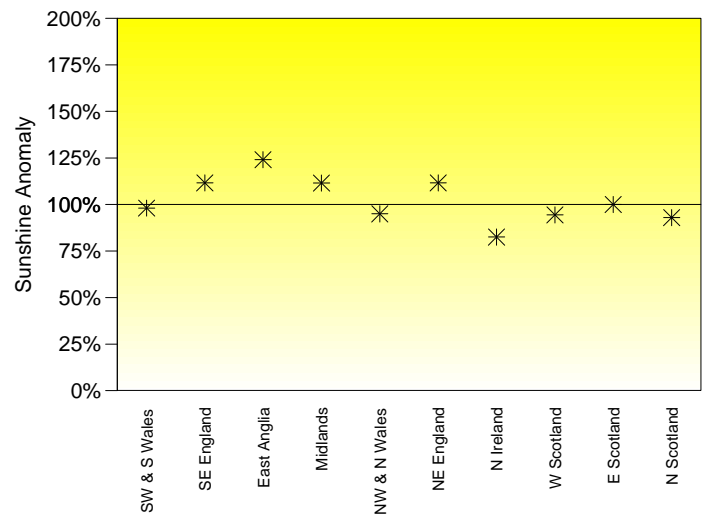
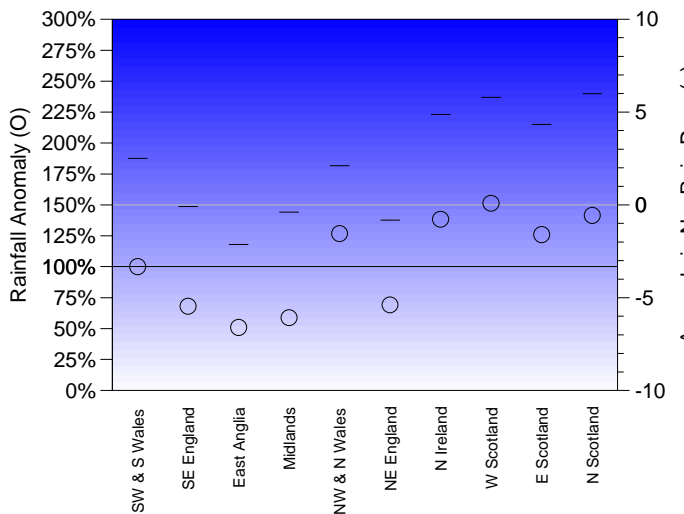


Extremes for September 2011	
Hottest:	29.2°C Cambridge, Niab, Cambridgeshire, 30th
Coldest:	-0.4°C Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire, 15th
Most Rain:	68.4mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty, 13th
Most Sun:	13.2hrs Cosby, Leicestershire, 1st
Windiest:	78mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 12th
Warmest:	17.7°C London Olympic Park South, Greater London
Coolest:	11.2°C Loch Glascarnoch, Highland
Wettest:	533.4mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	0.8mm Keele, Staffordshire
Sunniest:	237.6hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	40.2hrs Kinlochewe, Highland



Meteorologically speaking, September marks the beginning of autumn. As the midday sun drops lower in the sky, shady places may stay damp all day and overnight mists are slower to clear in the mornings. The odd gale may occur, especially in the north, but spells of mellow sunshine and late warmth feature too, as was the case this year.

September opened on a dry and relatively warm note and maxima exceeded 26°C (79°F) in parts of the south-east on the 2nd and 3rd. Cooler, more changeable conditions followed on the 4th and 5th with showers or longer spells of rain as Atlantic fronts displaced the sultry weather. A deep depression brought rain then showers and strong winds on the 6th and there were further fronts and more rain over the next few days. A brief surge of warm, humid air followed from the 9th before temperatures fell sharply on the 11th amidst widespread showers. A depression that contained the remnants of Hurricane Katia arrived on the 12th and gales lashed much of the UK - with the worst conditions in the north-west. Gusts exceeded 70mph in Scotland's central belt, towering waves battered the west Cumbrian coast and many ferry services were cancelled. Edinburgh Castle was evacuated amid fears that falling roof slates could injure visitors and there was one fatality near Barnard Castle, Co Durham, after a tree crushed a car. The weather was a little less boisterous on the 13th as the depression moved into Scandinavia but winds were still strong and it remained showery. A rise of pressure brought a quieter spell with chilly nights 14th-16th, but the changeable theme was quick to resume by the 17th. Two cool, showery days were followed by a cold night on the 18th/19th but the main thrust of the unsettled weather then transferred to northern and western parts with drier, warmer conditions in the south and east. An anticyclone became established over mainland Europe by the 23rd and spells of warm sunshine developed in the east. After scattered heavy downpours in SE England late on the 26th, the final four days saw a spell of exceptional warmth that has few parallels so late in the year. In central and eastern England sunshine was abundant, and 28.8°C (84°F) on the 29th at Kew Gardens, London, set a new UK record for that date. The 30th was no less spectacular and the record for this date was again smashed with 29.2°C (84°F) at Cambridge and Sutton Bonington, Notts.

The remarkable end of month warm spell helped make it the 6th warmest September in the last 100 years. Most of England saw rainfall below average and it was especially dry in the east. Meanwhile, the western Highlands of Scotland and parts of north-west England were wet with 150% of average rainfall. Sunshine patterns reflected this north-west/south-east split, and a relatively sunny East Anglia contrasted with a dull western Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Europe experienced a month of contrasting extremes. Jokkmokk, Sweden, recorded 181 mm of rain in September smashing the previous record of 136 mm in September 1876. In central Europe, snow fell in the Swiss Alps overnight on 18-19th to levels unprecedented for September and caused major traffic disruption with the St Bernard, Flüela and Nufenen passes all closed. In the ski resort of St Moritz, 45cm of snow was measured early on 19th as a cold front lowered the snow line to 800m. Lower down, 100mm of rain was recorded in Santa Maria, also in Grison - the highest daily fall for any month since records began in 1901. Western Europe basked in heat waves early and late in the month. On 10th, Troyes in France reached 33.8°C (93°F) while, more remarkably, Pontoise near Paris soared to 32.0°C (90°F) on the 30th. A tornado came ashore on the Greek island of Lefkada on the 20th and a tourist was killed as moored boats were sucked out of the harbour and onto land.

Sweltering heat that gripped the southern United States throughout the summer continued into September. On the 13th, Wichita Falls, Texas recorded its 100th day of 100°F (37.8°C) temperatures in 2011, shattering the old record of 79 days set in 1980. From 1st-11th, Tropical Storm Lee inundated Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee before bringing more floods to the north-eastern states recently hit by Hurricane Irene. New Orleans received more than 300mm of rain and Chattanooga, Tennessee 241mm on the 5th alone - smashing the previous daily record of 40mm set in 1959. Monsoon rains in southern Pakistan's Sindh province from August 10th through to mid-September, led to disastrous flooding that swamped 4.2 million acres (including 1.6 million acres of cropland) and destroyed or damaged one million homes. In northern and north-eastern Thailand, monsoon rains, flooding and landslides led to at least 112 deaths, left more than 300,000 homes wrecked and 1.3 million acres of cropland submerged. In China a week of heavy rains during mid-September inundated the central provinces of Sichuan, Henan, and Shaanxi and caused estimated economic losses of \$2.7 billion. Typhoon Talas unleashed torrents of rain across western Japan 2nd-5th. At least 59 people were killed and many thousands left stranded by the storm with landslides, flooded rivers and collapsed bridges hampering rescue efforts.