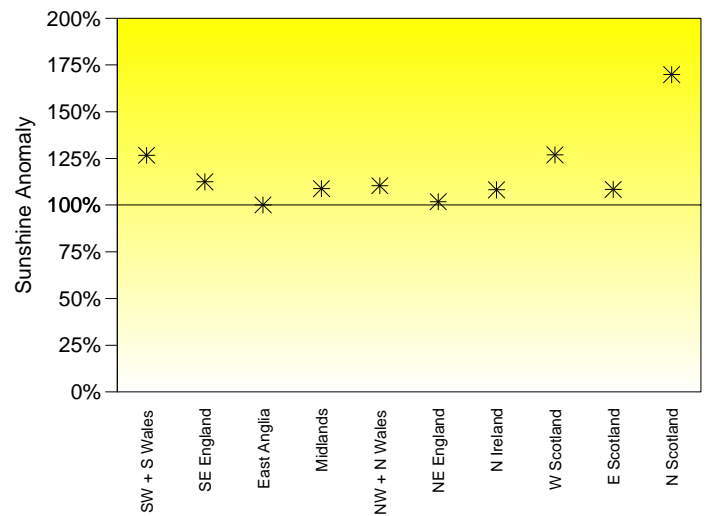
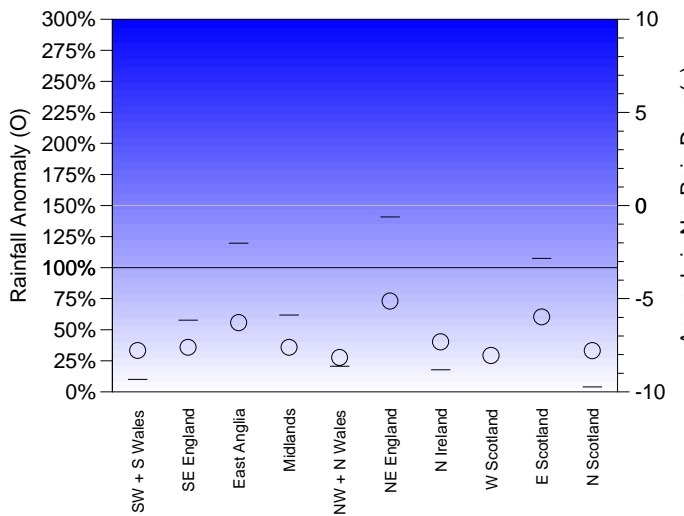


Extremes for October 2016	
Hottest:	22.2°C Trawscoed SAWS, Dyfed, 31st
Coldest:	-5.0°C Tulloch Bridge SAWS, Highland, 25th
Most Rain:	74.4mm KillyLane, County Antrim, 14th
Most Sun:	11.0hrs East Malling, Kent, 3rd
Windiest:	62mph Sule Skerry MAWS, Orkney, 28th
Warmest:	13.5°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	6.9°C Braemar No 2, Grampian
Wettest:	121.8mm Aboyne, Grampian
Driest:	15.8mm Nantwich Reaseheath Hall, Cheshire
Sunniest:	142.9hrs Bude, Cornwall
Dullest:	74.9hrs Thomastown, County Fermanagh



October marks the beginning of Autumn and is usually one of the wettest and windiest months. It typically heralds the first gales - and these are especially common in the final week. October 2016 was unusually settled - and the 3rd least cyclonic since 1871. There is a school of thought that suggests severe winters are preceded by anticyclonic October's - so remember that you read it here first!

A shallow low pressure system tracked east across Wales and the Midlands on the 1st and brought heavy showers and thunderstorms to much of England and Wales. There was localised flooding in Cambridgeshire and in Kent. Pressure then built rapidly and the next couple of days were fine with East Malling, Kent receiving 11 hours sunshine on the 3rd. The high pressure gradually transferred north eastwards intensifying as it did so, and reaching 1051 hPa by the 5th - when it was centred over Norway. This left all of the UK in cool, light, easterly winds which persisted to the end of the first fortnight. There were showers down the east coast, but further north and west it was increasingly dry and sunny. It became briefly unsettled in the west from the 14th as a depression tracked north - and heavy showers dumped 74.4mm rain on Killylane, County Antrim, Northern Ireland - with 24.8mm falling within a single hour! On the 15th more heavy rain resulted in difficult driving conditions across eastern Scotland and flooding caused the cancellation of a number of events in Tayside. Easterlies once more dominated 20th-24th, as high pressure re-established itself, before it slipped south into central Europe - ushering in milder Mediterranean air from the south east. As well as being warmer, the air was also unstable and thunderstorms on the 24th affected Cornwall, Devon and Somerset, and caused some local flash flooding. Southern England saw the first real serious fog of the Autumn on the 25th and 26th and this was responsible for a spate of road accidents and delays at both of London's Airports. Sule Skerry, Northern Isles, recorded a gust of 62mph on the 28th, but everywhere further south it remained settled and very mild for the time of year. Halloween (31st) was remarkably warm. Temperatures reached 22.2°C (72°F) at Trawscoed in Ceredigion, Wales - the highest anywhere in the UK for the entire month.

October was an exceptionally fine and dry month - thanks mainly to lingering high pressure over Scandinavia which held at bay the cloud and rain bearing westerly's more typical of this time of year. The easterly wind regime most favoured the north and west for fine and dry weather - reversing the trend of recent months. Northern Scotland had its sunniest October since at least 1929. All of the west of the UK enjoyed a sunny month - but sunshine was close to normal along cloudier east coasts. Even here, where the comparatively warm North Sea triggered showers, rainfall remained below average and elsewhere it was very dry - with much of the UK recording less than half its usual rainfall. Some places in the west recorded <20mm (remarkable for what is typically amongst the wettest of months) and for the UK as a whole it was the 6th driest October in over 100 years. Temperatures were a little above average nationwide - thanks mainly to the warm final week.

Parts of northern eastern Spain experienced torrential rain and flash flooding on the 12th. At Cabriils 220mm of rain fell in four hours - with an amazing 85mm in just half an hour. A man died after his car was swept away by torrents of raging flood water in nearby Vilassar de Mar. South eastern France was also deluged and Saint-Gervais-sur-Mare recorded a colossal 300mm.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Hurricane "Matthew" - the fiercest in almost a decade - ripped through Haiti and the Dominican Republic on the 5th. The Category 4 storm made landfall on the western tip of the island, bringing 145mph winds and storm surges that pounded coastal villages - and left 1000 people dead. By the 11th floodwaters from "Matthew" had caused at least 33 further deaths in the US - in Florida, South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia. Hot on its heels, on the 12th-13th, Hurricane "Nicole" - another Category 4 storm - lashed Bermuda. Destructive winds and torrential rain left thousands without power. This was the first time that two hurricanes of such intensity have ever occurred in the Atlantic basin during October. Meanwhile unseasonal heat baked central and eastern USA. Dodge City, Kansas, reached 39°C (101°F), on the 17th obliterating the previous record of 34°C (94°F) set in 1926.

In the western Pacific, super-typhoon "Chaba" passed just east of Korea at the start of the month. 275mm of rain triggered flooding and at least 5 deaths in the streets of Busan and 80mph winds caused power outages which affected 200,000 homes. "Chaba" then tracked to be southwest of Okinawa 3rd-6th, where heavy rain and gusts of 140mph wrought more destruction. On the 19th, torrential downpours and severe flash floods ahead of category 4 Typhoon "Sarik" destroyed 100,000 homes across Vietnam. The following day, the Philippines experienced one of its most powerful ever typhoons. "Haima" hit coastal towns facing the Pacific and packed sustained winds of 140mph and gusts of up to 200mph.