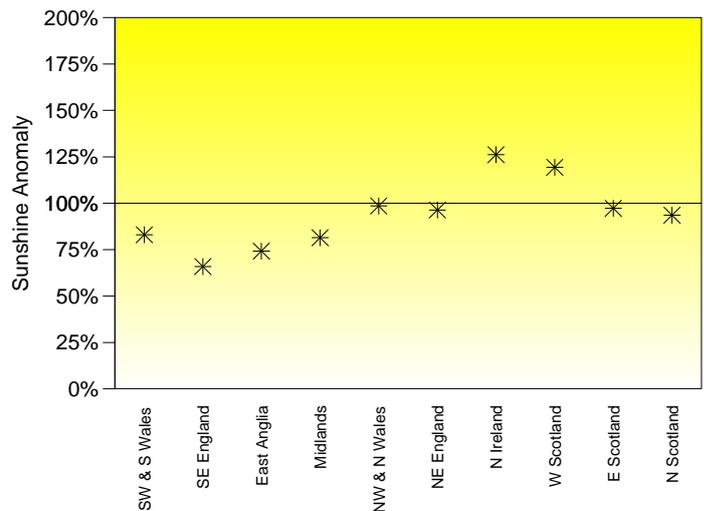
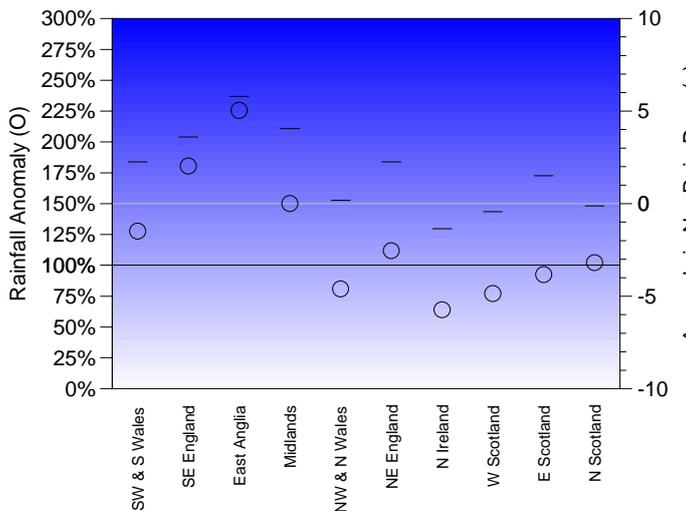


Extremes for August 2010	
Hottest:	26.7°C Weybourne, Norfolk, 21st
Coldest:	-1.3°C Altnaharra SAWS, Highland, 26th
Most Rain:	60.0mm Mumbles Head, West Glamorgan, 25th
Most Sun:	14.1hrs Prestwick RNAS, Strathclyde, 15th
Windiest:	65mph Stornoway, Western Isles, 20th
Warmest:	17.9°C London Olympic Park South, Greater London
Coollest:	11.5°C Loch Glascarnoch, Highland
Wettest:	174.6mm Ebbw Vale, Gwent
Driest:	37.7mm Trawscoed SAWS, Dyfed
Sunniest:	288.4hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	72.2hrs Kinlochewe, Highland



Despite its reputation as a summer month, August can be very unsettled - much to the annoyance of holiday-makers. In eastern England, it is the most thundery month of the year and as the summer solstice recedes fast, the nights draw in noticeably and morning mists beckon in the autumn.

August opened rather cloudy and muggy with some thundery showers on the 4th - which led to localised flooding in Sussex. The 5th dawned fresher and brighter, but further fronts swept in on the 6th bringing more rain, and showers followed the next day. A ridge brought a brief glimpse of summer on the 8th and 9th with brighter skies and warm temperatures - especially in the south-east. A wave running along a trailing cold front gave a wet day in the south on the 10th, and an area of low pressure over the North Sea dominated the UK's weather for the next 4 days with widespread heavy showers. These were particularly lively across the north-west on the 12th, and southern areas on the 14th when thunder was reported widely with torrential downpours. Marham, Norfolk, recorded 35mm in the 24 hours to 0900 on the 14th. The depression gradually migrated to the Continent by the 16th, but the changeable, rather cool weather continued across the UK with more showers or longer spells of rain. A humid airstream that invaded behind a warm front on the 20th, gave copious rainfall on western hills, but 26.7°C (80°F) was achieved at Lowestoft, Suffolk, the same day. The cold front was slow to clear southern areas, with muggy, cloudy weather persisting, and another frontal wave gave widespread rain overnight on the 22nd/23rd. A depression approaching south-west England on the 25th brought prolonged heavy rainfall overnight and into the 26th. 20mm of rain was reported widely and 40mm locally. 46mm fell at Wattisham, Suffolk, and a colossal 64mm at Mumbles Head, Swansea, in the 24 hours to 0900 on the 26th. Meanwhile most of the north remained dry and bright - if rather cool. The complex low at last moved slowly away into the Continent on the 27th, allowing a cool, showery air mass to encroach from the north - just in time for the Bank Holiday weekend. The 29th was a particularly cool and blustery day and snow fell on the tops of the Scottish mountains. As the winds eased, ground frost occurred in some rural areas on the final two nights of the month. Just as the return to work began on the 31st, high pressure began to build...

Nationally it was the coolest August since 1993 even though mean temperatures were only a little below normal. Most areas experienced a dull month and rainfall was well above normal over the south and east of England and south-east Wales. By contrast, areas to the north and west were drier than average - a marked reversal of fortunes from July's weather.

In eastern Europe, the exceptional heat of July persisted into August. On the 1st, Nicosia, Cyprus, recorded 45.6°C (114°F) - its highest temperature for at least 100 years. In Russia, temperatures in smoke shrouded Moscow exceeded 35°C (95°F) from 4th to the 9th inclusive and surpassed 30°C (86°F) for 38 successive days up to 15th August! St Petersburg hit 37.1°C (99°F) on 7th - an all time record, while in the south, Jaskul recorded 43.5°C (110°F) on 10th. At the beginning of August, 1,740km² was ablaze with over 600 active wildfires; the fires charred homes and farmland around Moscow and were expected to have a major impact on the wheat harvest. Temperatures in neighbouring Ukraine reached an all time high of 42°C (108°F) at Luhans on the 7th and that day Belarus also broke its highest ever temperature record with 38.9°C (102°F) at Gomel. Meanwhile, as the hot air receded very slowly eastwards, violent storms and severe floods affected central Europe. A dike broke near Bad Muskau, Poland, inundating two villages and flood damages was estimated at \$215M in the Czech Republic alone. In Väike-Maarja, Estonia, winds gusted to 83 mph on the 8th uprooting trees and damaging buildings. During the early hours of 23rd a hailstorm battered north-west Poland. First size hailstones brought down trees and power lines, damaged homes and injured residents. On the 27th torrential rains triggered landslides and floods which swept through Gundogdu, in northern Turkey - killing at least 12 people. Further afield, in China floods triggered by torrential rains pounded north-eastern Jilin province. The summer floods in China have caused tens of billions of dollars in damage across 28 provinces and regions. About 875,000 homes have been destroyed, 9.61 million people evacuated, and 22 million acres of crops ruined. The devastating Asian Monsoon rains continued in Pakistan through August. Across the country more than 1,600 people were killed by the floods and six million were forced to flee their homes. 20 million people were affected and entire villages were submerged as an estimated 20% (160,000km²) of the country was under water. On August 24th tropical Storm Mindulle made landfall along Vietnam's north-central coast. With sustained winds of 70mph, Mindulle dumped up to 275mm of rain near Vinh within 12-hours. 47,000 homes and 158,000 acres of rice fields were destroyed. Towards the Arctic, on August 15th, Fairbanks (Alaska) recorded a temperature of 32.8C (91°F), smashing the old high of 30°C (86°F) set in 1926. On the 5th a 250km² chunk of ice broke off the Petermann Glacier in northwest Greenland.