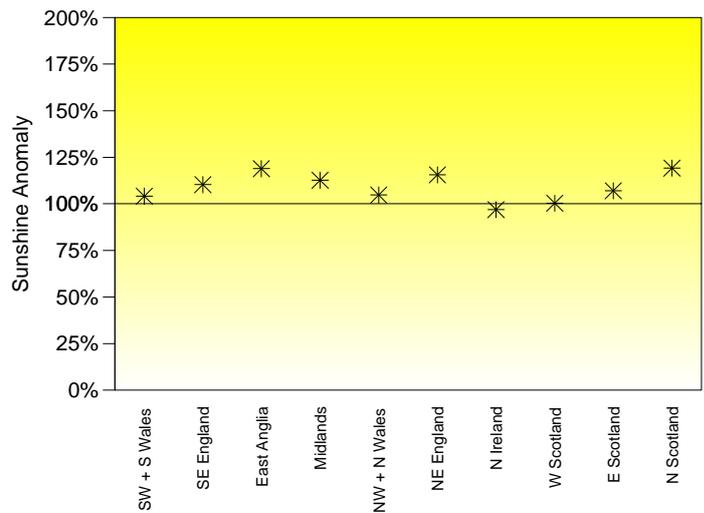
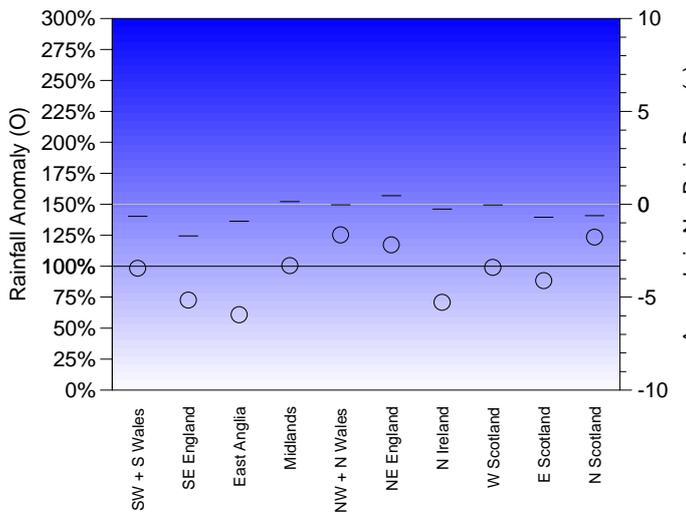


Extremes for August 2016	
Hottest:	34.1°C Faversham, Kent, 24th
Coldest:	-1.0°C Tulloch Bridge SAWS, Highland, 10th
Most Rain:	62.2mm Shap SAWS, Cumbria, 20th
Most Sun:	14.3hrs Kirkwall, Orkney, 16th
Windiest:	68mph Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 7th
Warmest:	19.7°C Heathrow, Greater London
Coollest:	12.2°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	248.8mm Blencathra, Cumbria
Driest:	11.8mm Writtle, Essex
Sunniest:	304.6hrs Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands
Dullest:	85.5hrs Thomastown, County Fermanagh



August is generally a little cooler than July - and contains the hottest day around 1 year in 4. For many places, August is the most thundery month, and consequently, frequently amongst the wettest. Daylight hours begin to wane noticeably towards month end - and in northern Scotland nights once more become truly dark. There is tenuous evidence for recurrent storminess around the 28th.

The weather during August was rarely settled for long. It was marked by bouts of rain which (with the noticeable exception of the 1st), affected mostly the north and west, leaving the south and east parched for a second consecutive month. It was also frequently and unseasonably windy. On the 7th gales across the north led to the cancellation of various outdoor events, caused numerous power outages and disrupted road and rail. A 17,000 tonne oil rig ran aground on the Isle of Lewis after breaking its tow in high seas. Early morning on the 10th saw a widespread ground frost across Scotland and local air frost in the Highlands. Rain then arrived for Scotland and in the north and west persisted the next three days. There were some prodigious totals e.g. Achnagart, Ross & Cromarty recorded 101mm for the 72 hours ending midnight on the 12th, and a campsite was flooded on Mull. England and Wales meanwhile were increasingly dry and days quite warm. 15th-17th were glorious, fine and sunny nationwide, but as high pressure slipped east a vigorous low brought widespread strong winds and gales around coasts on the 20th. Gusts reached 76mph at Great Dun Fell on Pennines, 69mph at Needles, Isle of Wight, 68mph at Capel Curig, Gwynedd and 63mph at Mumbles, Swansea. Fallen trees disrupted travel in South Wales, there were numerous accidents - and 6 people were drowned in high seas in separate incidents around the UK coast. The 20th was also very wet for north west England and further torrential downpours on the 22nd triggered flooding in Cumbria and Lancashire that closed some rail and road routes (including the M6) - and forced a few evacuations. Hot air blowing northward from the continent then resulted in a brief heat wave across south and east England. Temperatures culminated in 34.1°C (93.4°F) at Faversham, Kent on the 24th - the hottest day of the year so far. Thunderstorms on the 27th and 28th and running in a wide belt from Dorset, across the Midlands to the Wash marked the end of the very warm temperatures and left some places inundated. In Lincolnshire, a Tesco at Boston was struck by lightning and the village of Kirton was cut off for a time by surface flooding. The following day, thunderstorms moved north and west and localised flooding was reported from North Wales, Redcar and Cleveland.

For England and Wales, August was the warmest since 2004, and the sunniest since 2005. In East Anglia, no August since 2003 has been warmer or drier, and none since 1995 sunnier. For the UK as a whole, rainfall was close to average, but this disguises considerable regional variability. Swathes of the south and east received half their normal August rainfall but parts of north west England and the Western isles double.

In Europe, a severe rainstorm over Macedonia's capital, Skopje, triggered flash flooding that killed 21 people 6th-7th. On the 11th, the temperature at Ljungskile in Sweden peaked at just 8.6°C (47°F) - its coldest August day in more than a century. In contrast, France experienced a record-breaking late summer heat wave. High readings included 36.9°C (98.4°F) at Saintes on the 23rd, 37.7°C (99.9°F) at Blois on the 24th, 36.6°C (97.9°F) in Paris on the 25th and 38°C (100.4°F) at Dax on the 27th. A tornado ripped through the suburbs of Syktyvkar, a provincial capital in Komi, northwest Russia on the 24th wrecking several buildings, felling trees and power lines.

In the USA, record rainfall hit Louisiana. 800mm fell at Watson, 10th-17th causing the Amite River to swell to record levels and triggering catastrophic flooding. In the state capital, Baton Rouge, 8000 people were forced to evacuate and elsewhere, soldiers and emergency teams took to boats to rescue a further 20,000 from their half submerged homes or cars. In Central America, tropical storm Earl battered Belize on the 4th and flooded part of the coast before moving into Mexico, where torrential rain triggered mudslides that left 38 dead.

In Asia, Typhoon Nida packing hurricane force winds and torrential rain made landfall on Hong Kong on the 2nd. The observatory recorded 90mph winds and 121mm of rain. Hundreds of flights were cancelled from the main airport and thousands of workers were evacuated from offshore oil rigs and construction sites. In New Zealand, Hawkes Bay awoke on the 8th to find the local road network paralysed by deep snow. Up to half a metre fell leaving drifts a metre deep, vehicles stranded and thousands of homes without power. Mt Ruapehu, Chateau had its coldest morning since 1991 with a minimum of -9.8°C (14°F) on the 8th.