

## August 2018

**The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1981-2010.**

The first week of August continued the warm and settled theme of the previous couple of months, especially in southern areas, but after that conditions were more unsettled and closer to the climatological average. There was cooler weather at times during the second half of the month, particularly in the north and west, and rainfall amounts were more significant. The hottest spell of the month was between the 2nd and 7th. The last few days were the most unsettled and the coolest part of the month.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 15.3 °C, which is 0.3 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. Temperatures were generally highest relative to average in eastern counties of England. Rainfall was 95% of average, with a few places only having around half the average amount but parts of south-east England having over 150%. Sunshine was 90% of average, and it was broadly sunnier in eastern areas than further west, and Shetland had more than 150% of normal sunshine.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 33.2 °C was recorded at Kew Gardens (Greater London) on the 3rd. A minimum temperature of -1.3 °C was recorded at Braemar (Aberdeenshire) on the 31st. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 GMT on the 13th, 90.0 mm of rain fell at Prestatyn (Clwyd). A wind gust of 61 knots (70 mph) was recorded at Needles (Isle of Wight) on the 10th.

### Weather impacts

High temperatures around the 3rd meant that speed restrictions were placed on some Greater Anglia rail services. Wild fires continued to be a problem in some areas even though there had been some rain at the end of July, for example a large-scale fire affected 10 acres in Suffolk's Thetford Forest on the 9th, and firefighters tackled a 30-acre field fire near Cambridge.

Thunderstorms on the 9th in south-east England caused some delays to air travel, notably at Gatwick and Stansted airports. On the 10th heavy showers across parts of the south-east led to some localised impacts, with flooding in Barking and Dagenham, and one lane in the Blackwall tunnel was closed, as well as travel delays due to flooding around Chichester and Portsmouth.

Thunderstorms, in south-western areas on the 12th and further north on the 13th, caused flooding in Plymouth, and the A377 in Devon was closed for a time by a tree blocking the road. Torrential rain across Merseyside and Lancashire led to flooding on some roads, with properties flooded in the Knowsley borough of Merseyside. Flooding also arose on roads and properties around York on the 13th. Additionally there were some power outages, with more than 300 properties without power in Hull, as well as flooding in some other eastern locations. On the 16th, heavy spells of rain across south-east England caused flooding in a few places around Hertfordshire and London, and various events were postponed or cancelled. In the south-west, the M49 and the A39 saw instances of flooding.

The last week in August saw some benign weather; rain on the 26th affected some of the events taking place at Pride Cymru in Cardiff, and a T20 Blast cricket quarter-final in Taunton, Somerset was postponed by a day due to the rain.

### England diary of highlights

August began with a week of mostly warm dry sunny weather across the south but it was more unsettled and cloudier in the north and especially north-west. The rest of the month was mostly unsettled with westerly winds. The third week of the month was often warm and humid but it turned much cooler in the last week.

The mean temperature for August was provisionally 0.7 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average, with the largest positive anomalies in the east. Averaged nationally rainfall and sunshine were both not far from normal, with 97% of average rainfall and 94% of average sunshine, but it was very wet locally in the south-east, and sunshine was above normal in East Anglia but below normal in the west, especially in Cornwall.

### **1st to 7th**

Dry, warm or hot and predominantly sunny weather continued in the south, but it was less settled in the north at times. Some rain spread eastwards across the north late on the 1st and there was some patchy rain in parts of the north and west early on the 2nd. Rain, showers and thunderstorms spread eastwards across northern areas on the 3rd. Meanwhile it stayed mostly sunny and hot towards the south-east with a maximum of 33.2 °C at Kew Gardens (London) on the 3rd. Dry, sunny and very warm weather spread to northern areas as well on the 4th and especially the 5th, while there was some mist and fog on south-western coasts on the 4th. East Malling (Kent) recorded 14.5 hours of sunshine on the 5th. The 6th was cloudy with patchy rain in the north, especially the north-west, but hot and sunny in central and southern areas. Most places were sunny and warm on the 7th, hot in eastern counties, but it turned cloudy with patchy light rain in the north-west and thunderstorms developed across parts of East Anglia and the south-east late in the day.

### **8th to 13th**

The weather turned cooler and more unsettled from the west. The 8th was a day of sunshine and showers, the showers in the west penetrating further east, with thunder reported over the Midlands. Slow-moving fronts brought a dull cool wet day for East Anglia and the south-east on the 9th, but it was sunny in the west and in the far north, and isolated thundery showers also developed in central and southern parts later. The 10th started with showers in the west and north which became widespread and heavy, particularly in the south and east, with thunderstorms in many places, and some exposed areas were windy with a gust of 61 knots (70 mph) recorded at Needles (Isle of Wight). The 11th started off bright but rain spread steadily north-east during the day, and this continued to move slowly north-eastwards on the 12th followed by scattered showers, a few of which were heavy and thundery, and 65.0 mm of rain was recorded at Spadeadam (Cumbria). The 13th was a showery day and the showers were frequent, heavy and thundery in the north and east, but the south and south-west were brighter.

### **14th to 22nd**

Westerly winds dominated and brought further unsettled weather. The 14th and 15th were wet at times, especially in the north, with some heavy rain during late afternoon on the 15th, and this rain cleared slowly south-eastwards on the 16th followed by sunshine and showers. The 17th was mainly sunny for most but it clouded over in the north-west with patchy rain and drizzle. A warm humid weather pattern then set in from the 18th giving some notably high night-time minima. From the 18th to 20th, southern areas were mostly dry and cloudy, though with some bright spells in some eastern parts, with rain at times in the north and especially north-west. It brightened up in most areas on the afternoon of the 21st, and the 22nd was sunny in the east but cloudy elsewhere, with rain in the north from early afternoon.

### **23rd to 31st**

This period continued mostly unsettled and turned somewhat cooler. Bands of showers and longer spells of rain spread south-eastwards on the 23rd, heavy in the north and west. The 24th and 25th were cool with a mix of sunshine and showers, with some locally heavy and thundery showers on the afternoon of the 24th. Showers were less widespread on the 25th, confined to the Cheshire Gap and Midlands for most of the day, but spread to the east Midlands and south-east late in the afternoon where they locally turned thundery. The 26th

was a wet day with rain spreading from the west to affect all parts by lunchtime, easing off by evening. The rain had cleared away eastwards by the 27th, which was a mostly cloudy day with isolated showers. The 28th was dry for most under a ridge of high pressure but again mostly cloudy, with some patchy rain and drizzle in the south-west later. Rain cleared the south-east on the 29th and another weak frontal system brought cloud and a little rain south-eastwards across the rest of the country, with brighter weather behind but with showers in the west. High pressure then built from the west, and the 30th was mostly dry with sunny intervals, though with isolated showers in the south. The 31st was sunnier, but with isolated showers in the south-east, and the night of the 30th/31st was cold in the north with a minimum of 0.9 °C at Redesdale Camp (Northumberland).

## Wales diary of highlights

**The first week of August was mostly settled and warm with variable amounts of cloud. The rest of the month was generally cloudy and unsettled with westerly winds. It turned cooler but also brighter during the last week.**

The mean temperature for August was provisionally 0.2 °C above the 1981-2010 average. Rainfall was 94% of average, and it was a dry month in the north but with close to average rainfall elsewhere. Most of the country had a dull month, with 82% of average sunshine.

### 1st to 7th

It was generally settled and warm during this period but with variable amounts of cloud. Isolated showers on the morning of the 1st died out leaving a bright and warm afternoon. The 2nd and 3rd were generally cloudy with some patchy rain, but the 4th and 5th were sunnier and were very warm in places; on the 5th 13.6 hours of sunshine was recorded at St Athan (Glamorgan), and there was a top temperature of 27.8 °C at Velindre (Powys). The morning of the 6th was cloudy but it became sunny and warm in the afternoon. The 7th was mostly dry and cloudy with patchy rain in some places in the morning.

### 8th to 12th

The 8th to 10th had a cooler showery westerly regime with some sunshine in between the showers. Scattered showers moved east on the 8th and tended to die out during the afternoon. Showers were more isolated on the 9th and mostly affected central and southern parts in the afternoon. There were heavy showers early on the 10th which became lighter and more isolated during the afternoon. Another depression tracked from the west on the 11th and 12th, and after a dry sunny start to the 11th, cloud and rain spread from the south-west, becoming widespread and heavy in the afternoon. The 12th started cloudy and brightened up during the afternoon, with some locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms, mainly in the north, giving 90.0 mm of rain at Prestatyn (Clwyd).

### 13th to 22nd

It was generally cloudy and humid with mainly westerly winds. The 13th started cloudy and misty in the west and showers moved eastwards, clearing during the afternoon, with some sunny intervals but plenty of cloud. The 14th started cloudy with some patchy rain and drizzle, this dying out during the afternoon, with sunnier spells developing in the west later. The 15th was cloudy, with patchy rain and drizzle becoming more widespread in the afternoon, especially in the west and north. The 16th was a brighter day with some scattered showers mainly in central parts which tended to become more isolated during the afternoon. It was generally cloudy from the 17th to the 20th with some patchy rain and drizzle especially in the west, although northern parts had some sunshine on the 18th. There was a maximum gust of 58 mph at Capel Curig (Gwynedd) on the 20th. The 21st had a brighter afternoon after a cloudy start, but it was cloudy again on the 22nd with a little rain and then turned wet from the north from late afternoon.

### 23rd to 31st

The weather remained unsettled and turned cooler but it was also generally brighter. The 23rd had some sunny intervals but cloud increased with rain moving through quickly from mid-afternoon. The 24th and 25th had a mix of sunshine and showers, with widespread and locally heavy and thundery showers on the 24th, but showers were somewhat more scattered on the 25th. Another depression brought rain, heavy at times, to all parts on the 26th, though it gradually turned drier and brighter by evening. The 27th was mostly cloudy with scattered showers which died out during the afternoon, but brighter in the north-west. A ridge of high pressure brought dry and cloudy weather on the 28th with a little light rain in the west. The 29th started off cloudy and scattered showers in the west moved eastwards, with sunnier spells developing in the afternoon. High pressure moved in from the west on the 30th and 31st, resulting in two mostly dry bright days, though with isolated showers in the far north on the 30th. It was chilly in places by night and there was an overnight minimum of -0.2 °C at St Harmon (Powys) on the 31st.

## Scotland diary of highlights

**August was a generally unsettled month, though not particularly wet, with predominantly westerly and south-westerly winds. The first week was warm, but it was often cool after that, especially in the last week.**

The mean temperature for August was provisionally 0.1 °C below the long-term average. It was slightly drier and cloudier than average overall, with 92% of average rainfall and 88% of average sunshine. Rainfall was mostly near normal and sunshine slightly below normal, except in the north-east, where it was drier and a little sunnier than average.

### 1st to 7th

There was a generally south-westerly flow, but with high pressure often close to the south and east. The 1st started dry and bright but cloud and heavy rain spread from the west to all parts, with 34.0 mm at Kirriereoch (Kirkcudbrightshire). Sunny and warm or very warm in the north and east on the 2nd, with a maximum temperature of 26.9 °C at Lossiemouth (Morayshire), cloudier to the south and west with rain, which became widespread and heavy during the afternoon, with 26.2 mm at Braemar (Aberdeenshire). Dull and misty in the south on the 3rd, with rain passing through from late morning, brighter with showers in the north. The 4th was generally cloudy with scattered showers. Morning rain cleared the south-east on the 5th, then rain moved into the west by noon and it turned very wet in the west and north by evening. The 6th had variable amounts of cloud and scattered showers, but it was mostly sunny in the north-east. The 7th was generally cloudy with showers and longer spells of rain.

### 8th to 13th

The weather was bright and showery from the 8th to 10th, with widespread and locally thundery showers on the 8th and 10th, and fewer showers on the 9th. Showers in the north-east died out on the 11th leaving a mostly dry day before rain spread from the west from late afternoon. Mainly cloudy on the 12th, patchy rain affecting most, more persistent and intense in the north-west, but it was dry and sunny in the Northern Isles with 14.3 hours of sunshine at Lerwick (Shetland); scattered showers developed in the south later. Mainly cloudy on the 13th, with patchy rain in the north and east tending to die out during the day, the far Northern Isles remaining bright/sunny.

### 14th to 22nd

The unsettled weather continued and it was generally cloudier. Rain, heavy at times, spread eastwards across the country on the 14th, clearing mid-afternoon followed by brighter weather with isolated showers. The 15th started mostly cloudy, albeit brighter in central eastern regions, with some scattered showers, and a band of rain moved in from the west from late morning, heavy in places. The 16th was a day of sunshine and scattered blustery showers, but the Northern Isles remained mostly dry and sunny. It was mainly cloudy on the 17th and another rain area spread east, tending to die out, but there were brighter spells in the north-east. The 18th to 20th were mostly cloudy with a slackening westerly flow and some rain for central, southern and eastern

parts, and the 18th was windy in the Northern Isles with a gust to 58 mph at Lerwick (Shetland), but the 19th was brighter in the north-west. The 21st was cloudy and mostly wet, but the rain cleared southwards on the 22nd followed by brighter weather with showers particularly in the north-west.

### **23rd to 31st**

It continued unsettled and generally cooler but with more sunshine for most. The 23rd was cool and cloudy with showers and longer spells of rain and it was very wet across the south from mid-morning. The 24th and 25th had sunshine and showers, with the showers widespread and locally heavy on the 24th, but more scattered and mainly confined to the north and east on the 25th. Rain, heavy at times, affected all parts on the 26th but cleared away from most parts in the afternoon, lingering over the north-east. The 27th had a sunny start in central and eastern regions but was otherwise quite cloudy with scattered showers, these mainly in the south and later the north. The 28th was mostly cloudy and breezy but with some sunny intervals in the Northern Isles and some central and southern parts, but rain moved slowly into the north-west from late morning. The rain cleared south-eastwards overnight and the 29th was mainly sunny with scattered showers in the north and west. The 30th was drier with some sunshine, but still some scattered showers. The 31st started dry and sunny, with isolated fog patches and chilly in some rural areas; the minimum temperature was -1.3 °C at Braemar (Aberdeenshire), but cloud soon moved into the west ahead of patchy rain.

## **Northern Ireland diary of highlights**

**August was a dull and unsettled month, with predominantly westerly and south-westerly winds, but the weather was brighter during the second week and towards the end of the month.**

The month's mean temperature was equal to the 1981-2010 long-term average. Rainfall was 105% of average, and sunshine was just 78% of average making it provisionally the dullest August since 2008.

### **1st to 6th**

It was generally unsettled with south-westerly winds but high pressure was often close by to the south-east. Rain spread to all parts by midday on the 1st, clearing away eastwards towards evening. It was generally cloudy between the 2nd and 4th, with another belt of rain spreading to all parts by mid-afternoon on the 2nd, and the 3rd had some patchy rain but the 4th was mostly dry. The 5th was a brighter day, but rain reached the far north in the evening. Some patchy light rain cleared on the 6th followed by sunshine and showers, and it was warm with a maximum of 24.4 °C at Helens Bay (County Down).

### **7th to 13th**

A cool showery westerly type dominated between the 7th and 10th bringing sunny intervals and scattered showers on all four days. Many places were cloudy for a time on the 7th, but the 9th was sunnier with 9.9 hours of sunshine at Aldergrove (County Antrim). A dry and bright start on the 11th, cool in places with a minimum of 0.2 °C at Katesbridge (County Down), clouding over with rain reaching the Province by mid-afternoon. The rain cleared eastwards on the 12th followed by scattered showers with some brighter intervals. The 13th started cloudy with a little light rain but turned sunnier.

### **14th to 22nd**

It continued unsettled and generally much cloudier. A band of rain moved eastwards on the morning of the 14th, followed by patchy light rain or drizzle, and it remained cloudy. The 15th had a bright start but rain quickly spread from the west in the afternoon, heavy in places. The 16th was a day of sunshine and showers, then the cloudy humid weather type returned on the 17th, with persistent rain moving in from the west to affect northern parts during the afternoon. It stayed cloudy between the 18th and 21st, with some light rain or drizzle at times, and on the 18th some heavy and persistent rain moved in from the west during the

afternoon giving 24.0 mm at Derrylin (County Fermanagh). It was wet on the morning of the 22nd but turned drier and brighter in the afternoon.

### **23rd to 31st**

The weather remained unsettled and turned cooler but also brighter. Rain cleared eastwards during the morning of the 23rd followed by sunshine and heavy blustery showers. The 24th and 25th were cool with a mix of sunshine and showers, the showers widespread and locally heavy on the 24th, but mainly light on the 25th with more sunshine in between. Another depression brought rain, heavy at times, for all parts on the 26th, but this cleared eastwards from late morning followed by sunshine and showers; it was windy in the north with a gust to 44 mph at Magilligan (County Londonderry). The 27th was mostly cloudy with isolated showers, but these died away in the afternoon and it turned brighter. It was mainly cloudy on the 28th with a little light rain, some early sunshine in the north-east, and a band of rain moved in slowly from the north-west later. Starting sunny on the 29th, isolated showers developing during the morning and afternoon, tending to die away later as cloud thickened from the west. A ridge of high pressure moved in from the west giving a dry and mainly bright day on the 30th, and a dry sunny start on the 31st, but cloud increased from the west and brought isolated patches of light rain into the north.

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