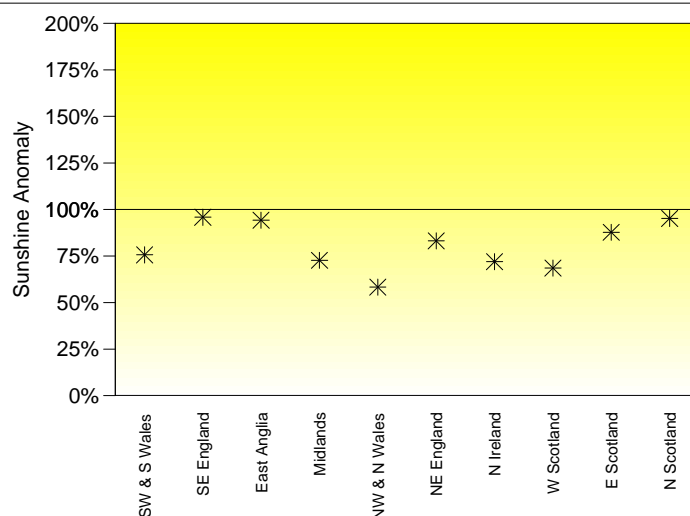
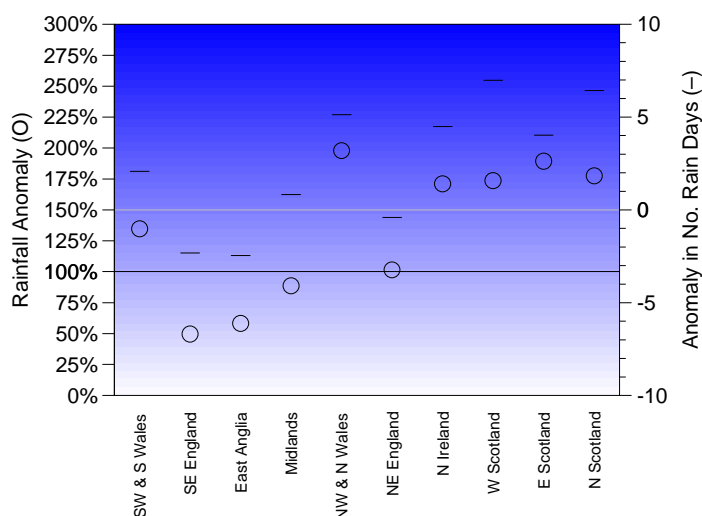


Extremes for July 2010		
Hottest:	33.0°C	Donna Nook SAMOS, Lincolnshire, 7th
Coldest:	0.0°C	Donna Nook SAMOS, Lincolnshire, 8th
Most Rain:	70.0mm	Hawarden, Clwyd, 20th
Most Sun:	15.7hrs	Lerwick, Shetland, 13th
Windiest:	78mph	Aberdaron SAWS, Gwynedd, 15th
Warmest:	20.6°C	London Olympic Park South, Greater London
Coolest:	12.3°C	Foula No 2, Shetland
Wettest:	368.9mm	Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd
Driest:	3.0mm	Norwich Airport, Norfolk
Sunniest:	326.3hrs	Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	66.1hrs	Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway



July is normally the warmest month of the year and the 6 weeks commencing 3rd when the star Sirius rises and sets at about the same time are known as the "Dog Days", a period which is supposed to be particularly warm and stuffy. The Roman poet Horace referred to "the harsh season of the blazing Dog Star".

July this year was characterised by an Atlantic regime, and it was much duller and wetter in western areas than in the east. The month began with a deep area of low pressure off Eire, giving rain or showers in the west and north of the UK but mostly dry, very warm and muggy conditions in the south-east. Another depression zipped across northern Scotland on the 4th, bringing rain and high winds to the north but again, very little rain to the south and east. The following week continued in a similar vein with further cloud and rain across the west and north, and very warm, mostly dry weather elsewhere. The highest temperature of the year so far occurred on the afternoon of the 9th with Gravesend, Kent, recording 31.7°C (89°F) in brilliant sunshine. It was almost as hot the following day, but cooler weather reached all areas on the 12th with some welcome rain for parched gardens in the south-east; Manston, Kent, recorded 28mm. The next week was much more unsettled. Most places had rain or showers, and thunderstorms occurred over the Midlands on the 14th. Heavy rain and strong winds buffeted western areas overnight on the 15th /16th as a deep depression sped north through the Irish Sea, and there was a gust of 84mph at Aberdaron, Gwynedd. Pressure then rose again in the south, and the rest of the month reverted to its familiar pattern displaying some stark geographical contrasts in weather. On the 20th a deluge of rain fell over western areas and caused some localised flooding whilst the south-east remained dry and very warm with maxima above 28°C (82°F). The following day widespread heavy storm affected Wales and the north west (e.g. 68mm at Hawarden Airport, Flintshire, 47mm at Ness Gardens, Cheshire, and 45mm at Preston, Lancs) Conditions were quieter during the final week, but weak fronts still brought some light rain to the north, and it was rather warm and humid everywhere.

For the month as a whole there was a marked west-east gradient in temperature ranging from near average in much of Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and western England, to 2.0°C above average in East Anglia. Rainfall was well above normal in many northern and western areas, but much of the Midlands, eastern and southern England was very dry - with less than half the normal amount in counties from Cambridgeshire to Sussex. Many places were duller than average as a result of the relatively cloudy Atlantic airstreams.

A remorseless heat wave gripped Russia during July and the country registered its hottest ever temperature on the 11th, when Yashkul, Kalmykia Republic reached 44°C (111.2°F) In Moscow, temperatures exceeded 30°C (86°F) every day from the 9th onwards and the capital recorded its hottest ever day on the 26th with 37.5°C (99.5°F) - trumped by 38.2°C (100.8°F) 3 days later. Forest and peat fires led to dangerous air pollution levels in Moscow and hundreds of citizens collapsed from heat exhaustion. Elsewhere in the country more than 1,200 deaths by drowning were reported as people tried to escape the heat and nearly 1000 forest fires were triggered, searing 26,000 hectares and destroying hundreds of homes in 18 Russian provinces. Neighbouring Finland recorded its hottest ever day on the 29th when the mercury hit 37.2°C (99°F) at Joensuu - smashing the old record of 35.9°C (97°F) Further afield, Qatar also sweltered in record breaking temperatures - on July 14th, Doha Airport reached 50.4°C (122.7°F)! In early July, heavy monsoon rains triggered floods and landslides in both southern (Kerala) and north-eastern (Assam) India. An estimated 500,000 people were forced to leave their homes. Later, on 29th - 30th, extreme monsoon rains in northwest Pakistan flooded rivers, submerged villages and triggered landslides; Peshawar recorded 333mm rain in 48 hours and Risalpur 401mm - ten times the average for the whole month! In the USA, a massive hailstorm hit the town of Vivian, South Dakota on the 23rd. One of the stones collected broke the U.S. record not only for the largest hailstone ever - but also the heaviest. The stone measured >20cm in diameter, and weighed nearly 1Kg - even after being stored in a freezer that lost power! Whilst heat waves were affecting the Northern Hemisphere, frigid air from Antarctica gripped South America. In Buenos Aires, the minimum temperature plunged to -1.5°C (29°F) on the 15th - the city's lowest temperature for a decade. At least 37 people died from cold in Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay. In the Peruvian Andes temperatures fell to -17°C (1°F)