

Hours of Bright Sunshine recorded from Armagh Observatory

In 1880 a Campbell-Stokes sunshine recorder was set up at the Armagh Observatory. In the early days it was mounted on top of the roof of the Main Building where it can be seen in contemporary photographs. There were probably some teething problems with the equipment as for several years prior to 1886, there are extended periods with missing data. Days when data are missing have been shown in the daily data files with values -888. The sunshine recorder was mounted on a steel tower in the grounds of the Observatory in 1927 and moved to yet higher towers in 1952/3 and 2001. See the publications for further information.

Details of the monthly, seasonal and annual totals are given in the two papers published on these data: one in the International Journal of Climatology and the other in the Observatory's in-house Met publication. In the former, the plots shown for years prior to 1886 are incorrect due to no account being taken of the days with missing data.

Publications :

Palle, E. and Butler, C.J. (2001) Sunshine Records from Ireland, Cloud Factors and possible links to Solar Activity and Cosmic Rays. International Journal of Climatology 21, 709-729.

Butler, C.J., Emerson, M, Garcia Suarez, A.M., Palle, E. and Kelly, S.T. (2005) Meteorological Data recorded at Armagh Observatory from 1795 to 2004 : Volume 10 -Daily, Monthly, Seasonal and Annual Hours of Bright Sunshine 1880-2004.

Data Files:

sun/daily/sun-daily-1880-2001 , sun-new, ver_1880_1889	Daily verified daily sunshine hours
www.climate.armagh.ac.uk/calibrated/sun/index.html	Similar
sun/monthly/sun-mon-totals-1880-2010	Monthly totals
sun/seas-ann/sun_seasver_1880_2003	Seasonal totals
sun/seas-ann/sun_ann_1886-2009	Annual totals

CJB,
December 2021