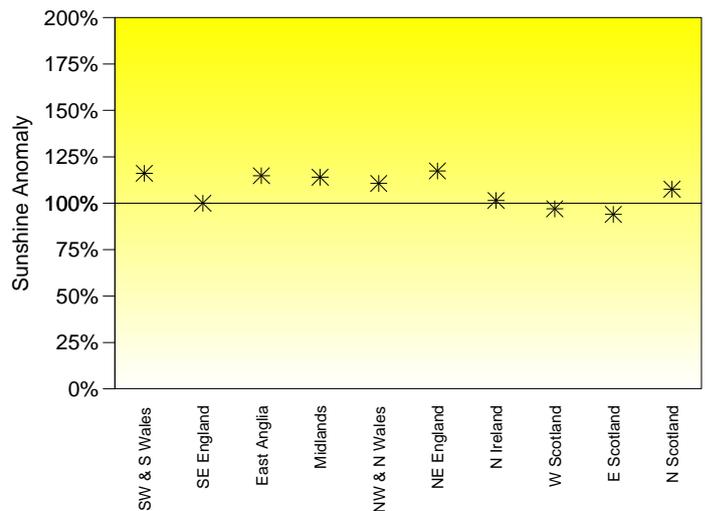
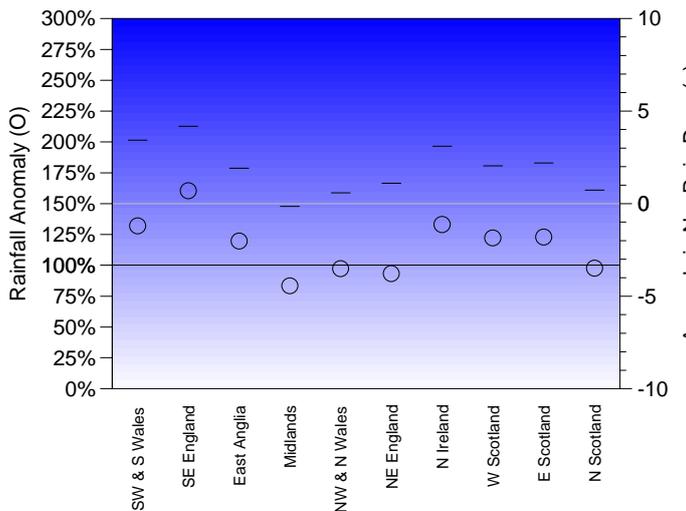


Extremes for June 2011	
Hottest:	34.0°C Culford, Suffolk, 27th
Coldest:	-1.9°C Altnaharra SAWS, Highland, 10th
Most Rain:	48.4mm Kinlochewe, Highland, 1st
Most Sun:	16.5hrs Norwich Airport, Norfolk, 26th
Windiest:	63mph Fair Isle, Shetland, 14th
Warmest:	16.7°C London Olympic Park South, Greater London
Coolest:	9.7°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	156.5mm Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd
Driest:	17.2mm Mona, Gwynedd
Sunniest:	313.7hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	90.9hrs Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway



The days are now at their longest, but the weather is not always at its calmest, and June often marks a transition from anticyclonic northerlies or north-easterlies to Atlantic westerlies. Thus the familiar events of Glastonbury, Royal Ascot and Wimbledon are prone to disruption from the vagaries of the weather, and this was certainly the case this year, though the rainfall doubtless brought some relief to the thirsty gardens of eastern England.

June began fine for much of England and Wales, but fronts brought cloud and light rain to Scotland and N. Ireland on the 1st. By the 3rd, high pressure was in command, meaning long sunny spells for most and maxima widely exceeding 21°C (70°F), but with a cooling north-easterly breeze in the south. On the 4th, 28.1°C (82°F) was achieved at Solent, Hampshire, but by now much cooler air was invading from the north - and the following week was unsettled with lower temperatures everywhere. Most places had a mixture of sunshine and sharp showers, and those making an ascent of Snowdon on the 10th were greeted by snow cover! Nights were chilly with local air frost, and temperatures dropped to -0.2°C (32°F) at Newington, Oxfordshire, early on the 12th. After this cold start, a vigorous depression brought a thoroughly wet day to England, Wales and N. Ireland, and wet night to Scotland. There was a brief surge northwards of warm and humid air on the 14th and 15th, but it soon became cooler again on the 16th as the familiar pattern of sunshine and showers returned. Another depression brought widespread rain late on the 17th and the fronts from the next low became slow-moving over southern Scotland and northern England, so that while the south became brighter with showers, there was prolonged rainfall in parts of the north from the 21st to 23rd. In the 24 hours ending 0900 on the 22nd, a colossal 47mm was recorded at Gogarbank, Edinburgh. This rain eased away by the 24th but later that day, warm fronts introduced humid air and further rain. By the 26th, the cloud broke over England and Wales and temperatures soared in the strong sunshine. The brief heat wave peaked on the 27th, with a sizzling 33.1°C (91°F) recorded at Gravesend, Kent, making it the hottest UK day since July 2006. The following day saw a thundery breakdown, with numerous lightning strikes in central and eastern England causing disruption to East Coast mainline services. The control tower at Gatwick Airport was hit, and in parts of East Anglia there were hourly rainfall totals of 20mm. The final two days saw cooler but brighter weather, but with some heavy showers in the east.

Overall mean temperatures were close to the 1971-2000 average, though interestingly it was the coolest June in the UK since 2001, reflecting the warmth of recent Junes. Rainfall totals were very variable, indicating the showery nature of much of the rain. Parts of the north Midlands had a dry month, whereas southern England, South Wales, N. Ireland and southern and eastern Scotland were wetter than normal. Sunshine totals were very close to the average.

Intense heat and ensuing violent thunderstorms hit Europe 27th-29th. Decize in central France reached 40.2°C (105°F) on 28th, while hailstones 50mm across fell at Myjava, Slovakia on the 29th. In the USA, three tornadoes ripped through several communities in western and central Massachusetts on the 1st, killing three people and injuring 72 others. Damages along a 39 mile swathe were estimated to be in excess of \$90 million. Central and Eastern states experienced a heat wave at the start of the second week. Minneapolis/St. Paul, (Minnesota), recorded 39°C (103°F) on the 7th - the warmest day for the region since July 31st 1988. Wichita, Kansas experienced a "heat burst" on 9th with the temperature briefly rising by 11°C around midnight to 38°C (100°F) near midnight! The 9th also marked a third day of blistering heat over the central and eastern USA, the surge in demand for energy knocking out power to sections of downtown Detroit. Further southwest, the Wallow fire in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest became the largest wildfire in Arizona's history on the 13th. By the 20th the blaze had consumed over half a million acres and led to the evacuation of thousands of residents. In the Caribbean, a week of torrential rains during the first week culminated in flooding and mudslides in Haiti. A six-hour period of rainfall on the 7th brought 150 mm of rain along the Haiti/Dominican Republic border, drenching an already waterlogged region. At least 25 people were killed and six others were reported missing around Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince. Floods in south western China on 6th - 7th killed 21 people and also damaged roads, bridges and thousands of homes. Some 45,000 residents in worst-hit Wangmo county were evacuated. Coastal Zhejiang province's Qiantang river reached its highest level since 1955 on the 17th. Heavy rains triggered flooding and landslides that toppled 2,500 houses and flooded 350 roads. Zhejiang province alone sustained an estimated \$1.2 billion U.S. dollars in direct economic losses.