

August 2021

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

The first half of August was broadly unsettled, with plenty of rain between the 5th and 13th. The second half was drier, except for the 20th and 21st, with high pressure developing by the 23rd and remaining near northern UK thereafter. Scotland, especially the west, was often warm by day, whereas further south warm days were much fewer. Many areas were drier than usual for the month, with less than half the average total rainfall in some places, and the wettest areas were south-east England, eastern Scotland and Northern Ireland. Western Scotland fared well for sunshine, though many other areas were duller than average, especially central and eastern England where some stations had their dullest August in records going back 60 or more years.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 15.0 °C, which is 0.1 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. Maxima were above normal over Scotland and Northern Ireland but below normal for most of England and Wales, while minima were slightly above normal in most areas. Most parts of the UK had less rainfall than average, with below half the average amount in parts of the English Midlands, Lincolnshire, East Anglia, and western Scotland. The UK overall had 73% of average August rainfall. Sunshine was above average for western Scotland, but below average for most other areas, with only around 60% of average for much of the Midlands, East Anglia, central southern England, and Shetland; the overall figure was 79% of average.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 27.2 °C was recorded at Tyndrum (Perthshire) on the 25th. A minimum temperature of 0.3 °C was recorded at Braemar (Aberdeenshire) on the 31st. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 UTC on the 9th, 74.2 mm of rain fell at Spadeadam (Cumbria). A wind gust of 51 knots (59 mph) was recorded at Needles (Isle of Wight) on the 9th.

Weather impacts

The poor weather of late July continued into August. Flooding was reported in Faversham, Kent on the 1st, with disruption to public transport, and some roads temporarily closed. Flooding across parts of the Isle of Wight on the 2nd caused disruption to buses and some rail services. In Wales there was flooding on the M4 near Swansea, and a landslip on the railway line near Neath/Skewen on the 2nd. On the 4th, trains were disrupted around Ballymena in Northern Ireland, and also between Sheffield and Stockport.

There was further unsettled weather during the following week. In Scotland on the 6th, flooding around Edinburgh caused road congestion and delays to bus and train services. A number of roads in Glasgow were closed, and West St station was closed due to flooding. There was flooding in some parts of Belfast, with reports of property flooding in the Ardoyne area. Strong winds brought down trees causing delays on the A127 in Essex, and reportedly delayed rail services between Lowestoft and Ipswich.

Further flooding arose across parts of Scotland on the 9th, notably in Corstorphine and at the Cameron Toll in Edinburgh. Lothian Buses warned customers of diversions and/or disruption to services as a result of flooding. Numerous roads in Glasgow saw flooding, with some closed. Some ScotRail services were delayed or diverted around Edinburgh and Glasgow. Further south, flooding around Stansted Airport on the 9th meant at least one cancelled train to London, and delays on the A12. Services between Brighton and Haywards Heath were suspended due to a flooded line, and police in Gosport asked people to avoid Leesland Road due to flooding. Further flooding was reported in Brighton, Newbury and on parts of the M25.

High pressure settled over the UK from about mid-month, giving a quiet end to the summer, though rain on the 21st caused flooding on the railway at Bradford Forster Square.

England diary of highlights

The first half of August was mostly rather unsettled, with temperatures suppressed by day, and regular falls of rain, many of these heavy and thundery. It became much drier from mid-month, apart from the 20th/21st, with quiet settled weather but largely unremarkable temperatures.

The mean temperature for August was provisionally 0.3 °C below the 1981-2010 long-term average. Maximum temperatures were around 1.5 °C below average in the south-east, whereas minima were slightly above average over the Midlands and the north. Rainfall was near average in the south-east, parts of Devon, and from Lancashire to East Yorkshire, but well below average in some areas such as the Midlands, Lincolnshire and East Anglia. The overall figure for England was 70% of average. Sunshine was widely below average, with less than 60% of average in some places. The overall figure of 71% makes it England's 7th dullest August in a series from 1919.

1st to 9th

The 1st was mostly cloudy, with some heavy showers which became organised into bands, and increasingly frequent and thundery in the far south. Early sunshine on the 2nd was short-lived for most areas, as cloud increased, giving slow-moving heavy showers, mostly from the Midlands southwards, particularly heavy over the Isle of Wight, with the best of the sunshine in the north-west. After any mist or fog cleared, the 3rd began mostly fine, but cloud readily developed to bring scattered slow-moving showers, some heavy and thundery; however Whitby (North Yorkshire) saw 13.9 hours of sunshine. The 4th started similarly, again with cloud soon building, to give heavy thundery showers in some northern and central areas. Early sunshine in central and eastern areas on the 5th gave way to cloud and rain, locally heavy and thundery, which spread in from the west, persisting throughout the day, with southern and western areas remaining cool. The 6th was breezy in places, with sunshine and blustery showers, though cloudier in the far north; showers continued to develop, becoming more widespread and intense with thunderstorms breaking out, especially in southern and eastern counties. Some southern counties started very wet on the 7th, as an area of heavy or very heavy rain with isolated thunderstorms moved away, then bands of showers, some heavy and thundery, swept eastwards through the day, merging in parts of the north Midlands and the north-west later, and it was breezy at times in exposed parts. Heavy rain early on the 8th gave way to a mixture of sunshine and showers; some showers were heavy and thundery, amounting to 74.2 mm at Spadeadam (Cumbria), but many places were drier by evening. Early rain in the south-east soon cleared on the 9th, with scattered showers elsewhere, though Yorkshire and some western areas were brighter; showers became more widespread and thundery, coalescing into bands of rain, while parts of the south became windy with Needles (Isle of Wight) recording gusts to 59 mph.

10th to 18th

Showers were more isolated on the 10th, and it was warm in places, with some sunshine especially further south. Central and eastern areas started sunny on the 11th, with more cloud elsewhere and blustery showery rain pushing into the west. After a sunny start in central areas on the 12th, most areas were cloudy, with patchy rain in some southern areas, and rain into the north later. The 13th was cloudy with light showers across the south, but brighter further north. The 14th was mostly cloudy for the Midlands and north, with patchy rain, but drier and brighter over southern areas. The 15th was cloudy for most, with patchy rain mostly in northern and western parts, but East Anglia was brighter and warmer, Cavendish (Suffolk) reaching a maximum of 26.4 °C. The 16th began cloudy except in the far south, with rain spreading south-eastwards through

the day – albeit largely missing the south-west – followed by sunny periods in the north-east. The 17th was cloudy for most areas, with patchy rain or drizzle lingering in parts of the Midlands and north. The best of any limited sunshine on the 18th was in north-eastern and central southern areas, with patchy rain or drizzle in a few places elsewhere.

19th to 22nd

Most areas started cloudy on the 19th, any localised mist and fog soon clearing; sunny spells developed in some areas, but also bands of showers, some heavy, with the occasional rumble of thunder. The 20th started mostly fine, with brightness in some eastern areas, but with isolated light showers at first, before further showery precipitation moved into western and northern parts during the afternoon, but it remained mainly dry elsewhere. The 21st saw a lot of cloud, with bands of rain pushing north-eastwards, including some heavier bursts, but the far south-west became brighter with sunny spells, triggering several thunderstorms, and isolated thunderstorms developed later in the West Midlands. After a mild night, with Cromer (Norfolk) not falling below 16.6 °C, the 22nd was mostly cloudy, with thunderstorms clearing from the south-east, and showers, often heavy, developing in northern and eastern areas, while central and western areas were rather brighter.

23rd to 31st

The remainder of the month was settled, but often cloudy. The 23rd saw some early mist and isolated patchy rain or drizzle in parts of the south, but was an increasingly bright day for many areas. The 24th brought sunshine for most places, though the Midlands were cloudier with patchy rain in places. The 25th was again cloudy in central areas, with drizzle at times, but brighter further south and in the north-west. The eastern half of the country was cloudy and cool with a brisk wind on the 26th, but cloud cleared in most western areas to give some sunshine. Most areas began cloudy on the 27th, with fog patches at first in the far south-west; patchy rain affected some eastern and central parts for a time, but cloud tended to break up elsewhere with bright spells in places. After a colder night, with Shap (Cumbria) falling to 1.9 °C, the 28th was sunny for many, though central and south-eastern counties saw more cloud, with a few showers feeding off the North Sea into parts of East Anglia and the south-east. Many central and eastern parts had early fog on the 29th, then most areas were cloudy and cool, with a few showers in the north-east, but some sunshine further south and west. The 30th was overcast almost everywhere, with persistent light rain or drizzle for eastern counties, and Brizlee Wood (Northumberland) struggled to a maximum of only 12.8 °C. The 31st was similarly cloudy and cool, again with light rain and drizzle for eastern counties.

Wales diary of highlights

The first part of the month was mainly unsettled, with plenty of rain especially between the 5th and 9th. The second half of the month was more settled, if often rather cloudy, with very little rain after the 21st.

Mean temperatures for the month were provisionally 0.2 °C below average. Most of Wales was both drier and duller than average, with only half the average rainfall amount in Pembrokeshire. There was 71% of average rainfall overall, and 74% of average sunshine.

1st to 9th

The 1st was partly cloudy with isolated showers, but brighter by late afternoon. After a sunny start on the 2nd, cloud increased and showers developed, especially in central and south-eastern areas. The 3rd again started mostly sunny, with cloud soon increasing and very isolated showers developing, but Aberdaron (Gwynedd) recorded 12.7 hours of bright sunshine. The 4th was very similar, and Aberdaron was again sunniest with 12.7 hours. By contrast, the 5th was wet, with

some heavy rain and frequent showers, Capel Curig (Gwynedd) recording 53.0 mm. The 6th saw sunshine and blustery showers, with strong winds around coasts, Aberdaron recording gusts to 48 mph. The 7th was wet with bands of blustery showers, some heavy with thunderstorms, sweeping eastwards through the day, and breezy again. The 8th started with heavy rain, which eased off into the afternoon to give increasing sunny spells, and continuing windy. After early sunshine on 9th, cloud increased with showers developing, coalescing into longer spells of rain, heavy at times.

10th to 21st

The 10th started with some mist and drizzle, but was brighter by the afternoon. The 11th saw showery rain in parts of the south, before heavier rain edged in from the west for the afternoon, with winds increasing. After a mostly sunny start, cloud increased during the 12th with isolated showers, and it was windy in exposed parts. The 13th was mostly cloudy with a few showers, but remained drier and brighter in the north-west. It was cloudy on the 14th, early fog in the south-west soon clearing, with patchy rain in places, and heavier rain pushing in by late afternoon. The 15th was mostly cloudy, with rain at times. It was again mostly cloudy on the 16th with isolated showers, and remaining breezy in exposed parts. The 17th was mostly cloudy, but showers were fewer. It was mild overnight into the 18th, with Cardiff Bute Park not falling below 16.2 °C, then mostly cloudy but fine. The 19th saw sunny spells and scattered showers developing in the east. The 20th began dry, apart from isolated showers in the north-west at first, but an area of showery precipitation moved into the south and west during the afternoon, getting heavy in places as it continued north-eastwards. Further rain on the 21st cleared away north-eastward in the afternoon, with a few heavy and thundery showers developing.

22nd to 31st

The last ten days were more settled, though rarely warm. The 22nd was mainly fine, with isolated showers, and on the 23rd, after any localised fog had cleared, there were sunny spells with the odd shower. The 24th was dry, but remained rather cloudy except in southern areas. Cloud cover on the 25th cleared south-eastwards in the afternoon, with Porthmadog (Gwynedd) reaching a maximum of 24.5 °C. The 26th began cloudy and misty, but became warm by the afternoon with long spells of sunshine. After a cold night, with St Harmon (Powys) dropping to 1.0 °C, the 27th was mainly sunny, though with cloud over the Borders at times. The 28th was widely sunny, after isolated fog patches had quickly burned off, and the 29th was similar but with perhaps slightly more cloud. The 30th and 31st were overcast and cool, with a few outbreaks of light rain or drizzle on the latter, Libanus (Powys) struggling to a maximum of only 13.2 °C on the 30th and Lake Vyrnwy (Powys) reaching only 13.2 °C on the 31st.

Scotland diary of highlights

The first part of the month was unsettled, with a lot of rain between the 4th and 13th, though with some warm days. From mid-month it was mostly settled, and it became warmer by day between the 22nd and 28th, with high pressure covering the country.

The provisional mean temperature for the month was 0.6 °C above the long-term average. Maximum temperatures were 2 °C above normal over parts of the West Highlands. Rainfall was just above average in parts of the east, but many areas were drier than average, especially on the western side, with Scotland as a whole having 71% of average rainfall. Sunshine was above average in parts of the west, but slightly below average in many other places, with an overall figure of 95% of average.

1st to 13th

Central and western areas saw sunny spells on the 1st, while scattered showers continued for a time across Grampian and Tayside, then it became mainly fine in the afternoon except in northern and eastern areas. The 2nd was sunny in some areas, but rather cool and cloudy in the north-

east with Fair Isle (Shetland) reaching a maximum of only 11.9 °C. After early sunshine in the east, the 3rd was mostly cloudy with some showers. The north started wet on the 4th, then a band of heavy rain pushed in from the west, along with heavy thundery showers, though these largely missed southern and eastern areas, with sunny spells here. The 5th soon saw rain and showers into western and northernmost areas, spreading to most parts by the afternoon. Eastern areas began very wet on the 6th, with heavy rain moving north and west, this turning more showery, with frequent showers elsewhere, heavy and thundery at times, though the Northern Isles missed most of the rain; it was windy in exposed parts, especially the Northern Isles. It was mild overnight into the 7th, with Kinlochewe (Ross & Cromarty) not falling below 15.6 °C, then a mainly cloudy day, with showers, becoming more widespread over many areas, some of them turning heavy in southern and western areas, with occasional thunderstorms, but sunny spells developing in eastern and northern parts during the afternoon; the Shetland Islands were breezy at times. The 8th was mostly cloudy, with rain and frequent heavy thundery showers developing but also sunny intervals; however it remained largely fine in the far north, the Northern and Western Isles, with Stornoway (Western Isles) having 13.9 hours of sunshine. Most areas were cloudy on the 9th, with rain and showers, becoming more widespread and thundery into the afternoon. Any fog soon cleared on the 10th, with showers in central and northern areas becoming widespread and persistent, some heavy and thundery, though it remained drier and brighter in the south. Heavy and persistent rain in the west on the 11th swiftly moved through most areas, clearing eastwards to give brighter skies in the west. Some early sunshine on the 12th gave way to increasing cloud, as heavy and thundery rain swept in from the west, brought in by strong winds, South Uist (Western Isles) reporting gusts to 52 mph through the day, but the rain fragmented later to give sunny spells. The 13th was wet for many, with rain most persistent and heaviest in the north-west, Achnagart (Ross & Cromarty) recording 50.0 mm, but with drier and brighter weather in southern and eastern areas.

14th to 21st

The 14th was mostly cloudy, with some showers, occasionally heavy, but brighter at times in some areas. On the 15th, after patchy rain and mist lingered in places, cloud soon broke up to give sunny spells, with showers mainly affecting parts of the north, some heavy. The 16th was mostly cloudy with patchy rain in the west, but brighter and drier further east. Inland there was some sunshine on the 17th, with more cloud, patchy rain or drizzle and breeze elsewhere. After a sunny start for many on the 18th, cloud increased to give some rain or drizzle in parts of the Western Isles and Grampian. The 19th was cloudy for most places, with patchy rain or drizzle for some. After some earlier brightness in the south, the 20th was mostly cloudy, with some rain and drizzle for a time especially in parts of the north-east, some brighter spells in parts of the north-west later, but showers over south-western parts during the afternoon moving north and east, occasionally heavy in the west; meanwhile the Northern Isles remained largely dry. It was a mild night, with Achnagart getting no lower than 15.6 °C, then the 21st was cloudy and wet with persistent rain slowly tracking northwards throughout the day, albeit missing the far north-east again.

22nd to 31st

The rest of the month was mainly settled and dry. The 22nd was mostly cloudy, with mist and fog in some central and eastern locations lingering in places, sunny spells and showers elsewhere with the showers becoming more widespread by midday, though mainly fine in parts of the north. A mostly cloudy start on the 23rd, with mist and fog in places clearing by midday, gave way to longer spells of sunshine, especially in the west, and only isolated showers. The 24th was sunny and very warm for many places, following some mist and fog in central and eastern areas, with localised light showers on the Aberdeenshire coast. The 25th was a similar day, albeit remaining cloudy in the far north and the Northern and Western Isles, and warm again with Tyndrum (Perthshire) recording a maximum of 27.2 °C. A cloudy start for many on the 26th gave way to

sunny and warm conditions by the afternoon away from the far east. After another cloudy start on the 27th, with patchy fog across parts of the Highlands at first, many parts turned sunny once more. Sunshine on the 28th, especially over the mainland, gave way in the north later as cloud spread in. The 29th was broadly cloudier and cooler, with a few showers mainly across the north and east. The west had some sunshine on the 30th, but the east was dull with drizzly rain. After a cold night, Braemar (Aberdeenshire) falling to 0.3 °C, the 31st began fine across western counties but became cloudy everywhere with patchy rain and drizzle for eastern and southern parts.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

The first half of the month was rather unsettled, with copious rain between the 4th and 11th, but quite warm at times. The second half was much more settled, except for rain on the 20th/21st, with warm days from 23rd to 28th before a cooler end to the month.

The mean temperature for August was 0.7 °C above the 1981-2010 average. It was a rather wet month in the south and west, with 110% of average rainfall. Most areas were rather duller than average, with an overall sunshine figure of 85%.

1st to 9th

The 1st was partly cloudy, with very isolated showers, but brighter by late afternoon. After an unseasonably cold night, with Katesbridge (Down) recording a minimum of 1.8 °C, rain pushed in from the west early on the 2nd, soon weakening and fragmenting, followed by isolated showers and sunny spells. The 3rd saw scattered showers, some heavy and slow-moving, and sunny intervals. On the 4th a band of rain pushed eastwards, fragmenting to give frequent showers, often heavy and thundery, with sunshine in between. The 5th was wet, a heavy band of rain sweeping through most parts, along with frequent showers. The 6th was cloudy, with showers becoming more persistent and intense through the day and isolated thunderstorms developing. At first on the 7th the showers were mainly in the south-west, with bright spells elsewhere, but showers became more widespread by the afternoon, some heavy with thunderstorms, with 45.2 mm of rain at Magilligan (Londonderry). The 8th was breezy and wet, with showery rain continuing throughout, followed by a mixture of sunshine and showers on the 9th.

10th to 21st

The 10th remained mostly cloudy but with much fewer showers. Heavy rain on the morning of the 11th slowly cleared eastwards, followed by much brighter weather. After a sunny start on the 12th, a band of cloud and rain swept in by mid-morning, soon followed by sunshine and showers, some heavy and thundery, and strong winds with Orlock Head (Down) recording gusts to 45 mph. The 13th saw patchy rain, followed by a mixture of blustery showers and sunny spells into the afternoon. It was mostly cloudy on the 14th, dry and fine in the north, but with rain pushing in from the south. Early fog in the north soon cleared on the 15th, then there was patchy rain at times, but with cloud breaking up in the afternoon. The 16th was cloudy and cool with some rain or drizzle, and temperatures struggling to only 13.1 °C at Altnahinch (Antrim). The 17th and 18th brought further patchy rain or drizzle, some mist and fog in the north lingering into the afternoons. The 19th again saw drizzle in places and north-coast mist, but also occasional sunny spells. Patchy rain at first on the 20th gave way to a more organised broad band of rain moving in from the south and west, heavy in places, but tending to fizzle out and fragment as it moved north-eastwards; exposed parts were breezy at times. A mild night, with Ballywatticock (Down) not falling below 15.3 °C, was followed by patchy rain at first on the 21st, becoming more organised and heavier by the afternoon.

22nd to 31st

On the 22nd isolated showers and early fog soon cleared from the north, and cloud broke up from midday leading to some longer spells of sunshine. The 23rd was mostly sunny, and became

warmer, any fog and isolated showers soon clearing; some fair-weather cloud appeared for a time in the afternoon, before dissipating to allow further sunshine. The 24th was largely fine, sunny and warm. The 25th was similar, after isolated fog, though some cloud developed in the far north by late afternoon, Thomastown (Fermanagh) reaching a maximum of 25.9 °C and Aldergrove (Down) recording 12.6 hours of bright sunshine. The 26th saw cloud, mist and fog, lingering into the afternoon in places, but became brighter and warmer later, with a similar day to follow on the 27th. It was mainly sunny on the 28th, though cloud increased from late morning over northern and north-western counties. The 29th, 30th and 31st were all broadly cloudy but dry.