

July 2005 at Bracknell Berkshire

A bright start on the 1st was quickly followed by cloudy conditions with a max of 20.9c which was broken by 0900hr on the 2nd 21.3c which also happened to be the max for the 2nd as well. Some showers fell in the early hours of 2nd (0.5mm) but the remainder of the 2nd was dry but generally cloudy, although it was sunny around 0900hr. The 3rd was dry and bright at first but this was followed by drizzle or outbreaks of light rain late morning and into the afternoon. A cool day overall and there was a max of 19.2c, which occurred quite late (1730h) due to some late sunshine. The 4th began cloudy with some outbreaks of light rain. It was showery mid to late morning with a heavy shower at 1145hr. However, the afternoon was brighter but there were still a few showers around. There were reported thunderstorms around but nothing heard at Harmanswater. Max only 17.7v The 5th began with a min of 8.6c the coolest night since 14th June. However, it was a sunny start although quite cool, but cloud increased quickly and showers moved into the area by late morning. Again another cool day with only 16.7c max. The 6th was dry but generally cloudy, still a stiff NWly air stream a little warmer with a max of 18.6c The 7th was generally cloudy with showers, max 18.7c The 8th was dry but generally cloudy some brightness, especially late afternoon with a max of 19.9c (1730hr). The 9th began cloudy and dull although it was dry. By mid afternoon the sun had broken through the cloud which began to disperse and the late afternoon was warm and pleasant Max 22.4c (1730hr). However, this was beaten by 0900hr on the 10th with 23.6c. The 10th saw an explosion of heat with generally just high level cloud and a max of 29.4c. A very warm night followed and the 11th was another hot day but some persistent cloud sheets spoiled the sunshine. A max of 28.3 occurred. The 12th began with a cloudy night but this cloud was fairly thin and cleared by 0900hr. Temperature slower to rise today with a max of 28.3c again. There was a sea breeze at 2015hr. the 13th saw a sunny and warm start with which turned into a hot day with a max of 31.8c the 10th highest reading in the last 35 July's. A sea breeze at 1800hr with wind backing N to SE/SW with RH jump of 10% and 1.5c fall in air temperature. The 14th was another hot and sunny day with RH as low as 25% and a max of 30.2c. The 15th began cloudy as the remnants of an old cold front moved through the area, introducing fresher air on a westerly air stream Max. 27.9c. The 16th was began a little cooler but it was generally very warm and sunny and reached the magic 'hot' with a max of 25.4c recorded, the 7th consecutive day with a 'hot' maximum. The 17th saw temperatures rise 5.5c in 60 minutes (0515-0615hr) in strong sunshine. A hot and sunny day with RH 30% or less 1415 to 1630hr. Max 29.4c. This was the last day of the 'hot week' which is summarised below.

A Hot Week during July at Bracknell

The past week, Sunday 10th to Saturday 16th July, can be described as hot. The term 'hot' applies when the air temperature reaches or exceeds 25c. Weather records for Bracknell (Harmanswater) are available for the past 35 July's (1971-2005), together with records kept at the former Met Office HQ, 1 km from the Harmanswater site, between 1962 and 1970, therefore extending the 'Bracknell' record to 44 July's. Analysis of this data has been carried out providing a comparison of the past week with previous years. The criterion set is that there is a 'week' of 7 consecutive days, where the maximum must have reached or exceed 25c within July allowing for only one of those days in either June or August. This has only occurred 7 times in the 44

July's as indicated in table 1 below, with no occurrences in the 1960's 2 in the 1970's, 2 in the 1980's 1 in the 1990's and already in the first 6 years 2 in the 2000's.

Table 1

Day	1975	1976	1983	1989	1994	2001	2005
1	25.0	31.0	30.6	28.8	25.5	25.7	29.4
2	26.4	33.5	31.3	31.8	26.2	27.6	28.3
3	28.4	34.0	31.6	33.6	28.5	29.8	28.3
4	29.0	32.5	30.0	32.0	25.8	31.0	31.8
5	30.0	31.7	31.5	30.4	27.0	32.2	30.2
6	26.9	34.0	32.5	29.7	31.0	29.7	27.9
7	25.5	31.6	28.1	26.9	29.2	26.8	25.4
Ave	27.3	32.6	30.8	30.5	27.6	29.0	28.7
Dates	26 th - 1 st	1 st -7 th	11 th - 17 th	20 th - 26 th	19 th - 25 th	25 th - 31 st	10 th - 17 th
Rank	7	1	2	3	6	4	5

There are many single days or a run of several days where the maximum reached or exceeded 25c. The highest ten readings for the last 35 July's, 1971-2005 are indicated in table 2.

Table 2

Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Reading	34.0	33.6	33.5	33.1	32.6	32.5	32.2	32.1	32.0	31.8
Date(s)	3/76 6/76	7/76 22/89	2/76	15/03	21/90	16/83	29/01	12/94	23/89	21/89 13/05

The 18th began sunny and it was very warm with a max of 25.1c. However, cloud increased and the afternoon was generally cloudy with rain at 1730hr until 1750hr and thunder 1745hr. The rainfall ended a 10 day dry spell. The 19th saw sunny spells but it was cooler with a max of 23.3c. It was breezy and quite gusty at times especially 1415045hr. with a max of 23.3c. The 20th was generally sunny and very warm /hot with a max of 25.8c. A much cooler night followed the coolest since 5th July with a min of 10.6c. A sunny day and very warm day with a max of 24.6c the 22nd was cloudy and dull but still warm. Some late afternoon sunshine Max 22.5c the 23rd was dry but cloudy. There were some outbreaks of light rain but these did not really wet the ground. Max 22.7c. The 24th began wet with outbreaks of rain from 0500hr but more continuous rain fell from 0720hr. It was a wet morning with rain and drizzle which continued into the afternoon. The late afternoon was warm with brighter conditions, but Nil sunshine and a max of 20.4c. The 25th saw further rain around 0100hr with some heavy bursts ceasing at 0300hr and a shower at 0345hr A mils start but an old cold front passed through the area at 0845hr with a heavy pulse of rain with the wind veering SW to NW/NNW and a fall in temp. 17.1c (0840) to 15.6 (0915). 11.1mm had fallen by 0900hr. A cold day followed with temperature struggling around 1.5c all day, which was dull but dry. Max 16.1c at 0900hr was broken the next morning with 16.7c at 0900hr. The 26th was dry but cloudy and technically another sunless day (0.01hrs of sunshine) and a max of 19.4c. There was light rain by 2000hr

and outbreaks of rain continued into the night. The 27th, after a wet night (rain / drizzle) continued wet with rain and drizzle and it was cool. Another sunless day with a max of 15.1c (09-21h) which is within the top ten lowest in 35 years but this was beaten the following morning (28th) with 17.0c at 0900hr. A misty night / early morning and mild cloudy but dry in the morning with brighter conditions during the afternoon. It was also much warmer with a Max of 24.1c. The 29th consisted of sunny spells warm with a max of 21.3 and dry. By dawn on the 30th cloud had moved into the area but it remained dry all morning and into the afternoon with bright conditions until some moderate / heavy showers moved through the area producing 10.2mm in 60 mins commencing at 1645hr and 6.8mm in 15 mins commencing at 1730hr. These showers caused localised flooding especially in the Chavey Down / Cranbourne areas and to the south east of Bracknell at Bagshot. By 0900hr on the 31st 19.2mm had been recorded making it the 10th wettest day in the past 35 July's. The 31st was cloudy but dry however it was bright at times and warm. A band of rain, with some moderate / heavy bursts moved through the area during the evening / night and by 0900hr on the 1st August 6.6mm had fallen.

Summary for month: Cool and mixed start, hot and dry mid month, with a changeable end with some heavy rainfall.

The mean maximum was 23.0c (+0.6c) and the warmest since 2001, but the mean minimum 13.0c (+0.8c) was only the warmest since 2003. The highest maximum 31.8 (13th) was the highest since 2003 but the lowest maximum 16.7c (5th / 25th) was the lowest since 2000. Despite the complaints about warm sticky nights, the highest minimum 16.2c (11th) was the lowest since 2000 but the lowest minimum 8.6c (5th) was the highest since 2002.

The rainfall total of 58.6mm (130%) was the 9th highest in 35 years of July's and the 19.2mm fall on the 30th was the 10th highest in the same period. Rain and wet days were both above average, but sunshine 179hrs was below average at 87%.

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Web site 1 www.bracknell-berkshire.co.uk/services/weather

Web site 2 www.metlink.org/data