The sea off Dorset’s coast is a highly sought-after sailing destination. The London 2012 Olympic sailing and Paralympic sailing events take place off this part of the Dorset coastline known as Osprey Quay between 29 July and 6 September.

The Met Office observation site at Portland shows that the prevailing wind is usually from the southwest, but occasionally an easterly will blow from continental Europe. During August and September temperatures are typically in the high teens. On calm summer days, a sea breeze is likely, giving variable winds and a testing environment for sailing. A steady wind direction and speed would provide the ideal conditions for competing athletes.

The Met Office has installed a near-shore observation buoy off Weymouth Harbour to provide more detailed weather observations to support weather forecasting for the sailing events.

The Met Office will be providing forecasts for these venues, and around 5,000 more locations throughout the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and beyond.

The weather statistics on this factsheet are based on local observations averaged over a 30 year period between 1971 and 2000. They provide a guide to the weather that could, on average, be expected in July, August and September. However, the actual weather we see during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games may vary from these average conditions.

For more information and for other available stat packs, contact the Press Office on pressoffice@metoffice.gov.uk or call +44 (0)1392 886 655. © Crown Crown copyright 2012 12/0229