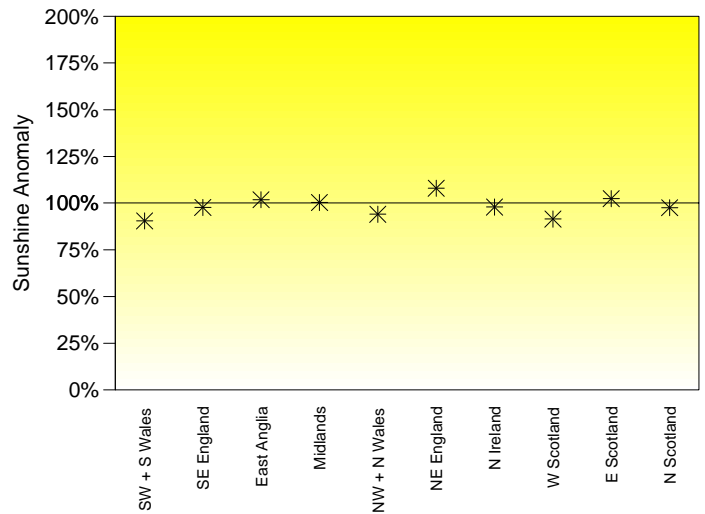
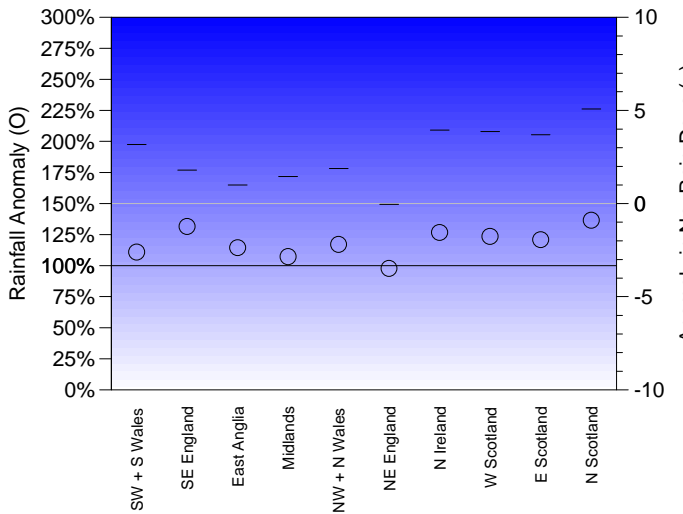


Extremes for August 2017	
Hottest:	28.9°C Jersey Airport, Channel Islands, 28th
Coldest:	0.6°C Katesbridge, County Down, 13th
Most Rain:	68.8mm South Uist Range, Western Isles, 22nd
Most Sun:	14.0hrs Boulmer, Northumberland, 10th
Windiest:	58mph Mumbles Head, West Glamorgan, 18th
Warmest:	17.8°C Heathrow, Greater London
Coolest:	11.5°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	277.4mm Achnagart, Highland
Driest:	35.3mm Albemarle Barracks, Tyne and Wear
Sunniest:	228.9hrs Shoeburyness B, Essex
Dullest:	76.0hrs Loch Glascarnoch, Highland



August is most usually the second warmest month of the year, just behind July. It contains the hottest day of the year less than a quarter of the time (about as often as June) yet, has a monopoly on days experiencing record heat.

August continued the cool and unsettled theme that had begun in mid July with periods of wet and windy weather during its first half. The 2nd was a very wet and blustery day for the south coast with some ferries cancelled and flooding to main roads. Prolonged heavy rain across East Yorkshire and North East Lincolnshire on the 8th (e.g. 54mm at Leconfield, East Riding) led to flooding notably in Immingham and Grimsby. Some homes were inundated and with many roads left under water, there was widespread traffic disruption. Further south, lightning strikes affected train services in the southeast and torrential downpours caused flooding on the M20 and M25. A complex low to the northwest of Scotland dominated for most of the third week, maintaining the unsettled theme. There were some strong winds, especially on the 18th, and it also became rather warmer. Thunderstorms brought very heavy rain and considerable disruption to Northern Ireland on the 22nd. Over 100 people had to be rescued from flooded homes and cars in the north west, Derry airport was closed for a time and lightning strikes caused power outages to thousands of homes. Elsewhere across the province, flooding, swollen rivers and landslides caused damage and cut off some communities. The storms moved north and east overnight to affect north west Scotland and the Western Isles the following day. August's highest temperatures were reserved for south eastern England 27th-29th which saw a brief return to summer. Indeed the 28th was the warmest late August Bank Holiday on record for some e.g. 28.2 °C (82.8°F) at Holbeach (Lincolnshire). The month ended with a return to cooler showery conditions in a northerly air stream. In Kent, a maximum of 13°C (55.4°F) on the 30th followed a maximum of 27°C (80.6°F) just the previous day!

For most, August felt like a poor month, although the statistics prove it wasn't far from average. A warm end meant that daytime's were only a little (~0.5°C) cooler than normal whilst night-times were close to average. Eastern coasts were relatively sunny, western ones a little dull but across much of the UK, sunshine was close to average. It was a wet month everywhere except for Norfolk and Northumberland, but only where thunderstorms struck (notably Northern Ireland), was it exceptionally so. Despite a promising start, the summer as a whole was disappointing - mild, but for the UK, the 3rd wettest since 1980, and for Scotland the 3rd wettest in over 100 years.

A series of severe storms hit north and west Poland on the 11th amid unusually high temperatures which topped 100°F. Five people died, more than 30 were injured (mostly by falling trees), 800 buildings were damaged and 170,000 people were left without power. Severe thunderstorms tore through north-western Austria on the 18th, and high winds killed two people and injuring dozens more. Across the Atlantic, three tornadoes around Tulsa, Oklahoma damaged roofs, uprooted trees and left dozens injured on the 6th. The tornadoes were part of a major storm system that also caused flooding across Kansas City, Missouri where 125 mm of rain fell within a few hours. Much more serious was hurricane 'Harvey' which slammed into Texas near Corpus Christi late on the 25th. Seaside town, Port Aransas, recorded gusts of 132mph with severe damage to infrastructure and buildings. 'Harvey' then stalled over the coast 25th-28th dumping an estimated 27 trillion gallons of rain on Texas & Louisiana and triggering catastrophic flooding. Thousands of people fled to their rooftops or higher ground as rescuers struggled to keep up with calls for help and 50 people died. In Louisiana, Bayou Conway recorded 565mm of rain in 3 days, Houston, 621mm 25th-27th making it the city's wettest month ever and Cedar Bayou, Texas was deluged with 1318mm - a new record for a US hurricane event. Economic losses for the regions affected could reach \$180 billion making it the United States' costliest ever disaster. In striking contrast, drought affected the Pacific northwest. By the 8th, Seattle, Washington had recorded a remarkable 52 straight days without rain, breaking a record set way back in 1951, whilst Portland, Oregon, recorded 40.5°C (105°F) on the 3rd with temperatures soaring above 35°C (95°F) during the last week.

The Middle East also experienced searing heat during August. Mitribah, Kuwait, exceeded 52°C (125.6°F) on four consecutive days 6th-9th. Further east, exceptional monsoon downpours brought death and destruction to south Asia on a human scale that dwarfed even events in the US. By the 31st, more than 1200 people were reported to have been killed by the storms with millions more displaced. In the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh 104 people were killed and over 3000 villages left submerged. Neighbouring Nepal was also badly affected, but worst hit was low lying Bangladesh where one third of the country was reported to be under water amidst the worst flooding in decades. One of the strongest typhoons on record, 'Hato', caused serious flooding and damage in southern China from the 27th. 'Hato' went on to devastate Macau, killing 10 people, injuring 244 and leaving the city without water and power for several days.