

Yorkshire & Humber Climate Change Adaptation Study

Recent Weather Events - Further Details on: Heatwaves

July 18th 2002

- Heatwave expected to continue for another 48 hours before thunderstorms sweep the region
- Tomorrow expected to be hottest day in July ever recorded
- Fire risk warnings placed on North York Moors which is said to be under tinderbox conditions from lack of rainfall
- Big blaze occurred near Ruswarp near Whitby
- Hotspots at risk of fires had to be damped down with ferried in water
- Moorland across Nidderdale and around Masham and Jervaulx was also in bad shape because of the heatwave. Any moorland fires that occur would have disastrous effects on the countryside and its wildlife
- Highest temperature in Yorkshire was 32°C in Linton-on-Ouse

April 14th 2003

- Blaze swept across Pennine moorland for 2 square miles near Marsden, west of Huddersfield
- National Trust and Fire Service worked to put blaze out. National Trust helicopters had to be used to drop water over the land
- Blaze was most likely caused by a discarded cigarette
- Moorland at Osmotherly, near Northallerton and Dalby Forest on the North York Moors also caught fire
- Grass fires in and around Leeds kept fire fighters busy, who received 30 call outs
- Cookridge fire fighters called out 5 times
- Stanks fire fighters called out 4 times
- Gipton fire fighters called out 5 times
- Rothwell fire fighters called out 5 times
- Hunslet fire fighters called out 6 times
- Stanningley and Morley fire fighters called out 2 times

April 17th 2003

- Heatwave across Yorkshire
- Temperatures soared to 27°C
- East Coast temperatures matched those of Cyprus, Greece, Italy and coastal Spain
- Estimated 18 million motorists to take to roads during holiday weekend

May 30th 2003

- Heatwave expected to last most of the weekend
- In Leeds temperatures rose to 25°C
- Temperatures in Bridlington only reached 17°C

June 1st 2003

- Temperatures reached 27.6°C in Leeds and 16°C in Bridlington
- Hottest day of the year so far with temperatures beating those of Bermuda, Rio de Janerio and the Costa Blanca
- Temperatures across Yorkshire was as high as 26°C in some places
- Clouds forecasted in Yorkshire tomorrow

July 14th 2003

- Temperatures in Yorkshire soared above 24°C
- Temperatures in Leeds went up to 28°C
- Temperatures in Sheffield went up to 26°C
- Temperatures in parts of inland Yorkshire went up to 27°C
- Regional low was at 17°C in Bridlington

July 14th 2003

- Hottest spot at Linton-on-Ouse in North Yorkshire where temperatures reached 26.4°C
- South easterly breezes brought cooler temperatures along Yorkshire's coasts only reached 18.5°C
- Temperatures in region expected to stay high for the next week but could become increasingly humid with a thundery break forecast

July 14th 2003

- Leeds was officially the hottest place in the north with temperatures around 29°C
- Current heatwave result of a large area of high pressure over Scandinavia which is ensuring Yorkshire is bathed in warmth
- Thunderstorms expected to occur later in the week

August 4th 2003

- Yorkshires tourism boosted by high temperatures
- Temperatures expected to reach 37.2°C mid-week
- Train operators had to observe a 60mph speed limit because of possible derailments
- A64 to York was extremely busy as was the A170 in Pickering
- Britain enjoyed 3rd warmest June-July for last 100 years

August 5th 2003

- Temperatures hit the 100F mark
- Day trippers brought boost to North Yorkshire Coast along beaches of Scarborough and Whitby.
- Rise in temperature brought rise in tourist numbers in Scarborough.
- Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Department forewarned that the heat wave conditions were causing smog which could lead to health problems.
- Smog effect is caused by an increased concentration of ozone created by the reaction between the sunshine and the pollutants from car exhaust and other fuel emissions.
- Rising temperatures forced rail chiefs to impose speed limits on some of the country's biggest commuter lines. Train operators were forced to observe a 60mph speed limit because of possible derailments as temperatures rose.

August 5th 2003

- 17 year old boy died while trying to cool off by swimming in the Aldwarke Lock just off the River Don in Rotherham where temperatures had reached 32°C
- Warnings placed telling people not to swim in the rivers because of the strong currents
- Network rail imposed the speed restrictions saying Virgin and Silverlink trains had halved their services from twice every hour to once every hour.
- Speed restrictions imposed on East Coast Main Line between Peterborough and Kings Cross, leading to the cancellation of the Leeds to Kings Cross
- Midland Main Line and Arriva trains had no problems
- M6 in the Midlands had to be closed for fears that the road was melting
- Highest temperature in Leeds reached 29°C
- RSPCA flooded with calls about tethered horses suffering from the heat
- Dogs were also in danger of being cooked alive
- Trade Union renewed its call for a maximum working temperature of 30°C or 27°C for strenuous work

September 17th 2003

- Blazes broke out on the moors between Scarborough and Whitby
- One of several fires across the region
- Traffic had to be diverted to avoid fires
- Fire fighters from South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire also had to be called to deal with a blaze off the A631 off Bawtry

June 24th 2005

- Temperatures in railway carriages rose to 46°C and passengers were forced to smash their way out of the trains after being trapped in the carriages on the East Coast Main Line for 2 hours
- The rail service suffered power failure which led to hundreds of people being trapped on 6 trains between London, the North East and Scotland
- Police had to helicopter supplies and ferry paramedics to dozens of people who were fainting and feeling unwell with rising temperatures
- 8 passenger had to be taken to hospital with heat related injuries
- The power cut occurred when a freight train hit the plastic pipe in Thackley Tunnel near Bradford on the Airedale and Wharfedale lines. The power had to be turned off so the object could be removed.

July 13th 2005

- 10 year old girl died when she drowned while paddling in the River Swale in Catterick
- On the same day a 18 year old boy drowned swimming at Manvers Lake in Wath-upon-Dearne
- Three weeks earlier two 15 year old boys drowned in Waterloo Lake at Roundhay Park in Leeds

July 13th 2005

- Temperatures 5 degrees higher than expected
- Delays on the A59 and A1
- Police buffer deployed on A1 to deal with congestion

August 22nd 2005

- 800 square metres of moorland was set alight at Madgin Lane, South Crossland above Huddersfield
- More than 70 fire fighters and 15 appliances were needed from nearly all the Calderdale and Kirklees fire stations including: Meltham, Marsden, Huddersfield, Mirfield, Elland, Brighouse, Cleckheaton, Halifax, Illingworth and Morley.
- A special Incident Support Unit, a Control Unit and a Hose Laying Unit each with their own pumping engines were sent to the scene

September 1st 2005

- One of the hottest days of the year gave way to torrential downpours in Yorkshire
- The day had started off with 29°C, which was recorded in Rotherham, Church Fenton and Linton-on-Ouse
- Hottest day of the year was on June 6th when temperatures reached 30°C
- Fire service in West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and Humberside received many phone calls as flash floods occurred across the region
- Leeds fire fighters were called to homes in Headingley and Woodhouse
- There were also calls to Huddersfield, Rawdon and Stanningley
- Leeds railway station flooded and dozens of rail services were delayed because of heavy rain and winds
- England cricket's Ashes heroes match at Headingley in Leeds was called off when the heat gave way to torrential downpours and lightning

June 13th 2006

- Heatwave broke with heavy downpours and hailstones in some areas including Mirfield and Birstall in Kirklees
- Several communities in East Yorkshire suffered flash floods
- Roads in Market Weighton were swamped by 2 feet of water
- Temperatures should stay around 22°C for the rest of the week but Yorkshire will suffer more rain
- Storms caused by cold front coming in from the Atlantic and mixing with hot humid air left over from the heat wave
- A rise in ozone levels triggered by the area of pressure over the UK has caused smog to form
- Experts warn that lung diseases such as asthma could worsen and have asked the public to avoid doing any outdoor exercise
- Motorists have also been urged to cut out unnecessary car journeys, as pollutants from petrol and other fuels are a factor in the creation of ground level ozone

June 13th 2006

- Temperatures on 12th June 2006 were highest temperatures ever recorded on that day, beating the previous high set on the North Yorkshire Coast 109 years ago.
- Temperatures reached 27°C in Dishforth, North Yorkshire

June 17th 2006

- 10,000 fish including bream, carp, perch, pike, roach and eels have died in Kettlethorpe Lake in Wakefield with thousands more dying across the rest of England. Their deaths have been caused by a drop in water oxygen levels from the hot weather
- Desperate efforts under way to re-oxygenate the lake
- Anglers urged to report fish in distress, temperatures due to continue to rise
- If fish are struggling they will stay in one place near the surface of the water, gasping for air and be swimming very slowly in large groups
- In the hot weather fast growing algae will increase in growth, which could exhaust the dissolved oxygen
- Weather expected to peak tomorrow at 25°C

July 3rd 2006

- Temperatures in Leeming in North Yorkshire reached around 25°C

July 4th 2006

- During the 2003 heatwave more than 2,000 people died in England with 85% of them being people aged 75 or over
- On Sunday temperatures were recorded at 27.5°C with the torrential downpour not lowering the temperatures in the slightest
- Sharp rise in visits to A & E at both Leeds General Infirmary and St James' Hospital as well as the St George's Walk-in Centre
- Many people were suffering from respiratory problems which is one of the early symptoms of heat exhaustion
- Other signs of heat exhaustion include headaches, nausea, intense thirst, sleepiness, hot red and dry skin, a sudden rise in temperature, confusion, aggression, convulsions and a loss of consciousness
- If heat exhaustion is untreated it can lead to heatstroke which can result in irreversible damage to the body or even death
- Taking cool baths, showers, washing yourself with cold water, drinking lots of water or fruit juice, and avoiding alcohol are the best ways to avoid it
- Overheating can manifest in muscle cramps, weakness or disturbed sleep.
- Hottest part of the day will be between 11am and 3pm
- Children under the age of four are less able to counter the effects of the heat
- Health and social care services have been primed to assist the elderly

July 7th 2006

- Hospitals in Leeds struggling to cope with people suffering from heat related problems
- Hospital visits have been up 20% since the heatwave began
- On average 280 people are seen in A & E at Leeds General Infirmary and 245 at St James' Hospital
- At one point medics were seeing 342 people a day at Leeds General Infirmary and 311 at St James' Hospital
- People with non-urgent injuries and illnesses were urged to stay away from casualty to allow medics to deal with heat related problems unhindered
- Heat health alert was at level 3
- People with chronic illnesses such as heart disease or diabetes were most at risk from suffering heat related illnesses

July 12th 2006

- People in Wakefield have been told to avoid swimming in ponds, lakes and quarries
- Wakefield Council has also told people to beware of doing anything that might spark fires in parks or the countryside
- Risks of swimming due to very cold water in deeper areas and tangled weeds and rubbish

July 19th 2006

- Pressure surge caused several burst mains.
- About 500 properties in Acomb, York were affected after 11 water mains burst. 3 houses flooded and thousands of others were left with reduced water pressure. Westfield Community Primary School had to be closed
- Customers on Yorkshire Waters vulnerable register including the Gale Farm Court and Windsor House Care homes were supplied with bottled water.
- Water incident occurred after a power cut at 5am that took out the company's telemetry that tells them how much water in the mains and what pressure it is operating at. Power cut caused system to believe Acomb was having water shortage so pumped more water to the town to compensate, causing the mains to burst.
- Tinder-dry corn field burst into flames in Easingwold with flames that leapt to 30 foot.

July 19th 2006

- Gritters were sent out to stop the roads from melting in North Yorkshire as temperatures soared above 30°C
- A York Primary School was forced to shut as it was deemed to hot for the children.
- 13 gritting machines were sent to North Yorkshire to stop roads melting in Richmond, Thirsk, Kirbymoorside, Skipton, Selby and Starbeck, near Harrogate.
- One of the hottest places in North Yorkshire was RAF Linton-on-Ouse near York. Temperatures recorded at the base went up to 31.2°C.

July 19th 2006

- Council gritters were deployed to stop roads from melting
- Temperatures predicted to rise to 36°C
- British heatwave temperatures higher than those of Athens, Bermuda and Rome
- In York, Scarcroft Primary School pupils had to be sent home early
- Up to 500 properties in York was left without water after a power failure at a pumping station, which led to 11 separate bursts in water mains in the city, forcing the closure of Westfield Community Primary School
- Bottled water was made available to those without supplies
- Burst mains also led to the suspension of the right to ramble on open moorland in the Peak District National Park to cut the risk of fire
- Restrictions on force in North York Moors
- Elderly people were advised to stay indoors and drink lots of water

July 19th 2006

- Between 9am and 4pm 300 grass fires occurred in West Yorkshire and dozens more took place in the evening and overnight
- In North Yorkshire crews were damping down at a fire which had been smouldering on the North York Moors for 3 days
- Most grass fires caused by discarded cigarette ends, children playing with matches or discarded bottles
- At Cookridge there were fires in the quarry at West Park, off the ring road, that took an hour to deal with. There was also a smaller fire in the morning in the woods at the bottom of Butcher Road in Horsforth
- Gipton fire station was the busiest fire station in West Yorkshire. Between 6pm and 9pm they had to put out numerous grass fires with an extremely large one near ASDA at Killingbeck
- Rothwell fire crews were called out 4 times to deal with grass fires overnight. One on a banking next to the M62 motorway at junction 30.
- Moortown, Stanningley, Morley and Rawdon all had multiple call outs

July 20th 2006

- Hottest July in 95 years
- Hottest place in Yorkshire was Leeming where temperatures reached 29°C
- Pet owners were told to look out for pets and an animal sun block was even created
- Cross Lane Primary School in Elland, Leeds had to cancel their sports day

July 26th 2006

- Thundery showers expected to hit Yorkshire
- Temperatures expected to reach 28°C in inland Yorkshire
- Risk of showers throughout week as temperatures drop
- Heat health watch is still at level 3 heatwave
- Call for maximum working temperatures to be put in place again

July 26th 2006

- In Leeds temperatures hit the high 20's in celcius with 30°C being reached on a number of days
- People advised to look after their own health everyone else.
- NHS advises to keep babies out of the sun, apply high factor sun cream regularly to the babies' skin, give the baby plenty of cooled boiled water throughout the day and night, make sure you and other family members drink plenty of fluids, keep in the shade, make sure babies or children wear sun hats, keep bedrooms cool throughout the day by keeping the curtains shut, make sure the babies room is kept between 16°C and 20°C
- High temperatures will continue until the middle of the week then start to cool

July 27th 2006

- Britons are going abroad to get away from heatwave
- Flash floods occurred in East Yorkshire after heavy downpours and hail storms
- A number of properties on a housing estate were flooded in Willerby, near Hull, with nearly 18 inches of water flooding the town's Main Street
- Restaurant on Ferriby Road in Hessle flooded
- Stormy weather expected in inland Yorkshire, including the Vale of York
- Temperatures to reach 27°C before lessening
- Moorland fires around Ilkley and Baildon
- There were fires that occurred earlier on the North York Moors and near Keighley
- In early August the weather is meant to cool as warm continental airflow will be replaced by winds coming in from the cool Atlantic, bringing showery rain at times
- Power companies needed to generate more electricity as people have been using air conditioning a lot more

July 30th 2006

- Lowest temperature in Yorkshire expected to be 29°C and the government has issued heatwave warnings
- The Department of Health has said there is an 80% chance temperatures will be high enough on at least 2 consecutive days that it will give rise to significant health risks
- Lowest overnight temperature in Yorkshire expected to be 13°C
- Alcohol, tea and coffee should be avoided

August 1st 2006

- Average night and day temperatures in the UK for July was 17.8°C
- There have been 258 hours of sunshine in England this month up to July 26th.

August 1st 2006

- Weather has cooled over last couple of days
- Temperatures inside Leeds Tropical World reached almost 38°C
- RSPCA has received 3 times as many complaints about dogs left alone in the heatwave. They have advised people not to leave their dogs in cars or anywhere without shade and water. People have also been advised to use sun cream on their pets
- Wildlife on the moorland had to struggle to keep away from moorland fires
- Ilkley Moor which is home to grouse, snipe, curlew and pheasants was the worst hit by fires
- Giant ocean fish have been spotted in UK waters and Adonis Blue butterflies have also been sighted.

August 5th 2006

- A series of Moor fires erupted near Whitby on the weekend of July 15th and July 16th. Fire engines from all over North Yorkshire and Cleveland were mobilised. 66 hectares from Robin Hood's bay to Ruswarp near Whitby and across Sneaton were destroyed.

September 20th 2006

- Temperatures in Yorkshire up to 28°C
- Weather likely to be very windy

December 23rd 2006

- The 2005 heatwave led to a huge rise in hospital admissions