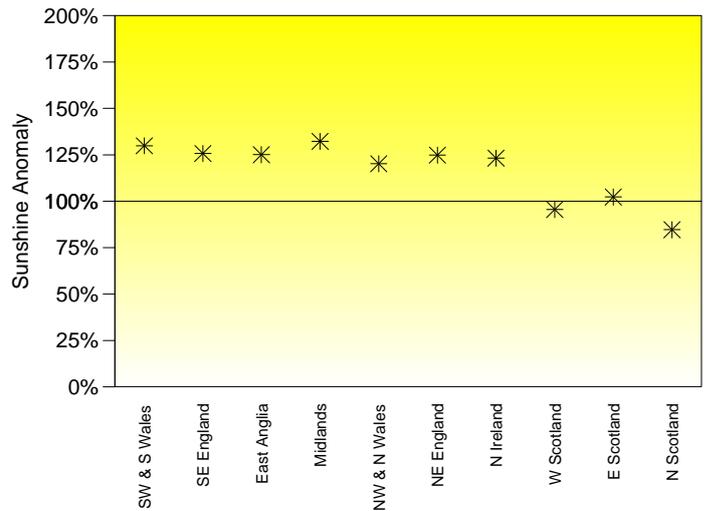
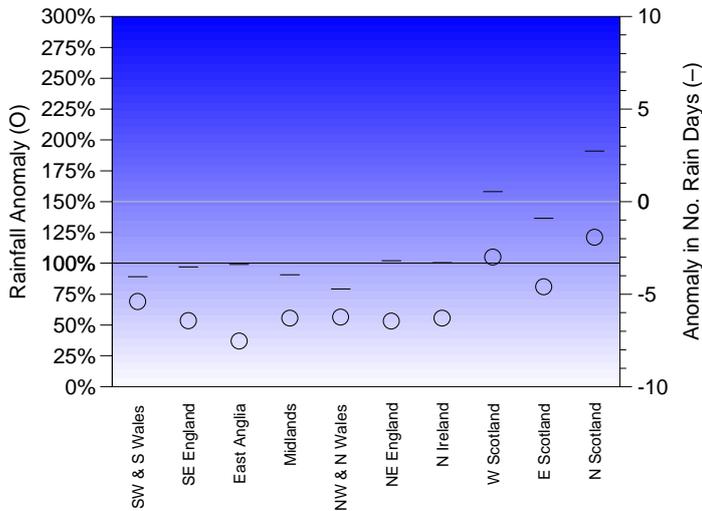


Extremes for June 2015	
Hottest:	33.0°C Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands, 30th
Coldest:	-2.0°C Katesbridge, County Down, 9th
Most Rain:	58.8mm Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 1st
Most Sun:	16.2hrs Morecambe, Lancashire, 10th
Windiest:	78mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 1st
Warmest:	16.9°C St James Park, Greater London
Coollest:	9.1°C Lerwick, Shetland
Wettest:	191.6mm Achnagart, Highland
Driest:	8.0mm Kew Gardens, Greater London
Sunniest:	315.0hrs Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands
Dullest:	91.4hrs Lerwick, Shetland



June marks the beginning of the meteorological summer and by the 21st the sun is at its annual zenith. Despite this, it is rarely the warmest month of the year and truly hot spells are rare. Indeed the weather more frequently has echoes of late spring with some cool and rainy spells to dampen the Glastonbury Festival, Royal Ascot and the start of Wimbledon.

June began very unsettled and rain swept east to affect most of the UK late on the 1st with unseasonably strong winds and gales around many coasts. There was a gust of 78mph at Capel Curig (Clwyd), and mean sea level pressure fell to 974 hPa at Tiree (Hebrides) - unusually low for June. A deluge at Rest and Be Thankful (Argyll) gave 64mm of rain for the 24 hours ending 0900 GMT on the 2nd and flooding was reported in parts of Wales. Two days of quiet weather followed before a humid day on the 5th saw outbreaks of rain. Strong winds affected the north on the 6th - but a concerted rise of pressure then led to a settled spell from the 7th and by the 9th, a large anticyclone was situated close to Northern Ireland. While the north of the UK basked in sunshine, the south experienced a nagging north-easterly breeze and much cloud. Rain from the near-Continent pushed slowly and erratically into southern England on the 12th and 13th but its northward progress was blocked by an exceptionally cool northerly airflow over Scotland which caused snow showers on its highest peaks. A north-westerly wind dominated for much of the next week, but high pressure was never too far to the south-west of the UK - so fronts were fairly innocuous and most places stayed dry. Thunderstorms developed over the south east late on the 20th, but fresher, brighter conditions returned for the summer solstice. Conditions stayed mild, sunny and for the most part dry for the Glastonbury Festival - although cold fronts gave outbreaks of rain on the 26th and 28th. Pressure then began to build as a hot and humid air mass extended north from the Continent, providing a sunny and warm finish. Temperatures soared to 28°C (82°F) or more on the 30th and speed restrictions were imposed on some trains due to the risk of railway lines buckling in the heat.

For the month as a whole, temperatures were just below the seasonal average, but while it was wetter than average in northern Scotland, it was a dry month elsewhere and especially so in the south-east and East Anglia - which received half its normal rain for June. Away from Scotland, it was also a sunny month with most places enjoying totals 25% above normal. 6th of the last 7 months have now been sunnier than average for the UK as a whole.

In Europe, temperatures began to rise towards the month's end, with the heat becoming extreme in Iberia. On the 27th, 43.9°C (111°F) was recorded at El Granada, Spain. Meanwhile another searing heat wave - unprecedented for June - scorched the Pacific Northwest of the U.S.A. Both Idaho and Washington set all-time high state temperature records for June on the 28th with 44°C (111°F) measured at Lewiston and 45°C (113°F) in Walla Walla. The heat also spilled over into western Canada where Hope, British Columbia, soared to 37.6°C (100°F) on the 28th. Elsewhere in North America, violent storms across Colorado on the 5th spawned tornadoes that destroyed homes, and hail - which peppered the Denver suburbs and left some residents having to dig themselves out of waist-deep ice. The storms ravaged areas from Fort Collins in the north to Pueblo, nearly 180 miles south. Tropical system Blanca reached major hurricane (category 2) status on the 3rd, the first time on record that two major hurricanes have formed in the Eastern Pacific before the end of June. Socorro Island recorded a peak sustained wind of 74mph and gusts to 101mph, and Loreto, Mexico recorded 130mm of rain in 24 hours before Blanca made landfall in southern California near Puerto Cortes on the 8th. Thunderstorms were triggered over parts of interior northern California and the Sierra and measurable rain fell in Yuma, Arizona, on the 9th - for just the seventeenth time in June since records began in 1876!

Mid June also saw extreme pre-monsoon heat in Pakistan. Karachi reached 45°C (113°F) and the demand for electricity for air conditioning caused power outages. Meanwhile, amidst the antipodean winter, the 2nd was the coldest June day in five years in Sydney (Australia). The temperature of 7.3°C (just 45°F) at 7am produced a wind chill equivalent of 0.3°C (32°F). On the following night, temperatures plunged to -7°C (19°F) in the capital, Canberra.