	MAX				mm	hrs	
Thu	1	1019.4	20.1	8.2	14.2	8.6	11.3	9.8	080	07	12.3	30	NIL	8.1	Fine w/ hazy sunshine. Occn high cloud & Saharan dust			
Fri	2	1026.4	9.4	6.2	7.8	5.7	11.1	9.9	060	17	16.7	34	NIL	9.1	Fair to fine			
Sat	3	1030.8	8.5	5.9	7.2	4.4	10.5	10.1	060	13	12.3	27	NIL	1.7	Cloudy bec fine late pm			
Sun	4	1028.9	9.3	5.7	7.5	3.5	10.0	10.1	060	05	7.2	18	NIL	6.9	Cloudy bec fine pm			
Mon	5	1019.3	10.2	4.8	7.5	3.2	10.2	10.1	340	13	11.2	25	TR	3.5	Cloudy, little rain am, bec fair with occn shower pm			
Tue	6	1024.1	7.6	2.2	4.9	-1.4	9.4	10.1	350	13	11.0	28	0.1	6.5	Sunny periods and scattered light snow/snow pellet showers			
Wed	7	1027.1	8.7	0.9	4.8	-3.0	8.8	10.1	280	05	6.6	20	1.5	4.4	Fine bec cldy w/ shw rs early pm. Occn fair pm. Good viz & dry air			
Thu	8	1025.0	10.0	3.1	6.6	-2.2	8.7	10.0	160	05	3.4	11	NIL	12.0	Fine w/ high cloud at times			
Fri	9	1015.0	10.8	2.9	6.9	0.2	9.3	9.9	360	05	3.7	10	4.7	4.7	Cloudy, rain by evening			
Sat	10	1011.1	8.5	5.8	7.2	6.1	9.9	9.9	050	05	5.9	18	1.9	0.2	Rain am bec fair by evening. Showers by late evening			
Sun	11	1018.2	8.2	4.4	6.3	3.2	9.5	10.0	030	11	7.4	22	NIL	10.3	Occn light shw rs am bec fair then fine pm			
Mon	12	1030.4	10.7	3.4	7.1	-1.2	9.3	9.9	280	11	8.0	22	0.1	9.1	Mainly fine bec cldy w/ shw rs during afternoon & evening			
Tue	13	1033.5	10.6	2.9	6.8	0.0	9.3	10.0	130	10	6.9	15	NIL	12.8	Fine			
Wed	14	1032.6	11.4	2.3	6.9	-0.5	9.6	10.0	080	08	6.9	16	0.1	12.7	Fine, dry air at times			
Thu	15	1031.9	9.1	3.0	6.1	-0.1	9.8	10.0	070	12	8.7	22	TR	10.4	Cldy w/ h sct lt shw rs am bec fair by noon, fine mid pm. Good viz			
Fri	16	1030.4	10.0	3.3	6.7	-0.5	9.8	10.0	040	08	7.2	18	NIL	8.1	Cloudy w/ odd show er am clearing to become fine pm			
Sat	17	1029.1	10.5	3.6	7.1	-1.2	9.6	10.0	050	09	6.2	18	NIL	13.3	Fine, dry air at times			
Sun	18	1025.7	11.6	4.1	7.9	-2.1	9.8	10.0	340	05	4.4	12	NIL	12.4	Early hoar frost. Fine w/ high cloud at times			
Mon	19	1021.6	13.6	3.2	8.4	0.5	10.0	10.0	100	08	5.7	12	NIL	13.0	Fine, dry air at times			
Tue	20	1017.3	14.5	5.5	10.0	1.7	10.7	10.1	060	07	5.9	14	NIL	12.0	Briefly cloudy am, otherwise fine. Dry air			
Wed	21	1017.7	14.2	6.2	10.2	2.5	11.1	10.2	070	10	11.2	27	NIL	12.7	Mist early am, bec fine w/ haze			
Thu	22	1023.2	12.0	6.7	9.4	5.1	11.4	10.4	070	13	14.2	26	NIL	12.3	Fine			
Fri	23	1024.2	15.7	7.5	11.6	4.8	11.4	10.5	070	14	13.4	23	NIL	13.2	Fine, dry air at times			
Sat	24	1022.3	13.6	8.7	11.2	5.8	11.7	10.6	070	14	15.1	29	NIL	12.4	Fair w/ high cloud			
Sun	25	1022.9	11.1	7.5	9.3	5.0	11.7	10.7	070	20	19.7	40	NIL	11.4	Fair, high cloud eve. Smoke mid pm from fire			
Mon	26	1019.4	10.2	6.5	8.4	5.5	11.4	10.9	060	18	15.3	34	NIL	11.5	Cloudy for a time am, but clearing to become fine			
Tue	27	1011.6	12.4	4.4	8.4	-0.1	11.2	10.9	020	07	6.1	13	NIL	11.6	Fine bec cloudy eve			
Wed	28	1004.1	10.8	7.5	9.2	4.4	11.9	11.0	310	08	8.4	18	NIL	7.8	Fair to cloudy am bec fair/fine pm			
Thu	29	1012.0	10.8	5.9	8.4	3.8	11.5	11.0	010	10	6.8	16	NIL	12.4	Cloudy becoming fine, dry air at times			
Fri	30	1015.1	11.6	5.0	8.3	0.0	11.4	11.1	280	04	4.1	13	TR	8.9	Cldy bec fair then fine early am, light shw r @ noon			
MEAN		1022.3	11.2	4.9	8.1	2.1	10.4	10.2	NE	9.8	9.1	TOTAL	8.4	285.4				
30 YEAR AVG		1015.3	12.4	7.0	9.7	4.3	10.4	9.9	NE	11.0	10.6	/////	54.0	200.7				
Diff from prev Avg		+0.2°mb	+0.6°C	+0.4°C	+0.5°C	+0.6°C	+0.6°C	+0.5°C	NE	-0.8Kt	-0.8Kt		+0.9mm	+6.0hrs				
EXTREMES	NUMBER	RAIN	WET	SNOW/	HAIL	THNDR	LGHTNG	AIR	GROUND	FOG	FOG	GALE	NO					
ARE IN	OF DAYS	≥0.2mm	≥1.0mm	SLEET				FROST	FROST	9a.m.			SUN					
BOLD TYPE	WITH	3	3	1	2	0	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	0				
RECORDS FROM JANUARY 1947															TOTALS FOR YEAR TO DATE			
WETTEST DAY	34.0mm	DRIEST MONTH	2.9mm	LOWEST MIN	-1.4°C	WARMEST MNTH	12.0°C	SUNNIEST MNTH	285.4	RAINFALL	277.4 mm	SUNSHINE	573.5 hrs					
DAY/YEAR	30th/2017	YEAR	1980	DAY/YEAR	11th/1986	YEAR	2020	YEAR	2021	RAIN DAYS	53	SUNLESS I	16					
WETTEST MNTH	130.4mm	HIGHEST MAX	24.5°C	LOWEST GRASS	-7.0°C	COLDEST MNTH	6.4°C	DULLEST MNTH	122.2hrs	WET DAYS	44							
YEAR	1966	DAY/YEAR	11th/2020	DAY/YEAR	5th/1990	YEAR	1986	YEAR	1981									