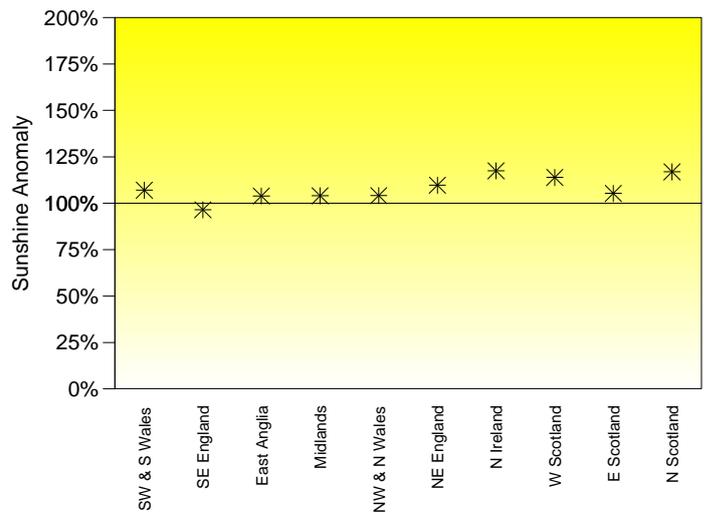
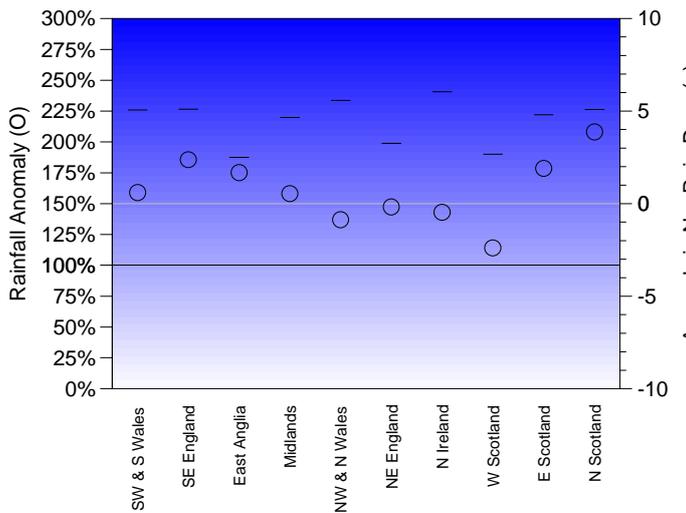


Extremes for August 2014	
Hottest:	27.2°C St James Park, Greater London, 7th
Coldest:	-1.9°C Braemar No 2, Avon, 25th
Most Rain:	136.9mm Fair Isle, Shetland, 9th
Most Sun:	14.4hrs Dyce, Grampian, 5th
Windiest:	62mph Tain Range SAWS, Highland, 11th
Warmest:	17.5°C St James Park, Greater London
Coolest:	10.7°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	339.2mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	56.2mm Whitechurch, Dyfed
Sunniest:	257.8hrs Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands
Dullest:	108.5hrs Bala, Clwyd



August marks the period of school holidays and high summer. Record warmth is the preserve of August. However (and like this year) the month frequently disappoints - with resurgent westerly's bringing unsettled weather and bouts of wind and rain. The evenings draw in noticeably from the final fortnight and ground frosts are not uncommon especially for northern Britain.

In contrast to the warm and dry weather of late July, the first three days of August were governed by an area of low pressure which gave showers or longer periods of heavy and thundery rain. It was also unusually windy for the time of year along Irish Sea coasts. Conditions became quieter on the 4th and the following six days were the month's warmest - with maxima in the south widely 22-25°C (72-77°F) and sunny spells on most days. A depression from the south brought heavy rain to southern and eastern Britain overnight on the 8th/9th. The 10th was a very wet day nationwide and Fair Isle in Shetland received a colossal 132.6mm in 24 hours - almost double its full-month average for August! An even more vigorous low containing the remnants of tropical storm "Bertha" then swept northwards on the 10th and 11th and brought more heavy rain and strong winds. Lossiemouth (Moray) received 100mm in 24 hours and there were numerous incidents of flooding and disruption to transport across north-east Scotland. In the aftermath of "Bertha" it turned unseasonably cool giving a decidedly autumnal feel. From the 12th to 24th winds were often north-westerly and a showery regime prevailed in polar maritime air. Some of the showers were heavy with hail and thunder, while early risers would have noticed a definite nip in the air around dawn, with local ground and even air frosts in the north. Early on the 24th, the mercury sank to -1.9°C (29°F) at Katesbridge (N. Ireland) and -2.1°C (28°F) was recorded at Braemar (Aberdeenshire) around dawn the following day. Bank Holiday Monday (25th) was very wet for England and Wales but it was a dry and sunny day in Scotland. It became a little milder during the final week as winds veered south-westerly but conditions remained very unsettled.

August ended the series of eight consecutive warmer than average months. Indeed it was the coolest August in 20 years with average temperatures 1-2°C below normal nationwide. It was also wet - notably so in northern Scotland - which had its wettest August in 100 years. Interestingly, sunshine was marginally above normal, especially in the north and west, reflecting the showery character of much of the rain.

In eastern Europe, August opened with extreme heat from Belarus to the Baltic. Several high temperatures records were set, including for Latvia where Ventspils recorded 36.7°C (98°F) on the 3rd and then 37.8°C (100°F) on the 4th. Sweden also sweltered e.g. 34.7°C (95°F) in Sala on the 5th, and the heat triggered the country's largest wildfire in 40 years which blackened 37,000 acres. In Italy, four people were killed and 20 others injured after a flash flood, triggered by a sudden cloudburst, tore through a festival at Refrontolo, north of Venice on the 2nd. Other villages in the area suffered landslides caused by the deluge. The remnants of former Hurricane "Bertha" were also felt in Western Europe on the 10th and 11th and tornadoes were reported across France and Belgium. One near Marbay, Belgium on the 10th injured dozens of people when a structure collapsed at a flea market and another in the municipality of Thuin damaged roofs and uprooted trees. Istanbul, Turkey was struck by heavy rain and thunderstorms on the 3rd. A waterspout which turned into a tornado as it moved inland caused damage across the Golden Horn and Eminonu districts of the city.

On the other side of the Atlantic, New York commuters woke to widespread flash flooding on the 11-12th after intense thunderstorms dumped 330mm of rain. On the 17th a prolonged and intense thunderstorm left several feet deep in parts of Mexico City. City tunnels and roadways became impassable and emergency workers were drafted with heavy equipment usually reserved for dealing with blizzards.

In Asia, Typhoon "Halong" generated record rainfall amounts for Japan 8th-11th. Halong made its first landfall near the city of Aki, on the island of Shikoku, with sustained winds of 75mph. Later, the Pacific coastal observatory at Cape Muroto recorded 94mph sustained winds - with gusts to 117mph! The maximum rainfall occurred in Yanase, Kochi Prefecture, on Shikoku. The site recorded an astonishing 1,081mm of rain in the 72-hour period ending at noon on the 10th, including a remarkable 862mm of rain in 24 hours. In Australia on the 27th three flood rescues were carried out in northern New South Wales as rainstorms inundated the region and caused flash flooding which cut off communities. Toormina, near Coffs Harbour, recorded 110mm of rain in 24 hours.