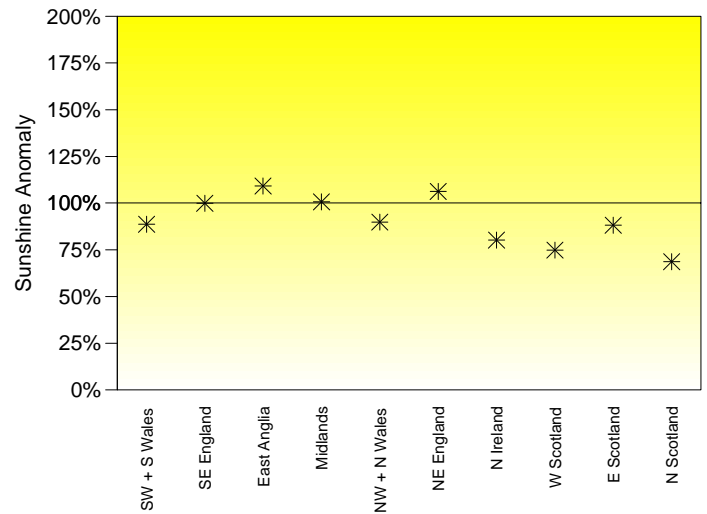
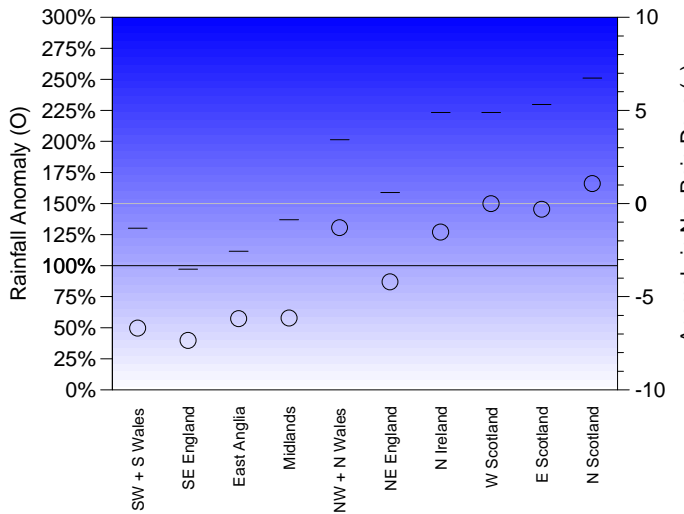


Extremes for July 2016	
Hottest:	33.9°C Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands, 19th
Coldest:	0.5°C Altnaharra SAWS, Highland, 2nd
Most Rain:	67.6mm Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 9th
Most Sun:	15.5hrs Wattisham, Suffolk, 18th
Windiest:	55mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 9th
Warmest:	19.4°C St James Park, Greater London
Coolest:	11.9°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	262.2mm Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd
Driest:	2.2mm St Catherines Point, Isle of Wight
Sunniest:	231.8hrs Jersey Airport, Channel Islands
Dullest:	49.5hrs Loch Glascarnoch, Highland



July marks high summer and is typically the warmest month of the year. It contains the hottest day about 44% of the time and this most usually occurs 10th-20th. In the north, July is notably duller and wetter than May or June - and for Eastern Scotland is the wettest month of the entire year. Further south, July is normally amongst the drier months - although thunderstorms can give rise to considerable local variation.

July began unsettled with a mixture of sunshine and showers. It was also cool, and the 2nd saw a ground frost in the north Scottish Highlands. More persistent, frontal rain affected north and west Britain 4th-7th (e.g. 20-30mm over the Highlands) and 9th-10th e.g. >100mm at Capel Curig, Snowdonia (half of which fell in just 12 hours on the 9th) Further south, rainfall was of thundery origin - and rather more sporadic, leaving a few places inundated (e.g. Lingwood, Norfolk 47mm on the 12th was almost its entire July average), but many others entirely dry. Daytime temperatures struggled to break 20°C (68°F) and were often accompanied by a cool westerly breeze. Summer finally arrived on the 16th with a plume of warm Iberian air. The heat spread northward and westward over following days and it became progressively warmer - often feeling oppressive at night. London hit 30°C (86°F) on the 18th and the next day Brize Norton, Oxfordshire reached 33.5°C (92.3°F) A soldier died as a result of heat exhaustion whilst training for SAS selection in the Brecon Beacons. Even Scotland basked, albeit briefly, with temperatures in the far north reaching 27°C (80.6°F) Violent thunderstorms abruptly ended the heat wave for northern Britain on the 20th. There were some torrential downpours (e.g. 98mm at Nunraw Abbey, East Lothian), and roads around Glasgow were closed due to surface flooding. Marble sized hail damaged caravans near Annan, Dumfries and Galloway - and lightning caused power failures in Blackpool, Carlisle, Penrith and Keswick. The heat hung on a few days more in the south and east, but by the 25th all places were cooler and unsettled one more - and this persisted through to month end.

During July the main track of rain bearing low pressure systems was to the south east of Iceland. North and western Britain bore the brunt of moist south westerly winds, and it made for a dull and wet month here. Stornoway, Western Isles, had it's 3rd wettest July ever, with rainfall totals nearly double normal - and sunshine barely one half. In contrast, southern and eastern England was markedly dry (although rarely especially sunny) Rainfall totals here were typically 50% of average, making it the driest July so far this century. Some places, which dodged the showers, recorded <5mm all month - and St Catherine's Point, on the Isle of Wight, just 1.4mm - its driest July ever. Temperatures for July were unremarkable, especially by day - and close to average nationwide.

Some 20,000 homes were left without power after high winds, hail, tornadoes and torrential rain struck central and north-east Poland on the 12th. The town of Sulejow recorded 111mm of rain in just four hours. In the capital, Warsaw, flooded streets, metro stations and tunnels rendered many routes impassable and caused transport chaos. In America, hail as large as tennis balls bombarded the city of Colorado Springs during a prolonged thunderstorm on the 28th. Cars and homes were wrecked, and ice lay on the ground for hours afterwards. Further north, a heat wave in Alaska brought record temperatures. Deadhorse on the shores of the Arctic Ocean reached 28.8°C (84°F) on the 13th and Fairbanks, 30.5°C (87°F) the same day. Unprecedented heat also seared the Middle East. Mitribah, Kuwait, hit 54.0°C (129.2°F) on the 21st, making it the hottest day ever recorded for the eastern hemisphere and possibly the world - with the figure from Death Valley, California, 56.7°C, (134°F), 10th July 1913, disputed. In Asia, Hong Kong had its hottest day since 1968 with temperatures reaching 37°C (99°F) on the 10th. It was followed by the territories most violent electrical storm ever, with >10,000 lightning strikes recorded during a spectacular 12-hour show that lasted all night.

In the Southern Hemisphere, it is mid winter. Durban, South Africa recorded 150mm of rain in just 12 hours on the 25th - five times the entire July average. The resulting flooding was responsible for widespread disruption - and at least two deaths. Meanwhile in the south-eastern interior, heavy snowfall shut the Sani Pass and roads to Lesotho. The ski resort of Drakensburg was inundated by 100cm and left snowed in!