

August 2019

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

August opened with a weak ridge of high pressure, which brought some warm sunshine but also some scattered thundery showers in some places. The weather then turned more unsettled and breezier with some showers and longer spells of rain, and deep depressions brought bouts of wet and windy weather especially to Scotland on the 9th, 14th and 16th. There was a hot sunny spell in most central and southern areas between the 21st and 27th, which extended to most of the country between the 24th and 26th, setting new record temperatures for the late August bank holiday. A thundery breakdown followed, and the last few days were cooler with some heavy persistent rain over much of Scotland and Cumbria.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 15.8 °C, which is 0.9 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. Mean maximum temperatures were mostly about 1.0 °C above normal, but were over 2 °C above in the east of East Anglia. Mean minimum temperatures were about 0.5 °C above average in the south, but over 1 °C above in most areas from the Midlands northwards. Rainfall was 153% of average, and large areas of Scotland, Cumbria and Northumberland had over twice the normal rainfall, but it was drier than average in East Anglia and Kent. Sunshine was 107% of average, and it was generally sunnier than average in central and eastern England and in the east of Northern Ireland, with close to or slightly below average sunshine elsewhere.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 33.4 °C was recorded at Heathrow (Greater London) on the 27th. A minimum temperature of 2.0 °C was recorded at Katesbridge (County Down) on the 13th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 GMT on the 31st, 69.8 mm of rain fell at Tyndrum (Perthshire). A wind gust of 73 knots (84 mph) was recorded at Needles (Isle of Wight) on the 10th.

Weather impacts

After heavy rain at the end of July, early August had lingering impacts relating to flooding, exacerbated in places by thundery showers in early August. On the 1st, there was flooding on the rail line between Manchester Piccadilly, Manchester Airport and Wilmslow, with flooding also on the M60. The dam holding the Toddbrook reservoir at Whaley Bridge was in danger of collapsing and this led to the evacuation of Whaley Bridge and operations to reduce the water level in the reservoir. On the 2nd, manhole covers were lifted due to heavy rain in Nottingham. In Scotland, the rail line between Tyndrum and Dalmally was closed, the A82 was closed in both directions between Crianlarich and Tarbet due to a rockfall, and there were delays on the A9 due to flooding.

On the 5th, a rail landslip at Tyndrum resulted in the line being closed, and there was temporary flooding at Craigendoran. On the 6th, in Northern Ireland there was flooding on both sides of the Bangor to Newtownards road. There was also some flooding in South Wales. On the 7th, in Scotland there was widespread flooding in Moray, the railway between Aviemore and Inverness was closed, with disruption on other roads and railways as well as reports of floods and landslides.

Strong winds and heavy rain caused widespread disruption on the 10th, resulting in sporting event cancellations and flooding to roads and rail lines in many parts of the UK. Roads on Arran were closed, fallen trees on the A92 and Bishopton rail line caused delays to travel, and there was a landslip on the rail line near Arrochar & Tarbet with another on the A7. Lightning caused a railway signal outage at Blackpool North. At Dover some ferries were delayed due to high winds with one ferry stuck at sea, and there were some delays at the London airports due to strong winds.

On the 30th and 31st, in Scotland some sporting fixtures and public events were cancelled or postponed due to strong winds and heavy rain. Both the Tay Road Bridge and Forth Road Bridge were closed to double-decker buses and speed restrictions were put in place. The rail line between Inverness and Aviemore was closed for a time, while some roads were affected by flooding causing travel disruption in Perth, Kinross and Ayrshire.

England diary of highlights

The first three weeks of August were dominated mostly by bright showery weather, and after a relatively quiet start to the month, deep depressions brought wet and windy weather on the 9th/10th, 14th and 16th. A hot spell developed from the 21st to 27th, setting new record high temperatures for the Bank Holiday weekend. The weather turned cooler and more unsettled again from the 28th.

The mean temperature for August was provisionally 0.9 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. Rainfall was 118% of average, and it was a very wet month in Cumbria and Northumberland with over twice the normal rainfall amount in many places, but drier than average over much of East Anglia and the south-east. Elsewhere rainfall was generally a little above normal. Sunshine was 111% of average, with above average sunshine in most eastern areas and near average sunshine further west.

1st to 8th

Sunshine and showers was the dominant theme during this period. The month started with a weak ridge of high pressure, bringing warmth and sunshine, but showers broke out quite widely on the 1st, with thunderstorms across parts of the Midlands and north-west. Showers were more scattered on the 2nd, particularly in the south. Weak fronts brought more widespread showers on the 3rd and 4th, with thunder in some central and northern counties on the 4th. A westerly type brought cooler weather over the next few days but with temperatures still generally just above the seasonal average. After a cloudy start, the 5th had relatively few showers, but showers were widespread on the 6th, merging into longer spells of rain in parts of the north, with thunder in parts of the Midlands. Showers were more scattered again on the 7th, with isolated thunderstorms in the south-east. Many places stayed dry and sunny on the 8th, but cloud and rain affected the far south-west and pushed north-eastwards late in the day.

9th to 13th

A deep depression brought wet and windy weather on the 9th, the rain clearing the east followed by sunshine and showers with quite widespread thunder, and 61.4 mm fell at Spadeadam (Cumbria), but it remained warm. It continued windy in the south on the 10th with a gust to 73 knots (84 mph) at Needles (Isle of Wight), and it was cooler than of late with sunshine and showers for most, and thunder in some places. Persistent rain affected the north on the 11th where it was very cool with a maximum of only 12.0 °C at Malham Tarn (North Yorkshire), with sunshine and showers in the south and some thunder in the south-west. Many areas had sunshine and fewer showers on the 12th and 13th, when it also become less windy, but the south and south-east had heavy rain and thunderstorms on the 12th, with rain in the south-west on the morning of the 13th.

14th to 20th

Another deep depression brought persistent rain and isolated thunderstorms on the 14th, with brighter showery weather following from the south-west. It turned drier and brighter on the 15th, then further persistent rain spread eastwards through all parts on the 16th. The 17th to 20th saw a return to sunshine and showers, and some heavy thundery showers affected the south and south-east on the 19th, but by the 20th the showers were more scattered with many places staying dry.

21st to 27th

High pressure developed over Europe and brought increasingly warm air up from the south. The 21st had further showers in the north-west, but most other parts were dry and sunny. The 22nd was fine and sunny in the south with 13.6 hours of sunshine at East Malling (Kent), but cloudy with some rain in the north. The dry sunny weather extended northwards and westwards to most parts on the 23rd, and between the 24th and 27th it was generally sunny and increasingly hot. The temperature did not drop below 19.7 °C at St. Catherine's Point (Isle of Wight) overnight 23rd/24th, and Heathrow (London) reached 33.3 °C on the 25th, 33.2 °C on the 26th and 33.4 °C on the 27th, setting a new record high for the late August bank holiday. Showers developed in the south-west on the 26th and 27th and spread north and east on the 27th, turning thundery in the Midlands and the north.

28th to 31st

The weather abruptly turned somewhat cooler and wetter. A band of rain cleared the east and south-east early on the 28th, and then another belt of rain spread north-eastwards during the day, and it was generally much cooler, but it stayed very warm in East Anglia and the south-east. After a chilly night with a minimum of 4.4 °C at South Newington (Oxfordshire), the 29th was mostly dry and sunny in the south but it was cloudier and breezier in the north. The north-south split continued on the 30th with dry sunny weather in central and southern counties and cloudy wet weather in the north, and it was very wet in Cumbria. A belt of rain moved eastwards across the country on the 31st, followed by sunshine and isolated showers.

Wales diary of highlights

The first three weeks of August were predominantly bright and showery, and a few depressions also brought bouts of wet and windy weather. It turned very warm or hot and sunny from the 23rd to 27th, but the last few days were much cooler with rain at times.

The mean temperature for the month was provisionally 0.9 °C above the 1981-2010 average. Rainfall was 130% of average and sunshine was 105% of average, with sunshine predominantly above average around the coastline and near average inland.

1st to 8th

A ridge of high pressure brought mostly warm dry sunny weather on the 1st and 2nd, with 14.0 hours of sunshine at Dale Fort (Dyfed) on the 1st, although some showers developed in the south-west on the 2nd. Weak fronts brought cloudier weather with more in the way of showers on the 3rd and 4th, with some heavy outbreaks of rain for the north and north-west early on the 4th, but it remained warm. Temperatures were closer to average between the 5th and 7th, with a mix of sunshine and showers, though showers were fewer on the 7th. Showers were very isolated on the 8th with most places dry and sunny, but it clouded over from the south later with some rain spreading into the far south.

9th to 13th

A deep depression brought rain overnight 8th/9th and the temperature did not drop below 18.1 °C at Cardiff Bute Park and at Mumbles (West Glamorgan), and the 9th had a mix of sunshine and showers and longer spells of rain, the showers locally heavy and thundery, with 45.2 mm of rain at Capel Curig (Gwynedd). The 10th and 11th had showers and longer spells of rain, and it remained windy on the 10th with gusts to 59 knots (68 mph) at Mumbles, and there was thunder in some south-eastern parts on the afternoon of the 11th. As the depression moved away, the 12th was brighter with scattered showers, and showers were isolated on the 13th with many places staying dry and sunny.

14th to 22nd

Another deep depression brought rain early on the 14th, which was followed by brighter weather with showers, the showers briefly heavy and thundery in the far north-west during the afternoon. A ridge of high pressure brought a mostly dry bright day on the 15th, but another depression brought dull, wet weather on the 16th with persistent and locally heavy rain. From the 17th to 19th there was a mix of sunshine and showers. High pressure then built from the south, but on the 20th further showers or longer spells of rain spread from the west from mid-afternoon, and there were further scattered showers on the 21st, with persistent rain spreading into the north from early evening. The 22nd was cloudy with some rain.

23rd to 27th

The 23rd was dry and sunny in the south following some early morning light rain in the south-west, with the sunshine extending further north during the day. The 24th and 25th were dry, sunny and increasingly hot, with a high of 28.8 °C at Gogerddan (Dyfed) on the 24th, although cloud persisted near the west coast on the 25th. Many areas started cloudy on the 26th, but brightened up by lunchtime, and it was another sunny and very warm afternoon. A trough brought showers north-eastwards through most parts on the 27th, these clearing away during the afternoon but with more showers or longer spells of rain reaching the south-west late in the day.

28th to 31st

The weather abruptly turned much cooler and wetter. A belt of rain moved slowly eastwards on the 28th, followed by drier brighter weather, but the far east and south-east hung onto the rain, and the temperature only reached 13.6 °C at Sennybridge (Powys). The night of the 28th/29th was cooler with a minimum of 3.8 °C at St Harmon (Powys), and the 29th was a mostly dry bright day with isolated showers, with strong winds in some exposed north-western parts. Winds increased on the 30th, especially in the north and in exposed places, with sunshine in the far south and south-east but more cloud elsewhere; the north saw some rain, with isolated patches of light rain in the south-west. A belt of rain moved eastwards on the 31st, clearing before midday, followed by sunshine and scattered blustery showers.

Scotland diary of highlights

August was a generally unsettled month with westerly winds and bands of persistent rain alternating with brighter showery weather. There was a brief hot spell, mainly affecting the south and west, on the 24th-26th, and it was very warm in the west on the first three days, ensuring that temperatures were above average.

The mean temperature for August was provisionally 0.8 °C above the long-term average. It was Scotland's wettest August in a series since 1910 with 190% of average rainfall, with all regions bar Aberdeenshire much wetter than average. Sunshine was 95% of average.

1st to 4th

A weak ridge of high pressure brought warm but mostly cloudy weather with scattered showers in places but with a fair amount of sunshine in the Western Isles. There were isolated thunderstorms in the west on the afternoon of the 1st, and the temperature did not fall below 16.5 °C at Great Cumbrae Millport (Buteshire) overnight 1st/2nd. Most places were dry with some sunshine on the 3rd, though with isolated showers, especially over the central Highlands and parts of the south, and it was very warm in the north and west. Weak fronts brought a band of rain north-eastwards on the 4th, followed by sunshine and showers, the showers heavy and thundery in some central and south-eastern parts.

5th to 13th

A showery westerly type dominated until the 8th, with some longer spells of rain at times also. The showers turned thundery in the north on the 5th and 6th, and locally in central parts on the 7th. Showers were more scattered on the 8th, but still with quite a few in some north-eastern, central and southern counties. A deep depression brought widespread, locally very heavy, rain from the south on the 9th, followed by showers from the south in the afternoon, with isolated thunderstorms over parts of the east and the Borders. Heavy showers and longer spells of rain in the Borders on the 10th resulted in flooding, fallen trees and landslides, but further north the day was brighter with just scattered showers. Persistent rain affected most areas on the 11th, particularly the south, but the far north stayed mostly dry. The 12th and 13th saw a return to sunshine and showers.

14th to 20th

Another deep depression steered a belt of rain through the country on the 14th, though it tended to fizzle out as it headed northwards, before another band of heavy rain moved into the west during the afternoon. Most places became drier and brighter on the 15th after a cloudy start with light rain or drizzle in north-western parts. Another depression brought widespread and locally heavy rain on the 16th, the rain easing in the afternoon. The 17th to 20th were dominated by sunshine and showers, with isolated thunderstorms. A band of more persistent rain straddled some northern and western parts for a time on the 19th. On the 20th the far north and east stayed dry.

21st to 27th

A warmer, moist south-westerly type established from the 21st to 23rd. After a bright showery start on the 21st, cloud and rain spread from the west to all parts by late afternoon. There was further rain in western, especially north-western, parts on the 22nd, and it was windy in the north with gusts of 52 knots (60 mph) at Loch Glascarnoch (Ross & Cromarty), but with some sunshine for a time in the east. Generally cloudy on the 23rd with persistent and locally heavy rain for the north, eventually clearing by mid-afternoon, and it brightened up in the south. It remained bright in the south but cloudy elsewhere on the 24th with some rain, heaviest and most frequent over the north and west. Very warm and sunny weather spread from the south on the 25th and 26th, with a high of 29.1°C at Floors Castle (Roxburghshire) on the 25th, but on the 26th central and western areas had more cloud, with rain for the far north-west and Western Isles. The 27th was generally cloudier, but sunny in the east. Rain affected the far west, and showers and thunderstorms moved up from the Borders from late afternoon, heading northwards through eastern areas.

28th to 31st

The weather turned much cooler and wetter. The 28th was sunny in the far north-east with 13.1 hours of sunshine at Dyce (Aberdeenshire), while a belt of rain spread from the west, followed by brighter weather in most places, though cloud and patchy rain hung on in the Highlands. The night of the 28th/29th was chilly in many places with a minimum of 2.1 °C at Cromdale (Morayshire). Persistent rain and strong winds affected most areas on the 29th and 30th, with 69.8 mm of rain at Tyndrum (Perthshire) on the 30th. An area of heavy persistent rain moved north-eastwards across the country on the 31st, eventually followed by sunshine and scattered blustery showers, and the temperature only reached 10.0°C at Loch Glascarnoch.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

August was a generally wet and changeable month, but quite warm, mainly due to a warm start and a warm spell between the 21st and 27th. For much of the time the weather was bright and showery, so sunshine totals were very reasonable despite the frequent rainfall.

The mean temperature for August was provisionally 0.8 °C above the long-term average. Rainfall was 162% of average, sunshine was 111% of average, and western areas were very wet with near-average sunshine, while the east was sunnier and had slightly above average rainfall.

1st to 8th

A ridge of high pressure brought mostly dry sunny weather on the 1st and 2nd, with 13.0 hours of sunshine at Aldergrove (County Antrim) on the 1st. Weak fronts brought some rain northwards through the country on the 3rd, followed by brighter weather with scattered showers in the south. Temperatures did not fall below 16.2°C at Magilligan (County Londonderry) overnight 3rd/4th, followed by a dry and bright start on the 4th, but cloud increased from the south-west, bringing heavy rain and thunderstorms to the far west and south-west by late afternoon. The 5th to 7th had westerly winds and sunshine and showers, the showers heavy and locally thundery at times. The 8th was drier with some sunshine and just isolated showers, but rain spread from the south-west overnight 8th/9th giving 53.5 mm of rainfall at Trassey (County Down).

9th to 13th

A deep depression brought a belt of rain northwards early on the 9th, followed by brighter weather with scattered, locally heavy, showers in the afternoon. The 10th was cloudy and windy with showers and longer spells of rain, and some thunder in parts of the south during the afternoon. Rain continued into the 11th, and the temperature did not exceed 13.0 °C at Ballypatrick (County Antrim), but it turned drier and brighter in the afternoon. The 12th and 13th were cool with sunshine and showers, the showers locally heavy and thundery on the 12th, and the temperature fell to 2.0 °C at Katesbridge (County Down) early on the 13th.

14th to 20th

Another depression brought a mostly cloudy day on the 14th, and a narrow band of heavy rain spread eastwards accompanied locally by thunder. A ridge of high pressure gave a mostly fine day on the 15th, but another area of rain moved in from the west during the following night, clearing on the morning of the 16th followed by sunshine and showers. The 17th to 20th were dominated by a mix of sunshine and showers, and it was windy on the 17th and 18th with gusts of 46 knots (53mph) at Magilligan on the 17th.

21st to 27th

After a fine start the 21st turned very wet with a broad area of persistent rain spreading from the west, and the 22nd was grey with light rain or drizzle. Dry and bright weather moved in from the south for the 23rd, but showers or longer spells of rain affected most areas on the 24th, most persistent in the north and west, albeit warm with a high of 24.3 °C at Armagh. Most places were dry, sunny and warm on the 25th, but some cloud and a few showers rolled in during the evening. The 26th turned mostly sunny for a time after clearance of low cloud, but cloud increased from the west in the afternoon with some light rain moving in. This rain band became slow-moving across northern and western areas on the 27th.

28th to 31st

The weather turned much cooler, with rain clearing eastwards early on the 28th followed by sunshine and scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. The 29th was a mostly cloudy breezy day with showers and longer spells of rain, and a more organised area of rain moved into the far west from late afternoon. The 30th was generally wet for all parts, and the rain cleared by the 31st leaving sunshine and blustery showers, locally accompanied by thunder.