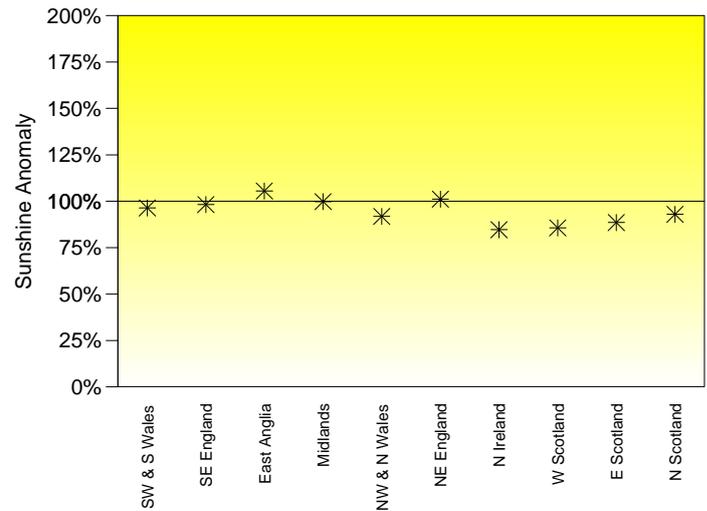
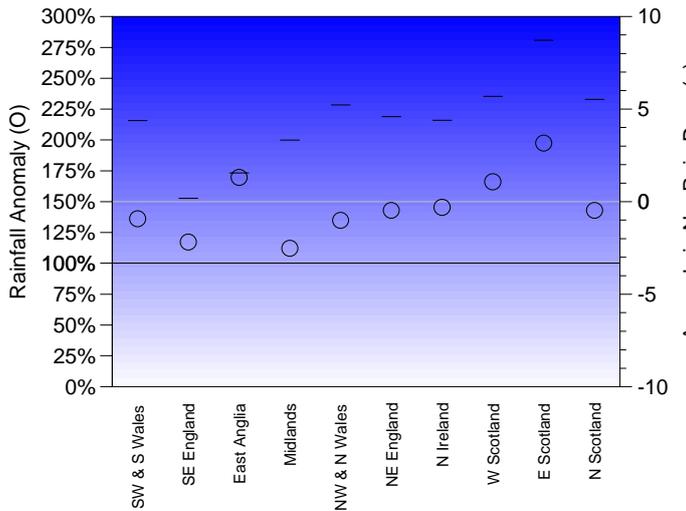


Extremes for July 2015		
Hottest:	36.7°C	Heathrow, Greater London, 1st
Coldest:	-0.6°C	Katesbridge, County Down, 15th
Most Rain:	53.4mm	Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire, 17th
Most Sun:	15.8hrs	Kinloss, Grampian, 3rd
Windiest:	59mph	Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 6th
Warmest:	18.9°C	St James Park, Greater London
Coollest:	11.1°C	Fair Isle, Shetland
Wettest:	247.4mm	Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire
Driest:	34.0mm	East Malling, Kent
Sunniest:	216.5hrs	Shoeburyness B, Essex
Dullest:	73.5hrs	Thomastown, County Fermanagh



July heralds high summer and as the nights draw in only very slowly, the evenings are pleasantly light and long. Nearly half the time, July features the hottest day of the year, and offshoots of high pressure from the Azores anticyclone can result in prolonged spells of fine and warm weather. Deluges and flooding are equally possible however, when low pressure is steered south of its normal summer track by a displaced jet stream - as happened on a few occasions this year.

July opened with a surge of very hot air from the Continent - and by 0900 GMT on the 1st temperatures in London had already reached a remarkable 32°C (90°F). The UK maximum temperature record for July was smashed that afternoon as Heathrow reached 36.8°C (99°F). The heat extended far to the north e.g. 31.9°C (90°F) was recorded at Brampton, Cumbria, but was very short lived - and widespread thunderstorms followed that night. Golf-ball sized hail was reported at Ravensworth, North Yorkshire. The 2nd was markedly cooler but temperature and humidity rose once more on the 3rd, culminating in some severe thunderstorms across the south overnight 3rd / 4th. A particularly spectacular storm affected Bournemouth, Dorset and was accompanied by cherry sized hail and local flooding. There were further storms on the 5th and two walkers were killed after being struck by lightning in separate incidents in the Brecon Beacons. The weather then became cooler and disturbed with areas of low pressure bringing showers or longer spells of rain. Scotland was especially cool and wet but bracing north westerlies affected all areas on the 8th. By the 10th, winds had turned southerly once more and most places became warm, although weak, slow-moving fronts made for frequent cloud and drizzle over following days and up to mid month. Severe thunderstorms struck East Anglia overnight 16th/17th. Rothamsted, Herts collected 38mm (nearly a months typical rainfall) within just a single hour and there was localised flooding. Alyth, Perthshire also experienced flooding after heavy rain on the 17th. Fresher air followed on the 18th with sunny spells, but an unsettled pattern then dominated until month end - and there were a number of very wet days. Notable was the 24th when a depression moving north-east along the English Channel to the Low Countries dumped 20-40mm rain widely across the south - and in London caused flooding and severe delays to the Underground. Just two days later another depression approaching from the south-west gave further heavy rainfall in the south before stagnating further north on the 27th to give prolonged rainfall there. Most areas became brighter on the 30th and 31st, although nights were chilly.

Despite the hot start, July was a cool month for the UK and especially so in the north - where temperatures were typically 1°C below the average. It was also wet for everywhere and in Scotland some places recorded twice as much rainfall as normal. Indeed, farmers in the highlands are concerned that the cool, wet weather here will provide very poor growing conditions for grass to feed livestock. Sunshine totals were close to or a little below average nationwide.

Continental Europe also experienced blistering heat in the first few days of July. Paris recorded 39.7°C (104°F) on the 1st while in the Netherlands, Maastricht set a new national record for July of 38.2°C (101°F) on the 2nd. Germany's all-time highest temperature record was equalled with 40.3°C (105°F) at Kitzingen in Bavaria on the 5th.

In Canada, Manitoba experienced severe thunderstorms on the 1st, with a particularly potent cell striking the town of Roseisle, about 70 miles south-west of Winnipeg. Hailstones the size of tennis balls, damaged cars and destroyed crops, driven on a 60mph wind. On the 7-8th thunderstorms and heavy downpours inundated areas from the southern Plains to the Ohio Valley (USA). There was severe flooding, impassable roadways and numerous water rescues as creeks and streams overflowed their banks. Flooding was so extensive in Cassville, Missouri, that the Barry County Sheriff issued an alert that the entire town was closed. Abilene, Texas, broke its all-time highest daily rainfall total with 211mm on the 7th, whilst 233mm fell across Brady, Texas, causing several cars to be swept away on Highway 377 early on the 8th. The 9th offered little rest bite and featured more violent storms, high winds and isolated tornadoes across the northeast USA. An elementary school in Berks County, Pennsylvania, was badly damaged, thousands of people lost power and there were lengthy flight delays at Philadelphia and New York airports.

Karachi, Pakistan, recorded 48mm of rain 22nd - 28th - a total greater than the city saw during the entire monsoon seasons of 2012, 2013 and 2014. In Bhuj, India, 432mm of rain in just 48 hours 27th - 28th represented more than the average yearly total! In Australia it is mid winter and on the 16th, 8cm of snow around Stanthorpe in southeast Queensland, was the heaviest snowfall there since 1984. In the foothills of the Blue Mountains of New South Wales, towns received up to 15cm snow - cutting power to 2,000 homes, whilst higher altitude ski resorts measured up to 30cm.