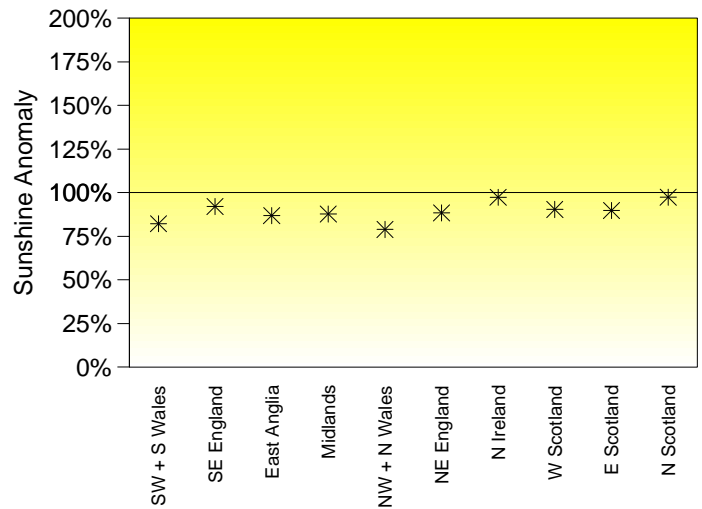
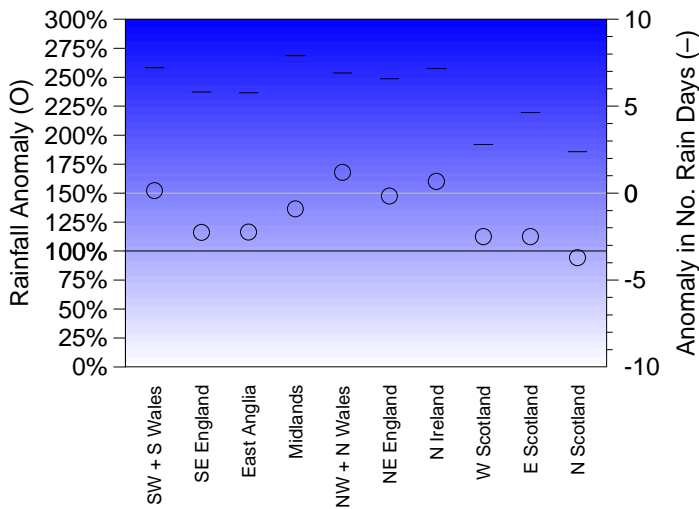


Extremes for September 2017		
Hottest:	24.0°C	Hawarden, Clwyd, 4th
Coldest:	-1.2°C	Altnaharra SAWS, Highland, 22nd
Most Rain:	48.0mm	Plymouth MountBatten, Devon, 3rd
Most Sun:	12.5hrs	Bude, Cornwall, 1st
Windiest:	74mph	Mumbles Head, West Glamorgan, 12th
Warmest:	15.4°C	St Catherines Point, Isle of Wight
Coolest:	9.9°C	Braemar No 2, Grampian
Wettest:	371.6mm	Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd
Driest:	33.6mm	Frittenden, Kent
Sunniest:	156.1hrs	Shoeburyness B, Essex
Dullest:	60.7hrs	Bala, Clwyd



Settled weather is more common in September than any month except May. The frequency of Atlantic lows reaches its annual nadir around the 15th - although the days immediately preceding have a reputation for strong winds. September contains the years hottest day around 1 year in 10. Somewhere reaches 27°C (80.6°F) every other year on average, and 30°C (86°F) 1 year in 5 - although occurrences have been rather scarce in recent decades.

September started sunny, if not especially warm, but the weather soon turned unsettled with frequent low pressure systems crossing the UK from the west. A slow moving frontal system brought heavy rain and some flooding to the southwest on the 3rd, with 48mm of rain at Plymouth, Devon. A deep depression arriving overnight 12th / 13th, 'Aileen' became the first named storm of the season with its effects exacerbated by a relatively southerly track and the presence of leaves on the trees. 60,000 homes were left without power, the Severn Bridge was closed for a time and there were delays to ferry services at Dover - yet damage to property was remarkably light. The highest gusts were over Wales and central and southern England, with Heathrow recording 63mph - an unusually windy day for so early in the Autumn. At the same time further north, heavy rain (e.g. 64mm at Cullen Bay, Morayshire) caused some localised flooding, and this was repeated on the 15th as heavy showers merged to give persistent rain in Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. All this time a predominantly northwesterly flow, and frequent cloud kept daytimes distinctly cool. From the 17th-20th an anticyclone transferred from west to east across the country briefly bringing quieter conditions. Unfortunately these were marred by widespread fog over Northern Ireland on the morning of the 18th, and across northwest England on the 19th. Westerlies resumed from the equinox on the 21st (classic 'equinoctial gales') but lows remained further to the north and west of the UK, and as the flow backed it became appreciably warmer. On the 30th the remains of hurricane 'Lee' was expected to bring heavy rainfall to parts of Scotland and northwest England triggering a flurry of warnings from the Met Office - although ultimately, severe rainfall was confined to the Western Highlands.

For September as a whole, average temperatures were close to normal nationwide, with a little night-time warmth compensating for cool days. Regular cloud made it a dull month everywhere with sunshine totals typically three quarters of average. Rainfall tended to be frequent rather than heavy - with a marked dearth of dry days (for England and Wales less than any September since 1974!) Most places outside the extreme south east of England and Northern Scotland were wetter than normal - and Wales and Northern Ireland both received half as much again or more of their usual rainfall. Snowdonia was exceptionally wet - even for there - and recorded more than ten times as much rainfall as some stations in Kent!

In Europe, at least six people were killed after heavy rainstorms and flooding swamped the Italian city of Livorno on the 10th. An astonishing 400mm fell in just 4 hours turning streets into rivers which washed away cars. Over 200 shops and garages were flooded in Pisa, where landslides and fallen trees blocked roads. On the 17th a powerful storm swept western Romania - killing eight people and injuring 67. In Timisoara, winds of up to 60mph tore off roofs and felled trees which cut off water and electricity supplies. Meanwhile, in Turkey, Istanbul baked in its hottest September day ever 39.5°C (103°F)

Across the Atlantic, September got off to a blistering start throughout the western United States and San Francisco recorded its hottest ever day 41°C (106°F) on the 1st. In striking contrast, residents in the Sierra Nevada mountain range of California were shocked to wake up to 8cm of lying snow on the 21st - remarkable for so early in the autumn. However, it was the impact of two devastating hurricanes across the Caribbean and south eastern USA that overshadowed everything else. 'Irma', a Category 5 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 185mph, made a direct hit on Barbuda on the 5th, before striking the islands of St. Martin, Anguilla, St. Barts and the British Virgin Islands on the 6th. The catastrophic damage left Barbuda barely habitable. On the 8th 'Irma' made landfall on the Camaguey Archipelago of Cuba, (e.g. a 159mph gust at Ciego de Avila), the first time the islands have been affected by a Category 5 storm since 1924. Turks and Caicos Islands also experienced winds in excess of 150mph and a storm surge. 'Irma' then tore across the Florida Keys early on the 10th before making a second Florida landfall at Marco Island that evening. At least 2 million people were left without power and South Carolina, received 200mm of rain in 24 hours. Following in its wake, another Category 5 hurricane, 'Maria', wrought further devastation across the Caribbean 21st-23rd. First struck was Dominica - where the island was stripped of most of its vegetation by sustained speeds of 175mph. Puerto Rico also found itself in the path and was lashed by 110mph winds and more than 600 mm of rain - which caused catastrophic flooding in the capital, San Juan. 'Maria' also battered the - still reeling - Turks and Caicos Islands on the 22nd with winds of 125mph.

In Vietnam Typhoon 'Doksuri' blew roofs from 200 houses in the city of Hue on the 15th. On the 17th, typhoon 'Talim' devastated Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's four main islands - with winds of 105mph and torrential rain. Australia enjoyed a fickle spring month. In Tasmania, widespread snowfalls closed schools and disrupted the lambing season during the first week, whilst in contrast, Queensland sweltered. Birdsville, Queensland recorded 42.5°C (109°F) on the 20th, surpassing the previous September state record!