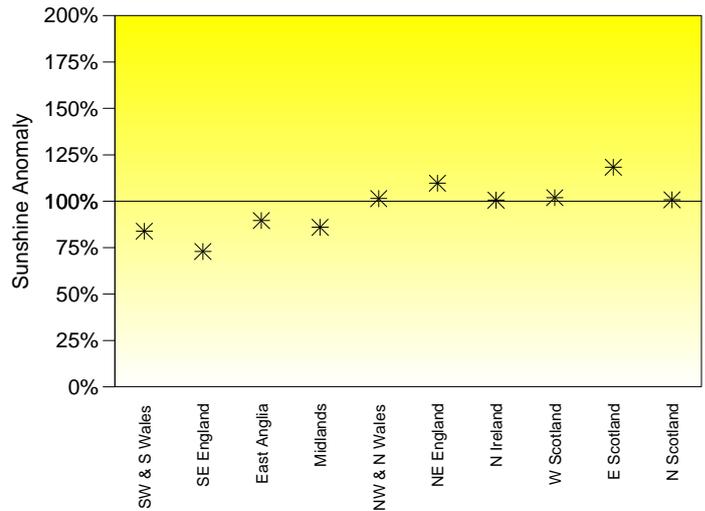
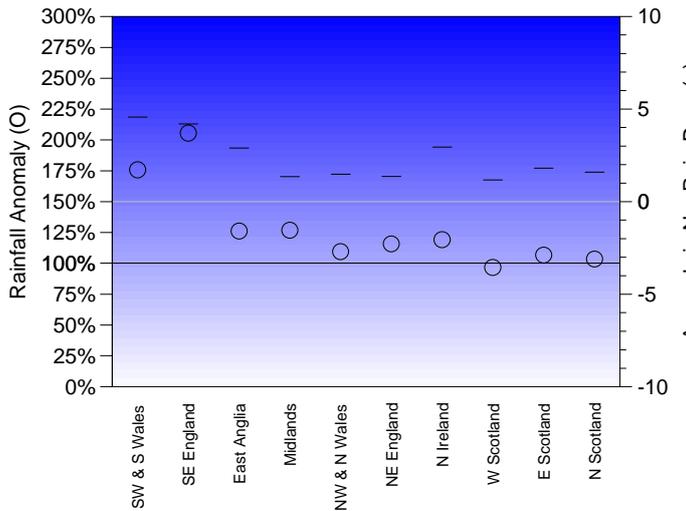


Extremes for August 2015	
Hottest:	30.9°C Gravesend Broadness SAMOS, Kent, 22nd
Coldest:	0.0°C Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty, 6th
Most Rain:	72.6mm Katesbridge, County Down, 23rd
Most Sun:	13.9hrs Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands, 2nd
Windiest:	59mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 4th
Warmest:	18.2°C Heathrow, Greater London
Coolest:	11.7°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	215.2mm Achnagart, Highland
Driest:	37.4mm Rhyl SAWS, Clwyd
Sunniest:	209.5hrs Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man
Dullest:	80.8hrs Loch Glascarnoch, Highland



August is the last month of the meteorological summer. In many years a hot start gives way to steadily cooler days - often with some early mist and fog by month's end. August marked a disappointing end to summer 2015 - which was frequently unsettled with just a few - and generally short lived - warm spells. Cold water off southern Greenland may be partly to blame - displacing the jet stream south and diverting low pressure systems from their normal more northerly summer track.

The unsettled conditions that prevailed for much of July continued into August. Much of the first fortnight was wet, especially in the west - and strong winds and a severe swell caused some damage in the south west on the 4th where waves breached harbour walls. On the 13th a plume of warm air from the continent crossed the Channel and brought torrential rain and thunderstorms to south-east England. There were numerous lightning strikes across Kent and Sussex - and Newhaven, East Sussex recorded 74 mm of rain in just 12 hours. The Arndale shopping centre in Eastbourne was flooded. Heavy rain affected northern England the following day and there was flooding in the Manchester area. Hot weather finally arrived on the 22nd (Gravesend reaching 30.9°C, 88°F) but was short-lived and triggered northward-moving thunderstorms over the Midlands and northern England. In parts of North Yorkshire 30mm of rain fell in a single hour, with totals for the day exceeding 60mm. There were numerous lightning strikes and significant localised flooding. The 24th was a very wet day for southern England. Thorney Island in Hampshire recorded 45.6 mm in 24 hours (close to its typical total for all of August) and trains were disrupted after tracks became submerged in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Further north, Grantham and Long Bennington (Lincolnshire) were affected by flash flooding. More storms lashed southern Britain in the early hours of the 26th. Heathrow Airport recorded 47.8 mm of rain for the day - most of which fell in just a few hours - and the was flooding across the south from here to Swansea. A tornado damaged properties in Norfolk. August ended with Bank Holiday Monday on the 31st. It was a disappointment to most - with a prolonged spell of frontal rain giving dull, wet and cool conditions. Eastern England failed to reach 16°C - at least 5°C below the seasonal average.

August was a cool month nationwide and daytime temperatures in the south were a degree or more below the average. It was a wet month everywhere - especially so in southern England where many places received double their normal August rainfall. Sunshine totals were depressed for England, but were slightly in surplus for Eastern Scotland.

Whilst Britain often shivered, central and eastern Europe found itself in the grip of a heat wave during early August. In Germany, Berlin recorded its hottest day ever on the 7th with 38.9 °C (102°F) whilst further south, Kitzingen soared to 40.3°C (105°F) equalling the national temperature record set just a month before. Wroclaw (Poland) reached an unprecedented 38.9 °C (102°F) on the 8th - and across the Czech Republic, at least 19 cities tied or set new all-time high temperature records. Other local records were set in Minsk (Belarus) which reached 35.8 °C (96°F) on the 8th and Genoa, Italy, (38.5 °C, 101°F), Kaunas, Lithuania (35.3 °C, 96°F) the same day.

Japan also experienced a blistering heat wave during August. 37.7°C (100°F) on the 9th marked an unprecedented eighth consecutive day of "extreme heat" for Tokyo. Across the country at least 55 deaths and >10,000 hospital admissions were attributed to the heat. Elsewhere in Asia, Hong Kong Observatory recorded 36.3 °C (97°F) on the 8th - its hottest day ever. During the third week of August, Typhoon Goni - packing maximum sustained winds of 113mph - swept across the Philippines causing landslides that left at least 19 people dead and 1,000 homes in ruins. On the 24th Goni lashed the southern Japanese islands of Okinawa - by which times winds had strengthened to 159mph - a local record and sufficient to flip cars.

In the southern hemisphere, residents of the small northern Hawke's Bay town of Wairoa New Zealand awoke to find the town streets blanketed with a 2cm layer of snow on the 10th. In Australia, a severe hailstorm hammered Sydney on the 24th. Chunks of ice 30 mm in diameter rained down, stripping foliage and pitting cars. Melt water then caused further damage through flooding. A tornado swept through Dubbo in central New South Wales, leaving a dozen properties damaged.