

Appendix 1.

Explanation and definition of some of the terms used in the Wokingham Weather Reports.

Average: Generally refers to the 30 year climatological average, currently 1971 to 2000. This will be next updated in 2010. For some parameters, notably wind, the climatological average is not available, and if the word average is used in the context of wind, it refers to the average for the period for which data is held, namely 1988 to present.

For sunshine, there was a change, in July 1999, in the type of instrument used to detect sunshine amount, making the climatological average based on the old instrument of little use. In general, the new instrument produces higher values in the winter half year, and lower ones in the summer half, than the old type, due to a combination of faster reaction and higher sensitivity than the old type. The average used in this case is based on a theoretical equivalent 1971 to 2000 average, drawn from comparison with the Met Office published tables of departure from climatological average sunshine in the months since 2000 for their area 'Southern England'. Users of the Wokingham Monthly Weather reports should be aware of this, and regard anomalies for sunshine published therein as a guide only, until such time has elapsed since the introduction of the new instrument that a genuine average becomes available.

Mean: The mean of the data under discussion, often the monthly mean of daily data. The mean is obtained by summation of the individual values and dividing by the number of values. The term 'daily mean' in respect of temperature is defined as '(max + min) / 2'. A true daily 24 hour (00 to 24 GMT) mean temperature is available from the Automatic Weather Station (AWS), and is currently published on page 7 of the Wokingham Monthly Weather report, on the Wokingham Weather web site, page 1. <http://www.woksat.info/wwp1.html>

Anomaly: When a value is given for anomaly, this will have one of the following meanings:

a): The departure of a mean from the current climatological average.

b): The departure of a value on a particular day from the average for that day, (this need not be a climatological average).

When the word anomaly is used in respect of temperature, any values given are in °C. In respect of rainfall or sunshine, percent. In respect of wind, mph. In respect of pressure, millibars (hpa).

Categories: Reference may be made in the reports to 'categories'. Each category has a strict statistical range, as outlined below.

Temperature: The terms cold/mild are used in the winter half year, and cool/warm in the summer half.

The term 'normal' is used when the individual mean (monthly, seasonal or annual) value is within 20 % of the median of all ranked values for that month/season/year.

Mild/warm: The value lies between 10 % and 30 % below the highest value in the ranked series.

Very mild/very warm: The value lies within 10 % of the highest value in the ranked series.

Cold/cool: The value lies between 10 % and 30 % above the lowest value in the ranked series.

Very cold/very cool: The value lies within 10 % of the lowest value in the ranked series.

Sunshine: The terms for sunshine are very sunny, sunny, normal, dull and very dull.

The definition of these terms follow the same rules as for temperature.

Rainfall: The terms for rainfall are very dry, dry, normal, wet and very wet.

The definition of the term 'normal' follows the same rule as for temperature and sunshine.

Wet: The value lies between 10 % and 30% of the highest value in the ranked series.

Very wet: The value lies within 10 % of the highest value in the ranked series.

Dry: The value lies between 10 % and 30 % above the lowest value in the ranked series.

Very dry: The value lies within 10 % of the lowest value in the ranked series.

Long-term: Mention may be made in the reports to the 'long-term'. The long-term record comprises a temperature/rainfall/sunshine data series compiled from records of various weather stations in the Wokingham area in the years prior to the establishment of the weather station at Emmbrook in 1976 together with data from this station.

In the case of monthly max, min and mean temperature and of rainfall total the series starts in 1882. For temperature extremes, the highest max and lowest min go back to 1904, and lowest max and highest min to 1913.

Rank: The word rank refers to the position of a value for a particular month/season/year in the ranked series, and may be expressed relative to either the highest or lowest value in the series. The central value in the ranked series is known as the **median**. This value may be different from the average of the whole series if the population is skewed. It can also be different from the climatological average which only refers to a 30 year period.

Month: Calendar month.

Season: Spring, March to May.

Summer, June to August

Autumn, September to November

Winter, December to February.

When discussing 'winter', if a single year is given this refers to the year in which the January/February fall.

Annual or Year: The calendar year, 1st January to 31st December.

The climatological day: runs from 0900 to 0900 GMT. The max temperature and rainfall read at 0900 hours are attributed to the previous day (thrown back), as is the duration of measurable rain. The min temperature and grass min read at 0900 hours are attributed to the day of reading. Pressure read at 0900 GMT, and the monthly mean pressure is the mean of the 0900 GMT readings. Sunshine data, wind data, rainfall rate data and 24 hour data from the AWS use the normal 00-24 GMT day.

Frost: An air frost day is recorded when the minimum temperature read at 0900 GMT on that day is -0.1°C or below. A ground frost day is recorded when the grass minimum temperature read at 0900 GMT on that day is -0.1°C or lower.

Duration of air frost is defined as the number of minutes that the AWS one minute average temperature is below 0.0°C , and the day runs from midnight to midnight.

Snow: A day with snow falling is triggered if snow falls at any time in the 24 hours from midnight on that day. A day with snow lying is entered if there is at least 50% snow cover at the 0900 GMT observation.

Snow depth is the depth of undrifting snow. Snow that collects in the raingauge funnel is melted and the amount recorded as rainfall.

Hail: A day of hail is recorded if hailstones 5 mm or more in diameter are observed or recorded on the hail pad in a 24 hour period starting at midnight.

A day of small hail is recorded if hailstones less than 5 mm diameter are observed or recorded in a 24 hour period starting at midnight. The term small hail also includes various other types of ice meteor such as ice pellets, snow grains and some types of snow pellets.

Fog: A day with fog is recorded if the horizontal visibility at 0900 GMT is below 1000 m.

Thunder: A day of thunder is recorded if thunder is heard in the 24 hour period from midnight on that day. The appearance of lightning without thunder being heard does not qualify as a thunder day.

Trace of rainfall: A trace of rain, entered as 'tr' in the daily log, is recorded if rain is observed to fall but is of insufficient quantity to collect in the raingauge, or if the amount of rain in the gauge is less than 0.05 mm.

Dry spell: A dry spell is defined as a period of 5 or more consecutive dry days.

Dry day: A dry day is one with less than 0.2 mm of rainfall.

Rain day: A rain day is one with 0.2 mm or more of rainfall.

Wet day: A wet day is one having 1.0 mm or more of rainfall.

Appendix 2.

Explanation and decode for code figures used in the Wokingham 0900 and 1500 GMT observations

VV : Visibility.

Code figures 00 to 50 are in km and tenths e.g. 01 = 0.1 km = 100 m, 33 = 3.3 km, 50 = 5.0 km

Code figures 60 to 80. Subtract 50 to obtain visibility in km. e.g. 56 = 6 km, 65 = 15 km, 77 = 27 km.

Code figures 81 to 89. Subtract 50 and add 5 for every one above 80. e.g. 83 = 45 km, 86 = 60 km.

Code figure 89 = visibility above 70 km.

N : Total cloud amount in okta (eighths of sky covered). 9 = sky obscured (e.g. by fog or snow)

dd : Wind direction in tens of degrees from true north. Wind is measured at a height of 10 m, and the direction is the mean over a period of 10 minutes ending at the observation time.

ff : Wind speed in knots, measured at 10 m, and is the mean over a period of 10 minutes ending at observation time.

gg : Wind gust in knots at 10 m. The highest gust in the 60 minutes up to observation time.

TT : Air temperature at 1.2m, degrees C and tenths.

TdTd : Dew point temperature at 1.2m, degrees C and tenths.

RH : Relative humidity at 1.2m, %.

r : Humidity mixing ratio (amount of water vapour per kg of air), grams and tenths.

PPP : Air pressure reduced to MSL, millibars and tenths.

a : Characteristic of pressure tendency during the past 3 hours.

Code figures 0 to 3, pressure higher than 3 hours ago, 5 to 8, pressure lower than 3 hours ago

Code figure 0 = Increasing then decreasing, pressure the same as or higher than 3 hours ago

1 = Increasing then steady or increasing more slowly

2 = Increasing steadily or unsteadily

3 = Decreasing or steady then increasing, or increasing then increasing more rapidly

4 = Steady, pressure the same as 3 hours ago

5 = Decreasing then increasing, pressure lower than 3 hours ago

6 = Decreasing then steady or decreasing more slowly

7 = Decreasing steadily or unsteadily

8 = Steady or increasing then decreasing, or decreasing then decreasing more rapidly

ppp : 3 hour pressure tendency in tenths of a millibar

ww : Present weather code figures, 00 to 99.

Present weather decode:

00 = Cloud development not observed or not observable

01 = Clouds generally dissolving or becoming less developed

02 = State of sky on the whole unchanged

03 = Clouds generally increasing or becoming more developed

04 = Visibility reduced by smoke, e.g. veldt or forest fires, industrial smoke or volcanic ashes.

05 = Haze, visibility reduced by extremely small dry particles (RH less than appx. 95 %)

06 = Widespread dust in suspension, not raised by the wind near the station at the time of the observation

07 = Dust or sand raised by the wind at or near the station at the time of the observation, but no well-developed dust whirls or sand whirls, and no duststorm or sandstorm seen: In marine environments, blowing spray at the station.

08 = Well-developed dust or sand whirls seen at or near the station during the preceding hour or at the time of the observation, but no duststorm or sandstorm.

09 = Duststorm or sandstorm within sight at the time of the observation, or at the station during the preceding hour

- 10 = Mist
 11 = Patches of shallow fog not deeper than 2 metres on land
 12 = More or less continuous shallow fog not deeper than 2 metres on land
 13 = Lightning visible, no thunder heard
 14 = Precipitation within sight, not reaching the ground
 15 = Precipitation within sight, reaching the ground more than 5 km from the station
 16 = Precipitation within sight, reaching the ground, near to but not at the station
 17 = Thunderstorm, but no precipitation at the time of the observation
 18 = Squalls at or within sight of the station at the time of the observation or during the preceding hour
 19 = Funnel cloud(s) at or within sight of the station at the time of the observation or during the preceding hour
- 20 = Drizzle (not freezing) at the station during the preceding hour but not at the time of the observation
 21 = Rain (not freezing) at the station during the preceding hour but not at the time of the observation
 22 = Snow at the station during the preceding hour but not at the time of the observation
 23 = Rain and snow or ice pellets at the station during the preceding hour but not at the time of the observation
 24 = Freezing drizzle or freezing rain at the station during the preceding hour but not at the time of the observation
 25 = Shower(s) of rain at the station during the preceding hour but not at the time of the observation
 26 = Shower(s) of snow or rain and snow at the station during the preceding hour but not at the time of the observation
 27 = Shower(s) of hail or rain and hail at the station during the preceding hour but not at the time of the observation
 28 = Fog or ice fog at the station during the preceding hour but not at the time of the observation
 29 = Thunderstorm, with or without precipitation at the station during the preceding hour but not at the time of the observation
- 30 = Slight or moderate duststorm or sandstorm has decreased during the preceding hour
 31 = Slight or moderate duststorm or sandstorm with no appreciable change during the past hour
 32 = Slight or moderate duststorm or sandstorm has begun or increased during the past hour
 33 = Severe duststorm or sandstorm has decreased during the preceding hour
 34 = Severe duststorm or sandstorm with no appreciable change during the past hour
 35 = Severe duststorm or sandstorm has begun or increased during the past hour
 36 = Slight or moderate drifting snow generally below eye level
 37 = Heavy drifting snow generally below eye level
 38 = Slight or moderate blowing snow generally above eye level
 39 = Heavy blowing snow generally above eye level
- 40 = Fog or ice fog at a distance at the time of the observation, but not at the station during the preceding hour, the fog extending to a level above that of the observer.
 41 = Fog or ice fog in patches
 42 = Fog or ice fog, sky visible has become thinner during the past hour
 43 = Fog or ice fog, sky invisible has become thinner during the past hour
 44 = Fog or ice fog, sky visible no appreciable change during the past hour
 45 = Fog or ice fog, sky invisible no appreciable change during the past hour
 46 = Fog or ice fog, sky visible has begun or become thicker during the past hour
 47 = Fog or ice fog, sky invisible has begun or become thicker during the past hour
 48 = Fog, depositing rime, sky visible
 49 = Fog depositing rime, sky invisible
- 50 = Drizzle, not freezing, intermittent slight at time of observation
 51 = Drizzle, not freezing, continuous slight at time of observation
 52 = Drizzle, not freezing, intermittent moderate at time of observation
 53 = Drizzle, not freezing, continuous moderate at time of observation
 54 = Drizzle, not freezing, intermittent heavy at time of observation
 55 = Drizzle, not freezing, continuous heavy at time of observation
 56 = Drizzle, freezing, slight
 57 = Drizzle, freezing, moderate or heavy (dense)
 58 = Drizzle and rain, slight
 59 = Drizzle and rain, moderate or heavy

60 = Rain, not freezing, intermittent slight at time of observation
61 = Rain, not freezing, continuous slight at time of observation
62 = Rain, not freezing, intermittent moderate at time of observation
63 = Rain, not freezing, continuous moderate at time of observation
64 = Rain, not freezing, intermittent heavy at time of observation
65 = Rain, not freezing, continuous heavy at time of observation
66 = Rain, freezing, slight
67 = Rain, freezing, moderate or heavy
68 = Rain or drizzle and snow, slight
69 = Rain or drizzle and snow, moderate or heavy

70 = Intermittent fall of snowflakes slight at time of observation
71 = Continuous fall of snowflakes slight at time of observation
72 = Intermittent fall of snowflakes moderate at time of observation
73 = Continuous fall of snowflakes moderate at time of observation
74 = Intermittent fall of snowflakes heavy at time of observation
75 = Continuous fall of snowflakes heavy at time of observation
76 = Diamond dust (with or without fog)
77 = Snow grains (with or without fog)
78 = Isolated star-like snow crystals (with or without fog)
79 = Ice pellets

80 = Rain shower(s), slight
81 = Rain shower(s), moderate or heavy
82 = Rain shower(s), violent
83 = Shower(s) of rain and snow mixed, slight
84 = Shower(s) of rain and snow mixed, moderate or heavy
85 = Snow shower(s), slight
86 = Snow shower(s), moderate or heavy
87 = Shower(s) of snow pellets or small hail, with or without rain or rain and snow mixed, slight
88 = Shower(s) of snow pellets or small hail, with or without rain or rain and snow mixed, moderate or heavy
89 = Shower(s) of hail, with or without rain or rain and snow mixed, not associated with thunder, slight
90 = Shower(s) of hail, with or without rain or rain and snow mixed, not associated with thunder, moderate or heavy

91 = Slight rain at time of observation, thunderstorm during the past hour but not at time of observation
92 = Moderate or heavy rain at time of observation, thunderstorm during the past hour but not at time of observation
93 = Slight snow, or rain and snow mixed, or hail at time of observation, thunderstorm during the past hour but not at time of observation
94 = Moderate or heavy snow, or rain and snow mixed, or hail at time of observation, thunderstorm during the past hour but not at time of observation
95 = Thunderstorm, slight or moderate, without hail but with rain and or snow at time of observation
96 = Thunderstorm, slight or moderate, with hail at time of observation
97 = Thunderstorm, heavy, without hail but with rain and or snow at time of observation
98 = Thunderstorm combined with duststorm or sandstorm at time of observation
99 = Thunderstorm, heavy, with hail at time of observation

Hail includes large hail, small hail and snow pellets.

W1, W2 : Past weather (for 0900 and 1500 GMT observations, the period covered is 3 hours)

Code figures:

- 0 = Cloud covering half or less of the sky throughout the period
- 1 = Cloud covering more than half the sky during only part of the period
- 2 = Cloud covering more than half the sky throughout the period
- 3 = Sandstorm, duststorm or blowing snow
- 4 = Fog or ice fog or thick haze (visibility less than 1000 m)
- 5 = Drizzle
- 6 = Rain
- 7 = Snow or rain and snow mixed
- 8 = Shower(s)
- 9 = Thunderstorm(s) with or without precipitation

Nh : Amount of low cloud, or medium cloud if no low cloud present, okta

Cl : Type of low cloud

- 0 = No low cloud
- 1 = Cumulus with little vertical extent and seemingly flattened, or ragged Cumulus other than bad weather, or both
- 2 = Cumulus of moderate or strong vertical extent, either accompanied or not by other Cumulus or Stratocumulus all having their bases at the same level
- 3 = Cumulonimbus whose summits, at least partially, lack sharp outline, but are neither clearly fibrous (cirriform), nor in the form of an anvil; Cumulus, Stratocumulus or Stratus may also be present
- 4 = Stratocumulus formed by the spreading out of Cumulus; Cumulus may also be present
- 6 = Stratus in a more or less continuous sheet or layer, or ragged shreds, or both, but no Stratus fractus of bad weather
- 7 = Stratus fractus of bad weather or Cumulus fractus of bad weather or both (pannus), usually below Altostratus or Nimbostratus
- 8 = Cumulus and Stratocumulus other than that formed by the spreading out of Cumulus, the bases of the Cumulus and Stratocumulus are not at the same level.
- 9 = Cumulonimbus, the upper part of which is clearly fibrous (cirriform), often in the form of an anvil, either accompanied or not by any other type(s) of low cloud
- / = Types of low cloud invisible due to darkness, fog, blowing dust or sand or other similar phenomena.

'Bad weather' denotes the conditions which generally exist during precipitation and a short time before and after.

Cm : Type of medium cloud.

- 0 = No medium cloud.
- 1 = Altostratus, the greater part of which is semi-transparent; through this part the sun or moon may be weakly visible, as through ground glass
- 2 = Altostratus, the greater part of which is sufficiently dense to hide the sun or moon, or Nimbostratus
- 3 = Altocumulus, the greater part of which is semi-transparent; the various elements of the cloud change only slowly and are all at a single level
- 4 = Altocumulus in patches (often in the form of almonds or fishes), the greater part of which is semi-transparent ; the clouds occur at one or more levels and the elements are continually changing in appearance
- 5 = Altocumulus in bands semi-transparent, of Altocumulus in one or more fairly continuous layers (semi-transparent or opaque), progressively invading the sky; these Altocumulus clouds generally thicken as a whole
- 6 = Altocumulus resulting from the spreading out of Cumulus (or Cumulonimbus)
- 7 = Altocumulus in two or more layers, usually opaque in places, and not progressively invading the sky; or opaque layer of Altocumulus not progressively invading the sky; or Altocumulus together with Altostratus or Nimbostratus
- 8 = Altocumulus with sproutings in the form of small towers or battlements, or Altocumulus having the appearance of cumuliform tufts
- 9 = Altocumulus of a chaotic sky, generally at several levels
- / = Types of medium cloud invisible owing to darkness, fog, blowing dust of sand or other similar phenomena, or more often because of the presence of a continuous layer of lower clouds.

Ch : Type of high cloud

- 0 = No high cloud
1 = Cirrus in the form of filaments, strands or hooks, not progressively invading the sky.
2 = Dense cirrus, in patches or entangled sheaves, which usually do not increase and sometimes seem to be the remains of the upper part of a Cumulonimbus; or Cirrus with sproutings in the form of small turrets or battlements, or Cirrus having the appearance of cumuliform tufts
3 = Dense Cirrus, often in the form of an anvil, being the remains of the upper part of Cumulonimbus, or where the rest of the Cumulonimbus is below the horizon
4 = Cirrus in the form of hooks or filaments, or both, progressively invading the sky; they generally become denser as a whole
5 = Cirrus (often in bands converging towards one or two opposite points on the horizon) and Cirrostratus, or Cirrostratus alone; in either case they are progressively invading the sky, and generally growing denser as a whole, but the continuous veil does not reach 45 degrees above the horizon.
6 = Cirrus (often in bands converging towards one or two opposite points on the horizon) and Cirrostratus, or Cirrostratus alone; in either case they are progressively invading the sky, and generally growing denser as a whole; the continuous veil extends more than 45 degrees above the horizon, without the sky being totally covered
7 = Veil of Cirrostratus covering the celestial dome.
8 = Cirrostratus not progressively invading the sky and not completely covering the celestial dome
9 = Cirrocumulus alone, or accompanied by Cirrus or Cirrostratus, or both, but Cirrocumulus is predominant.
/ = Types of high cloud invisible owing to darkness, fog, blowing dust of sand or other similar phenomena, or more often because of the presence of a continuous layer of lower clouds.

8 Groups

N = Amount of cloud reported by C, okta.

C = Type of cloud

- 0 = Cirrus (Ci)
1 = Cirrocumulus (Cc)
2 = Cirrostratus (Cs)
3 = Altocumulus (Ac)
4 = Altostratus (As)
5 = Nimbostratus (Ns)
6 = Stratocumulus (Sc)
7 = Stratus (St)
8 = Cumulus (Cu)
9 = Cumulonimbus (Cb)

/ = Cloud type not visible owing to darkness, fog, duststorm, or other analogous phenomena.

hshs = Height of cloud above station level reported by type C

00 to 50 = Height in hundreds of feet

51 to 55 Not used

56 to 80 = Subtract 50 to obtain cloud height in thousands of feet

81 to 88 = Height of cloud between 35000 and 70000 ft in 5000 ft steps.