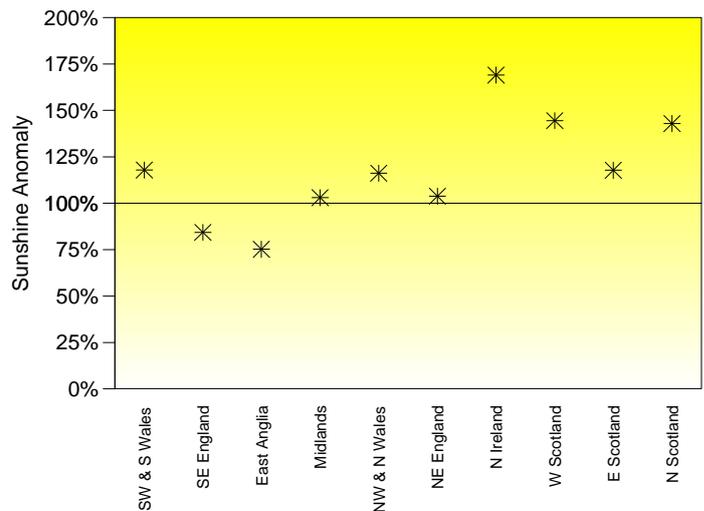
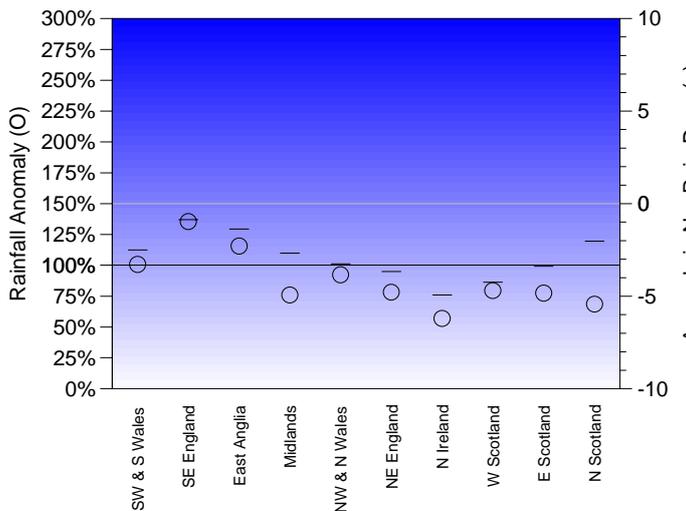


Extremes for January 2011	
Hottest:	14.7°C Great Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, 13th
Coldest:	-13.0°C Altnaharra SAWS, Highland, 8th
Most Rain:	113.2mm Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 15th
Most Sun:	9.0hrs Douglas, Isle Of Man, 20th
Windiest:	76mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 15th
Warmest:	7.6°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	0.8°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	306.5mm Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd
Driest:	19.9mm Cambridge University, Cambridgeshire
Sunniest:	82.2hrs Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd
Dullest:	13.3hrs Threave, Kirkcudbrightshire

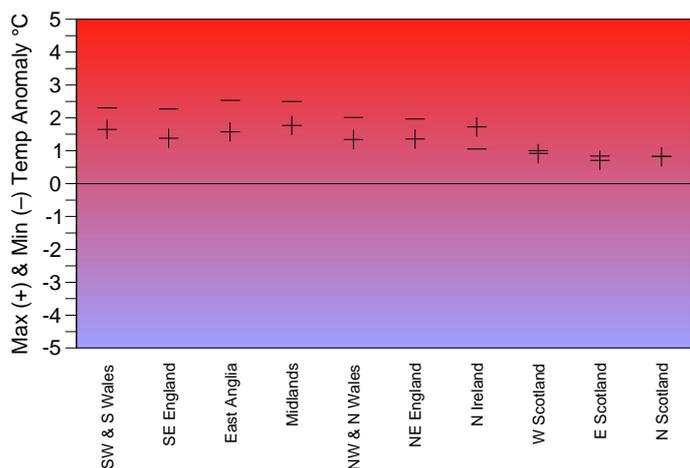


As Christmas fades in the memory and the decorations are taken down, the long, cold nights of January lie ahead. The days lengthen only slowly, since the solstice is not long past and for most places January is the coldest month of the year. The Atlantic weather systems often peak in intensity before mid-month, with more settled conditions resuming by month's end, and such was the case this year.

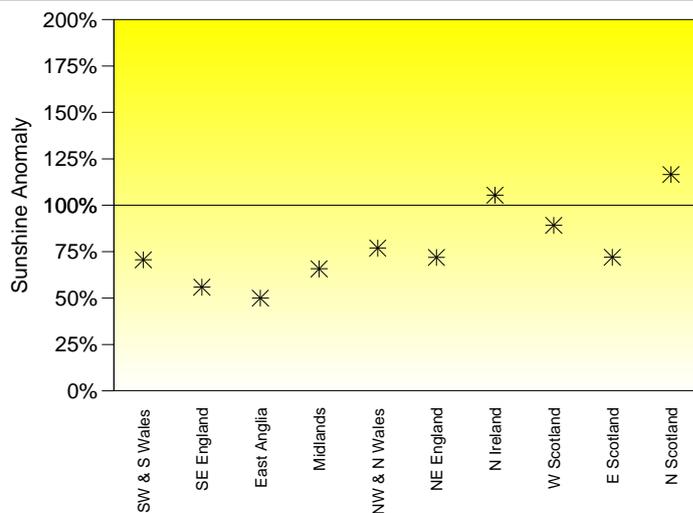
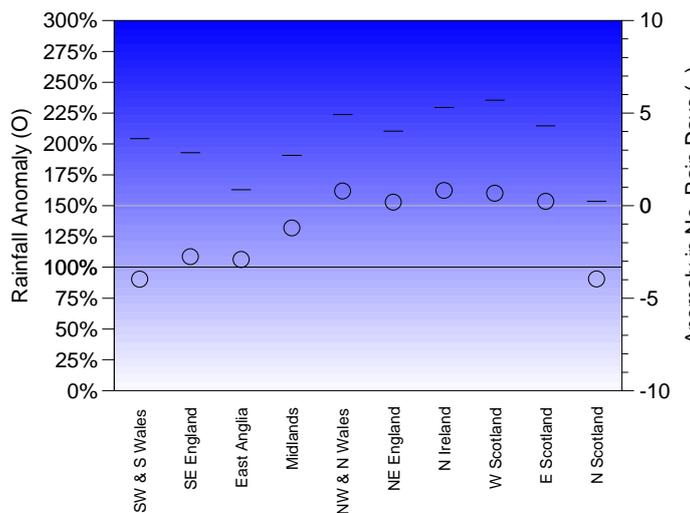
January began quiet and cold with variable cloud and patchy fog and frost. Pressure then fell heralding more unsettled conditions and northern Scotland saw heavy snow showers on the 6th and 7th, with a biting north-west wind. Meanwhile, milder conditions and rain reached the south on the 7th. At 6pm a temperature of -4°C (25°F) at Glasgow contrasted with a balmy 10°C (50°F) at Salisbury, Wiltshire. As the fronts in the south reached northern areas, 10cm of fresh snow fell at Edinburgh airport by 8am on the 8th, closing the runways. From the 12th, the milder weather completed its advance, with a thaw even over the Scottish snowfields, and tropical maritime air enveloped the UK for 2 days. As often in such situations, there was heavy and prolonged orographic rainfall, including a colossal 149mm in just 48 hours at Capel Curig, Caernarfon. Maxima above 13°C (55°F) were common and Pershore, Worcs, recorded 14.5°C (59°F) on the 13th. More rain followed for most parts before a marked change began from the 18th as high pressure became established. As is common during winter, sunshine amounts were variable with bright crisp frosty weather for some (mostly the west) but dull gloomy conditions for others (especially eastern areas on the 22nd and 23rd - when there was drizzle as the high edged westwards). Colder conditions resumed from the 26th in a raw north-easterly wind, and there was some light snow in parts of the south-east on the 27th. High pressure then controlled the UK's weather until the month's end. It was quiet and rather cold with variable amounts of cloud, local fog and overnight frosts. Milder, windier and wetter weather reached the north on the 31st as the anticyclone began to weaken, but there was a very frosty start further south with -8°C (18°F) widely in Wales and the Midlands.

Overall, January 2011 was an unremarkable month with mean temperatures close to normal, but in most areas away from southern England it was relatively dry. East Anglia and south-east England were dull, but sunshine totals rather above average elsewhere.

The New Year brought more devastating floods to Australia. In Queensland, the town of Rockhampton was completely surrounded by floodwaters and was cut off from the outside world for several days. On the 10th, 152 mm of rain fell in just 30 minutes at Toowoomba, upstream of Brisbane. The Brisbane River burst its banks leaving more than 26,000 homes flooded. Electricity was cut to thousands of homes, and many key roads were blocked. A major concern was poisonous snakes and dangerous crocodiles floating through towns. On the 14th, torrential rains hit northern Tasmania. Yolla had its highest January daily rainfall ever, registering 131mm on the 13th. In Brazil, 305mm of rain fell in just a few hours 11th-12th near Teresopolis and Nova Friburgo. Rivers of mud tore through towns in the mountainous Serrana region 60 miles north of Rio de Janeiro, levelling houses, throwing cars onto buildings and marooning thousands of residents. Over 800 people were reported killed and the flooding caused billions of dollars in damage. On the 20th heavy overnight storms caused renewed flooding in Sao Paulo, toppling cars into buildings, downing power lines and halting traffic. In the southern state of Santa Catarina, flooding drove at least 18,000 people from their homes. A huge winter storm hit the USA 9th- 13th leaving snow on the ground in 49 of 50 of the U.S. mainland states. More than 50cm of snow accumulated over North Carolina and there were blizzards in New England and Connecticut. On 26th-27th a massive thunder-snow storm paralyzed air and ground travel over a vast area from Washington to Boston leaving the area blanketed in more than 30cm of snow. For New York City it was the snowiest January ever, beating the previous record set in 1925. A cold snap during the first week of 2011 brought temperatures as low as -23.6 °C (-10.5 °F) across northern India. Up to 3m of snow across the high mountain passes of Rohtang and Kunzam cut off access to the Kashmir province. By the 16th, frigid temperatures hit Korea with -17.8°C (0°F) in Seoul, -24.3°C (-12°F) in Cheolwon, and -12.8°C (9°F) in the southern port of Busan, a 96-year low.



Extremes for February 2011		
Hottest:	16.0°C	Biggin Hill, Greater London, 24th
Coldest:	-8.9°C	Llysdinam, Powys, 1st
Most Rain:	108.6mm	Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 5th
Most Sun:	11.0hrs	Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man, 28th
Windiest:	91mph	Foula No 2, Shetland, 4th
Warmest:	9.4°C	Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	2.5°C	Braemar No 2, Avon
Wettest:	414.5mm	Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd
Driest:	25.4mm	Otterborne W Wks, Hampshire
Sunniest:	82.4hrs	Newtownards, County Down
Dullest:	18.4hrs	Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man

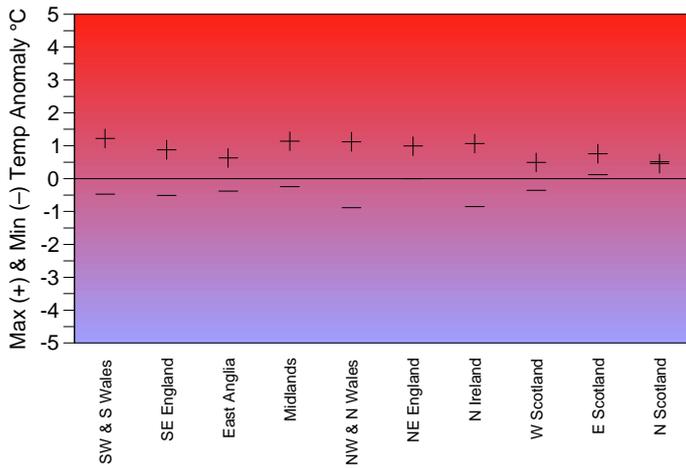


The days become noticeably lighter in February but it is often chilly and dull as the Atlantic westerlies run out of steam, especially after Valentines Day (14th). Such was the case this year when the only real glimpse of spring occurred towards month end.

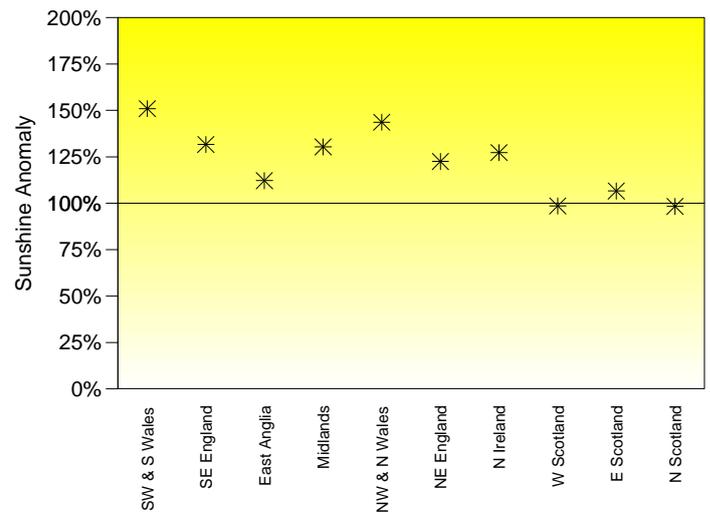
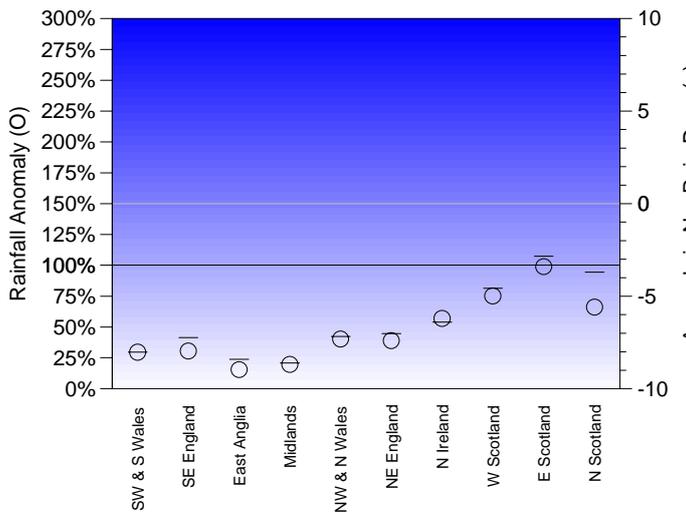
February 2011 began with a spell of mild, windy and unsettled weather. It was particularly blustery in the north, and Great Dun Fell, Cumbria recorded a gust of 108mph on the 3rd. Tropical Maritime air flooded the UK from the 4th, and it became very mild in the south but there was prolonged rainfall over northern England and N. Wales on the 5th/6th. In the 24 hours to 0900GMT on the 6th, Capel Curig, Conwy, notched up a colossal 122mm. Conditions were quieter from the 8th, which was a dry, bright day but rather damp and gloomy conditions prevailed thereafter under the influence of weak fronts. After a wet day on the 13th, the 14th was much brighter, though with scattered sharp showers in many places, whilst north-east Scotland had further rain from a slow-moving occlusion. By mid month, pressure was building over Scandinavia and this fed intensely cold air into Eastern Europe. The cold snap never really reached the UK however and instead, the high slowed the progress of fronts eastward, resulting in an exceptionally gloomy second half of the month in many places. North Sea coasts became cold and raw from the 18th, adding to the cheerless feel, and 5-10cm of snow fell widely over northern hills the next day. Western areas were milder, and this difference was illustrated on the 22nd when 11.0°C (52°F) at Plymouth, Devon, contrasted with only 5.5°C (42°F) at Weybourne, Norfolk. A short-lived burst of spring finally materialised from the 23rd as a warm front won the battle against the colder air to the east. The 24th saw sunny spells and maxima above 13°C (55°F) in favoured spots, with 14.8°C (59°F) at Tain Range, Highland. The mild weather continued into the 25th but it turned colder and more unsettled again as the month drew to its close.

The UK mean temperature was about 2°C above the long term average. The number of air frosts was the fourth lowest in February in the last fifty years, reflecting the persistent cloud cover. It was a generally wet month, except in the far south and far north, and away from north-west Britain it was also very dull. Indeed, East Anglia and south-east England experienced one of their dullest Februaries on record.

Europe experienced some huge contrasts this February with spring-like Fohn weather in the French mountains - and the deepest freeze of the winter in Scandinavia. 21°C (70°F) was registered at Luchon at 618m in the Pyrenees on 7th with 20°C (68°F) at Chamonix in the Haute-Savoie - both record high temperatures for February. In contrast, Kautokeino, Norway, recorded a numbing -43°C on the 18th when -42°C was reached at Sallan Naruska, Finland. A devastating winter storm hit the central and north-eastern USA and southern Canada 1st-4th. The storm stretched over 2,000 miles and also brought heavy snow, freezing rain and ice. 18,500 flights were cancelled and the National Guard helped rescue motorists stranded in snow drifts over 10 feet (3m) high. In Missouri all 250 miles of Interstate Highway 70 were closed. The Tulsa World newspaper was unable to publish - for the first time in its 105-year history because of the heavy snow. Chicago received 51cm of snow and fire fighters used snowmobiles to navigate the streets and rescue hundreds of people trapped in their cars. The northern Mexican state of Chihuahua also experienced a rare cold snap around the same time. Temperatures plunged to 0°F (-18°C) in the city of Ciudad Juarez - the lowest temperature since 1950 - and power outages closed many factories. In Asia, heavy rainfall 1st-6th hit northern Sri Lanka and flood waters inundated roads cutting off several towns. More than 320,000 people were displaced into government refugee camps. A winter storm hit the Korean Peninsula 11th-14th dumping 100cm of snow at Samcheok - a record for South Korea since records began in 1911. Officials in the Gangwon province mobilized 22,600 volunteers and 1,750 snow ploughs to clear highways. In Australia, category 4+ cyclone Yasi made landfall in northern Queensland near Mission Beach on February 3rd, packing wind gusts to 177mph (285 km/hr). Rainfall totals included 471 mm at South Mission Beach and 464mm in Hawkins Creek. The remnants of the storm stalled across Victoria, causing floods 4th-6th and a state of emergency was issued in Melbourne to keep people from entering the streets on inflatable toys and rafts. Another Cyclone, Carlos, hit the northern Australian coast on February 14th and remained stationary for three days, dumping 685 mm of rain on Darwin, breaking the all time three day rainfall record for the city.



Extremes for March 2011	
Hottest:	20.6°C Ebbw Vale, Gwent, 25th
Coldest:	-7.5°C Braemar No 2, Avon, 18th
Most Rain:	39.2mm Kinlochewe, Highland, 8th
Most Sun:	12.2hrs Swaffham, Norfolk, 19th
Windiest:	81mph Benbecula, Western Isles, 10th
Warmest:	8.8°C Carrefour-au-Clercq, Channel Islands
Coolest:	3.5°C Braemar No 2, Avon
Wettest:	181.2mm Kinlochewe, Highland
Driest:	1.8mm Cambridge, Niab, Cambridgeshire
Sunniest:	226.4hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	61.2hrs Kirkwall, Orkney



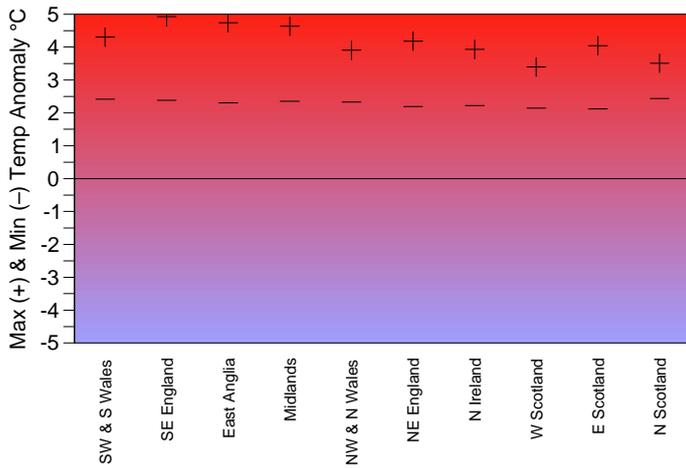
March supposedly starts stormy and ends calm: "in like a lion and out like a lamb" - although in fact, the converse is equally likely. If there is a settled spell, afternoons can become quite warm under the increasing strength of the sun, although early morning frosts remain common. The equinox falls around the 20th and soon after the clocks spring forward marking the return to lighter evenings.

The month began chilly with night frosts and maxima no higher than 3-5°C (37-41°F) on the 1st in southern England. Most of the first week was dry however under a ridge of high pressure. The frost on the morning of the 8th was especially sharp with -7.2°C (19°F) at South Newington, Oxfordshire. By this time pressure was falling and a stronger westerly flow dominated the next few days with rain or blustery showers which were wintry in the north. Snow closed Inverness airport for a time on the 9th. On the 12th, a warm front moving north introduced a very mild southerly airstream to England and Wales but Scotland and Northern Ireland still fell under the influence of the colder air. There were outbreaks of sleet and snow away from coasts between the 12th and 14th: 29cm fell at Aviemore and up 100cm in the Cairngorms - to the delight of skiers. A more sluggish pattern then developed as an anticyclone over Scandinavia slowed the eastward progress of Atlantic fronts. There was some sunshine, but temperatures in eastern areas were limited by mist and fog. By the 20th, the dominant high pressure was over southern Britain and the near Continent, and temperatures began to rise steadily. On the 21st parts of NE England hit 17°C (63°F) and the spell of fine spring weather which followed lasted all the way through to the 28th. Night frost became less widespread and daytime temperatures were often in the mid to high teens Celsius. Fontmell Magna, Dorset recorded 19.8°C (68°F) at on the 25th and Dyce, Aberdeen 16.5°C (63°F) on the 23rd. Some coastal areas were plagued by sea fog and consequently much cooler. Temperatures fell slightly on the 26th and more unsettled conditions then prevailed until month end - although amounts of rain were small in the south as fronts weakened. It was still relatively mild and for most of SE England minimum stayed well above 10°C (50°F) on the 31st owing to a combination of wind, cloud and tropical maritime air.

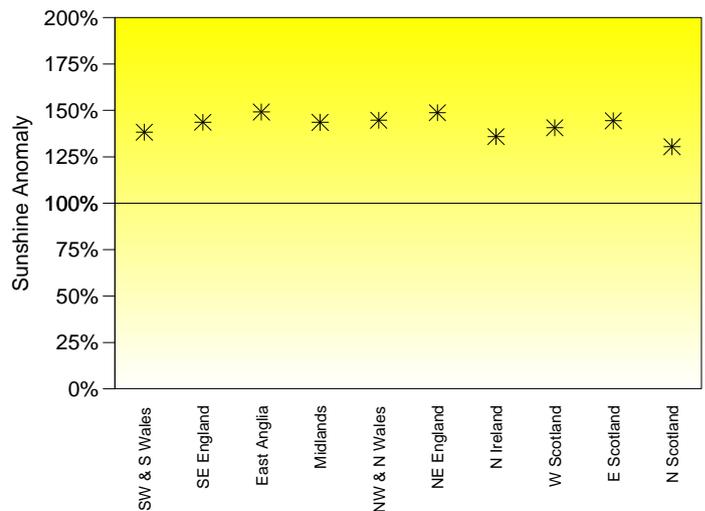
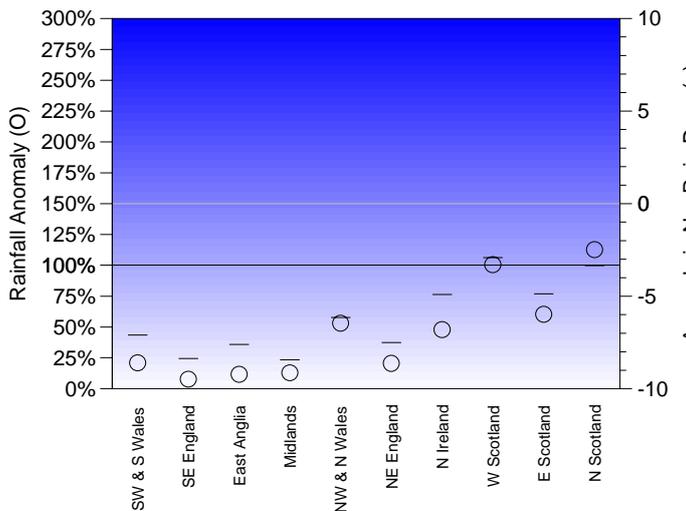
March 2011 was a very settled month notable for a substantial lack of rainfall especially over central and eastern England. Provisionally, East Anglia had its second driest March in 100 years with some stations totalling less than 5mm for the entire month. It was also a sunny month away from Scotland. Wales had its fifth sunniest March since 1929. The clear skies meant that minimum temperatures were close to normal but maxima were well above average.

In Greece during March, a winter storm 7th & 8th brought several inches of snow and 80mph gusts to Athens. Power supplies to many of the Greek islands were cut and there was severe disruption to transport and communications. Coastal flooding was widespread, driven by the strong winds piling up water in harbours. A late-season snow storm also hit the north-eastern U.S. and south-eastern Canada 5th-7th. Locations in upstate New York and Vermont received up to 76cm of snow, topping off a very snowy winter. Further east, precipitation fell as heavy rain, which combined with melting snow to cause major flooding. Mudslides were reported in Connecticut, and ice jams in rivers across New England caused many rivers to breach their banks. Up to 51 cm of snow was reported in Quebec province, Canada and 1,000 snow ploughs, trucks and other snow removal equipment were dispatched to clear the city. Between the 19th and 21st a strong storm slammed into the California coast, bringing heavy rain and snow to the state. Up to 250mm of rainfall was reported in the San Fernando and San Joaquin Valleys. Burbank, California received 98mm of rain, breaking a 38-year old daily rainfall record. Mammoth Mountain in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range received over 152cm of snow from the storm, trapping campers and hikers. On the 23rd a tornado destroyed 30 homes, and badly damaged 60 others, in western Pennsylvania, about 25 miles east of Pittsburgh.

Rains battered Brazil's southern coast in the second week of March and left 8,000 people homeless and vast areas without electricity or water. In the state of Parana mudslides caused by the downpours blocked several national highways. Heavy rains and floods persisting from late January in the African nations of Angola and Namibia left at least 25 people dead when rivers burst their banks during the first week of March. The water level in the Okavanga River, which runs along the border of the two nations, was reported to be 8m above flood stage. In Australia, monsoonal rains from the 10th caused renewed flooding across Queensland - still reeling from deluges earlier in the year and damage inflicted by February's Cyclone Yasi. Up to 254mm of rain was reported in the town of Cardwell. Highways were inundated with water, cutting off the towns of Tully and Ingham. Euroamo, near Tully, received 500mm of rain in just a few days and one woman was killed after her car was swept away by floodwaters north of Cairns.



Extremes for April 2011	
Hottest:	28.2°C Pulham St. Mary, Norfolk, 23rd
Coldest:	-5.4°C Tulloch Bridge SAWS, Highland, 26th
Most Rain:	63.6mm Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire, 6th
Most Sun:	14.9hrs Dunstaffnage, Strathclyde, 30th
Windiest:	65mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 4th
Warmest:	14.6°C St James Park, Greater London
Coolest:	8.2°C Lerwick, Shetland
Wettest:	216.4mm Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire
Driest:	0.0mm Fyvie Castle, Grampian
Sunniest:	287.1hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	130.1hrs Kinlochewe, Highland



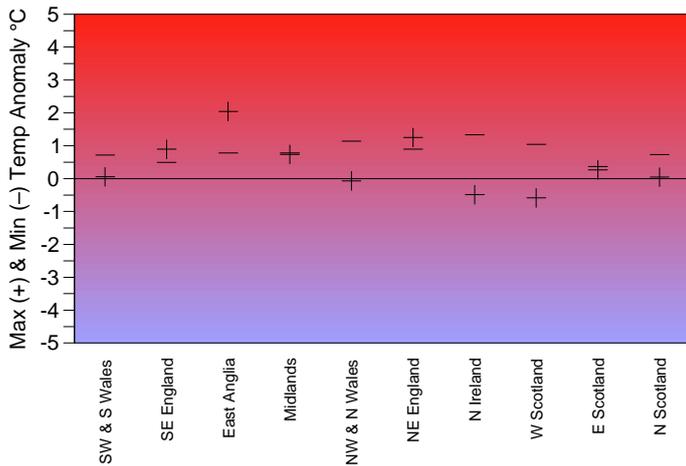
Beautiful blossoms abound, trees spring into leaf and lawnmowers whirl into action as April chases away winter's gloom, though night frosts and snow may still occur. Despite its reputation for showers, April is frequently dry, and this year was an outstanding example of both warmth and aridity.

The month started unsettled and showers or longer spells of rain affected many parts over the first three days. Mild, moist south-westerly air then invaded and brought copious rainfall over west-facing hills on the 4th and 5th but by the 6th, high pressure over the near-Continent had begun to assert its dominance. Rain became confined to the far north and elsewhere the sun broke through and temperatures soared - with 23.6°C (75°F) recorded in St James' Park, London. It became a little cooler on the 7th, but the dry and fine weather continued over the next few days. A cold front brought wind and a little rain on the 11th and subsequent showers turned wintry over the Scottish mountains. The 12th was a bright, fresh day everywhere but a weakening frontal system pushed cloud and a little rain eastward the following day. Thereafter, it became steadily warmer - with increasing amounts of sunshine from the 16th. Maxima exceeding 21°C (70°F) were common from the 19th and temperatures continued to build into the Easter weekend - reaching their highest on the 23rd (Easter Saturday) RHS Wisley recorded 27.8°C (82°F) - remarkable for this early in the year and the warmest April day in over 60 years for the UK. Elsewhere, the exceptional heat was triggering thunderstorms. Streets in Hillsborough, near Sheffield, were left white with hail, and at Santon Downham, Norfolk 20mm rain fell in just one hour. Easter Sunday was a little less hot as winds turned north-easterly and it became a good deal cooler with more cloud in the east over the next week. Apprehension grew for a wet Royal Wedding as showers threatened from troughs over the near-Continent, but on the day itself, the rain stayed away and there were even a few gleams of sun to cheer the couple on their way. The 30th saw plenty of sunshine but with a stiff easterly breeze, and scattered storms broke out in south-west England.

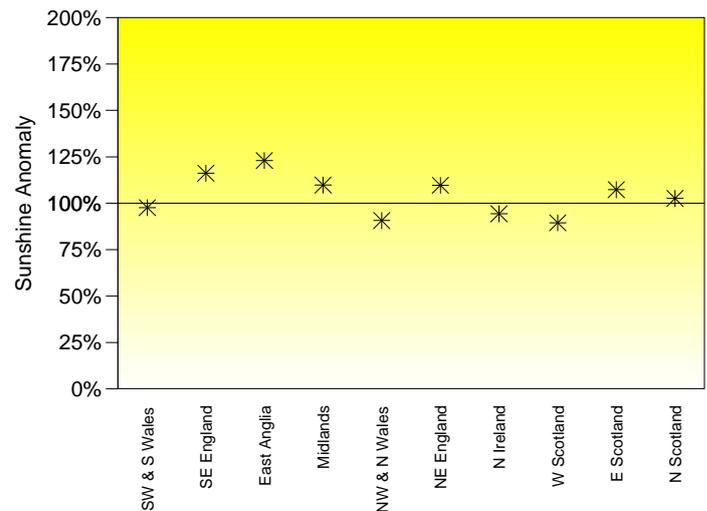
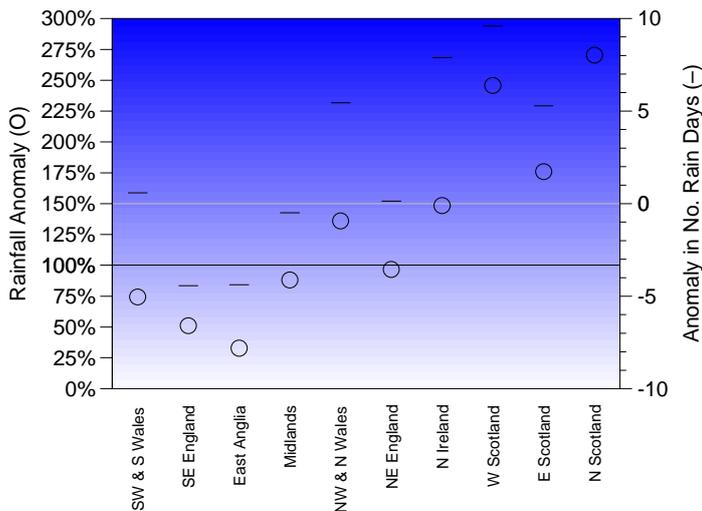
For the UK as a whole, it was the warmest April in 100 years with mean temperatures 3.7°C above normal - more typical of June. Away from western Scotland, it was also exceptionally dry with less than 10% of normal rainfall recorded for much of central and eastern England. This second successive very dry month has left river and reservoir levels low and a rising fear of drought. It was a very sunny month for all of England and Wales with amounts generally 150% of the normal.

Many European countries shared the exceptional April warmth. In Ireland, Malin Head and Valentia Observatory both recorded their warmest April in over a century. Murcia, Spain, hit a sizzling 37.4°C (99.3°F) as early as the 9th. Kleine Brogel in Belgium recorded 29.5°C (85.1°F) on Easter Saturday (23rd), and De Bilt, Holland, 25°C (77°F) the following day. Traditional Easter fairs in the east and north of Holland were cancelled because of the risk of fires posed by the extraordinarily dry spell. In the Swiss canton of Zurich, officials began moving trout from the river Toess before their habitat dried up. In North America, two historic tornadoic storm episodes occurred during April. The first wave on the 4th swept rapidly across the south-eastern United States from Texas to Pennsylvania travelling more than 800 miles within 24 hours. There were 68 tornado reports, 90 severe hail reports, and 1,318 damaging wind reports. At least nine people were reported to have been killed. In Augusta, Georgia, a practice round of the Master's golf tournament was delayed due to many of the famed magnolia trees along the course being felled. Strong winds tore the roof from a school gymnasium in Tennessee and across Georgia and Tennessee, over 270,000 homes lost power. On 27th-28th more devastating storms and tornadoes roared across the south states of the USA flattening houses, flipping cars and uprooting trees. In Alabama, a massive tornado slammed into the college town of Tuscaloosa, killing 15 people. Deaths also occurred in Arkansas, Louisiana, Georgia and Tennessee. This second wave had at least 178 confirmed tornadoes, breaking a record for 24 hour periods set in 1974. The death toll of 344 was the largest for a single episode since 1925.

In South America, heavy rains on the 25th caused floods, blackouts, landslides and at least one death in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In Asia, on the 13th, a strong dust storm formed over Turkey and Syria and was driven by a strong cold front to affect the Persian Gulf states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq. Visibility dropped to as little as 50m and many schools and universities were caused to close. Kuwait was particularly hard hit, prompting the country to halt all oil exports for a time.



Extremes for May 2011	
Hottest:	25.4°C Weybourne, Norfolk, 7th
Coldest:	-6.3°C Altnaharra SAWS, Highland, 4th
Most Rain:	68.8mm Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire, 23rd
Most Sun:	15.0hrs Tiree, Strathclyde, 1st
Windiest:	82mph Inverbervie SAWS, Grampian, 23rd
Warmest:	15.0°C London Olympic Park South, Greater London
Coolest:	8.2°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	442.8mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	7.0mm Frittenden, Kent
Sunniest:	339.1hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	116.4hrs Tiree, Strathclyde



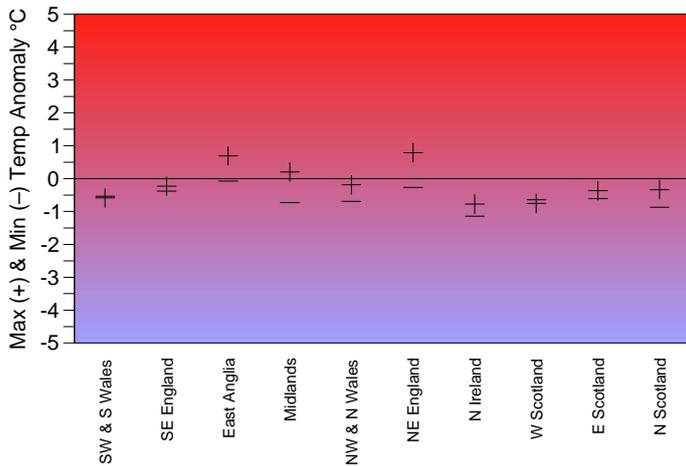
By the end of May, spring slowly turns into summer. The evenings become very light, but as renowned climatologist Gordon Manley pointed out, "the lengthening day is slow - and suffers many set-backs". Night frosts and chilly weather can still be expected, especially in a burst of northerly winds. May is often a dry and sunny month in NW Scotland. Not so this year....

The month began fine if rather breezy, with easterly winds blowing across the UK and showers in the south-west. Some calm and chilly nights followed and a local air frost early on the 4th saw temperatures fall to as low as -6.3°C (21°F) at Altnaharra, Highland. Southerly winds then ushered in warmer air (Weybourne, Norfolk, notched up 25.4°C (77°F) on the 7th), but it turned increasingly unsettled across western areas. A deep depression in the eastern Atlantic maintained the warm southerlies in the east, but heavy showers in the west and there were many reports of thunder and hail across Wales on the 9th. The wind veered to westerly by the 12th and showers or longer outbreaks of rain affected the west and north over the following three days but there was very little rain for the south and east. A warm front moved east across the UK late on the 15th, and the broad warm sector brought mist and drizzle to west-facing coasts and hills on the 16th and 17th, but much of the east remained warm and dry. The cold front weakened as it crossed England and Wales on the 18th and fine weather resumed for most of the UK. The 21st-27th was the most disturbed period of the month with northern and western areas bearing the brunt. The 22nd and 23rd saw wet and unseasonably windy conditions. Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, recorded 35mm of rain on the morning of the 23rd before the rain gave way to blustery showers. There were widespread and severe gales. Most of northern England recorded winds of 55mph or more and Blackford Hill, Edinburgh, saw a gust of 84mph. Numerous trees were felled (exacerbated by trees being in leaf -unlike during a typical winter gale), there was considerable disruption to transport and power and at least 1 fatality. Heavy, thundery showers were widespread on the 26th, but subsequently, pressure became higher to the south of the UK with the most unsettled weather largely confined to the north. Arctic air made a few forays into Scotland and there were wintry showers over the Highlands. At noon on the 29th, the temperature on the top of Aonach Mor was 0°C (32°F) with snow showers and gale force winds. Even for such an exposed place, remarkably inclement for this late in the year!

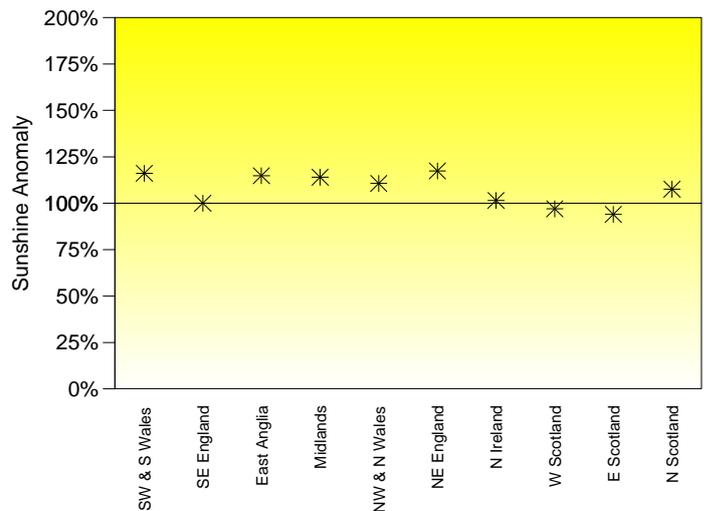
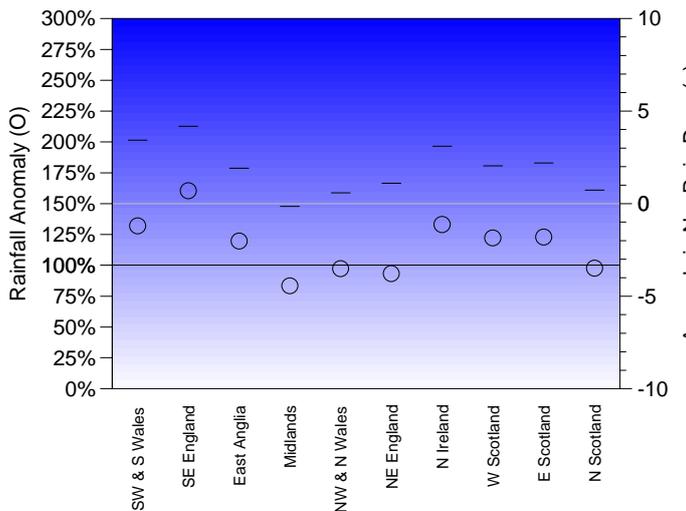
The UK mean temperature was 1.0°C above the 1971-2000 average, but while it was a very wet month in the west and north of Scotland, it was the third successive very dry month across East Anglia and south-east England - where less than 30% of normal rainfall was recorded. Sunshine totals reflected this pattern; it was rather dull in the west but amounts were rather above normal in eastern areas.

The unseasonably deep Atlantic depression of 23rd brought Ireland a record May wind gust of 90mph at Belmullet (Co Mayo). Elsewhere in Europe drought problems intensified. France, the EU's top wheat producer, formed a 'national drought committee', limiting water consumption in many regions. Cracked earth and browned leaves were visible across the Ile-de-France region. Farmers in the south-west German region of Rhineland-Palatinate faced crop failure and mounting irrigation costs. In contrast, across the Atlantic a massive Mississippi flood event, which began with rapid snowmelt and heavy rains across the Upper Midwest of the United States during April, made its way remorselessly southwards during May. The floodwaters were exacerbated when the Ohio Valley states experienced a record wet April and by the 14th the Mississippi River had overflowed and widened to more than three miles. Memphis, Tenn and Tunica were among cities that experienced inundation of the river into farmland, residential and commercial areas. As the flood waters continued southwards, the U.S. Army opened the Morganza and Bonnet Carre Spillways in eastern Louisiana to protect the highly populated areas of Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The total cost of floodwater damage will run into billions of U.S. dollars. On the 23rd a monstrous tornado tore through Joplin, Missouri, reaching EF-5 (T9-10) with winds of more than 200mph. It appeared to be a rare 'multivortex' tornado, with two or more intense centres of rotation orbiting the larger funnel. At least 136 people were killed making it the deadliest single twister in 60 years. On 25th-26th another wave of vicious storms hit the South and East states with grapefruit sized hail in Georgia, where more than 100,000 lost power, and fierce winds toppling trees in upstate New York.

In northern Colombia 810 mm of rain fell during the first 14 days of May and caused floods that killed at least 425 people, left 482 people missing, and caused billions of dollars worth of damage. Between 12th and 16th, 116 large wildfires burned across the Canadian province of Alberta, leaving nearly 33,000 hectares ablaze. The fires shut down thousands of barrels of oil and gas output while all 10,000 residents of Slave Lake town had to be evacuated. Pakistan roasted in pre-monsoon temperatures of over 48°C (118°F) on the Indus River Plain with 50.5°C (123°F) registered at Turbat on the 20th. Tropical Storm Aere impacted the eastern Philippines May 7th - 9th. The rains and subsequent landslides killed 31 people and left at least 100,000 homeless. In Catarman, 377 mm of rain fell in 24 hours, resulting in flash flooding with up to \$8.4M worth of crop damage. Finally, as the southern



Extremes for June 2011	
Hottest:	34.0°C Culford, Suffolk, 27th
Coldest:	-1.9°C Altnaharra SAWS, Highland, 10th
Most Rain:	48.4mm Kinlochewe, Highland, 1st
Most Sun:	16.5hrs Norwich Airport, Norfolk, 26th
Windiest:	63mph Fair Isle, Shetland, 14th
Warmest:	16.7°C London Olympic Park South, Greater London
Coolest:	9.7°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	156.5mm Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd
Driest:	17.2mm Mona, Gwynedd
Sunniest:	313.7hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	90.9hrs Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway

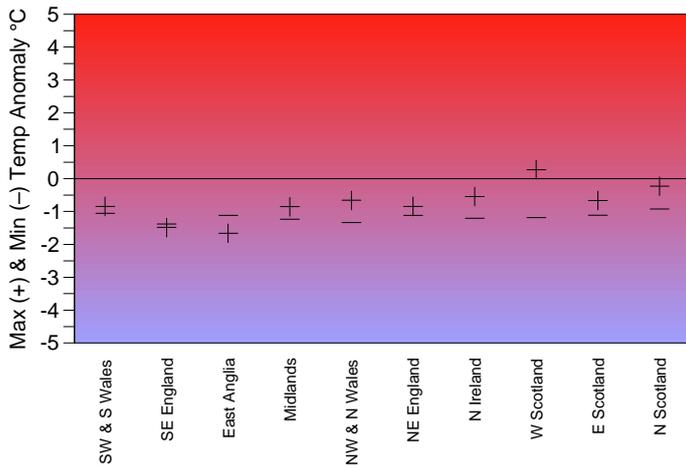


The days are now at their longest, but the weather is not always at its calmest, and June often marks a transition from anticyclonic northerlies or north-easterlies to Atlantic westerlies. Thus the familiar events of Glastonbury, Royal Ascot and Wimbledon are prone to disruption from the vagaries of the weather, and this was certainly the case this year, though the rainfall doubtless brought some relief to the thirsty gardens of eastern England.

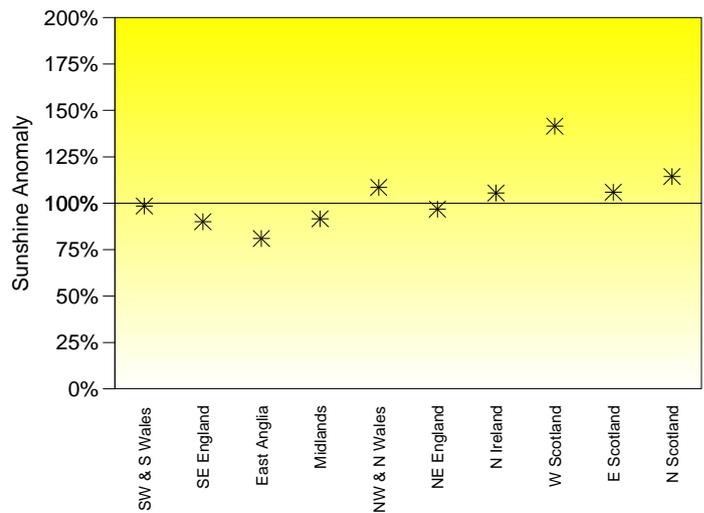
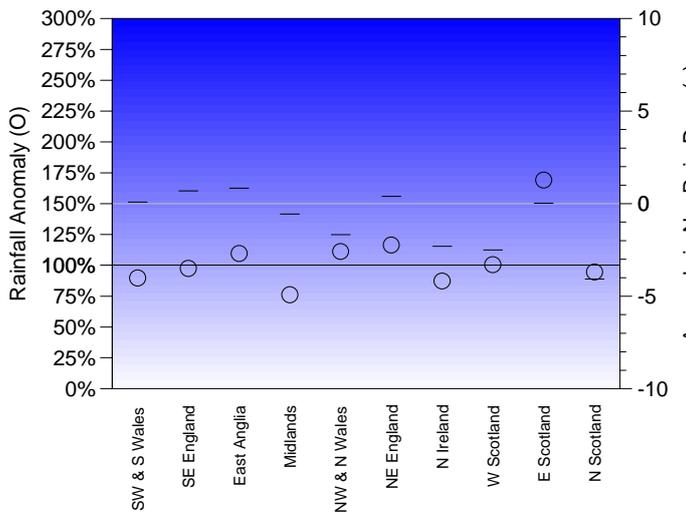
June began fine for much of England and Wales, but fronts brought cloud and light rain to Scotland and N. Ireland on the 1st. By the 3rd, high pressure was in command, meaning long sunny spells for most and maxima widely exceeding 21°C (70°F), but with a cooling north-easterly breeze in the south. On the 4th, 28.1°C (82°F) was achieved at Solent, Hampshire, but by now much cooler air was invading from the north - and the following week was unsettled with lower temperatures everywhere. Most places had a mixture of sunshine and sharp showers, and those making an ascent of Snowdon on the 10th were greeted by snow cover! Nights were chilly with local air frost, and temperatures dropped to -0.2°C (32°F) at Newington, Oxfordshire, early on the 12th. After this cold start, a vigorous depression brought a thoroughly wet day to England, Wales and N. Ireland, and wet night to Scotland. There was a brief surge northwards of warm and humid air on the 14th and 15th, but it soon became cooler again on the 16th as the familiar pattern of sunshine and showers returned. Another depression brought widespread rain late on the 17th and the fronts from the next low became slow-moving over southern Scotland and northern England, so that while the south became brighter with showers, there was prolonged rainfall in parts of the north from the 21st to 23rd. In the 24 hours ending 0900 on the 22nd, a colossal 47mm was recorded at Gogarbank, Edinburgh. This rain eased away by the 24th but later that day, warm fronts introduced humid air and further rain. By the 26th, the cloud broke over England and Wales and temperatures soared in the strong sunshine. The brief heat wave peaked on the 27th, with a sizzling 33.1°C (91°F) recorded at Gravesend, Kent, making it the hottest UK day since July 2006. The following day saw a thundery breakdown, with numerous lightning strikes in central and eastern England causing disruption to East Coast mainline services. The control tower at Gatwick Airport was hit, and in parts of East Anglia there were hourly rainfall totals of 20mm. The final two days saw cooler but brighter weather, but with some heavy showers in the east.

Overall mean temperatures were close to the 1971-2000 average, though interestingly it was the coolest June in the UK since 2001, reflecting the warmth of recent Junes. Rainfall totals were very variable, indicating the showery nature of much of the rain. Parts of the north Midlands had a dry month, whereas southern England, South Wales, N. Ireland and southern and eastern Scotland were wetter than normal. Sunshine totals were very close to the average.

Intense heat and ensuing violent thunderstorms hit Europe 27th-29th. Decize in central France reached 40.2°C (105°F) on 28th, while hailstones 50mm across fell at Myjava, Slovakia on the 29th. In the USA, three tornadoes ripped through several communities in western and central Massachusetts on the 1st, killing three people and injuring 72 others. Damages along a 39 mile swathe were estimated to be in excess of \$90 million. Central and Eastern states experienced a heat wave at the start of the second week. Minneapolis/St. Paul, (Minnesota), recorded 39°C (103°F) on the 7th - the warmest day for the region since July 31st 1988. Wichita, Kansas experienced a "heat burst" on 9th with the temperature briefly rising by 11°C around midnight to 38°C (100°F) near midnight! The 9th also marked a third day of blistering heat over the central and eastern USA, the surge in demand for energy knocking out power to sections of downtown Detroit. Further southwest, the Wallow fire in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest became the largest wildfire in Arizona's history on the 13th. By the 20th the blaze had consumed over half a million acres and led to the evacuation of thousands of residents. In the Caribbean, a week of torrential rains during the first week culminated in flooding and mudslides in Haiti. A six-hour period of rainfall on the 7th brought 150 mm of rain along the Haiti/Dominican Republic border, drenching an already waterlogged region. At least 25 people were killed and six others were reported missing around Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince. Floods in south western China on 6th - 7th killed 21 people and also damaged roads, bridges and thousands of homes. Some 45,000 residents in worst-hit Wangmo county were evacuated. Coastal Zhejiang province's Qiantang river reached its highest level since 1955 on the 17th. Heavy rains triggered flooding and landslides that toppled 2,500 houses and flooded 350 roads. Zhejiang province alone sustained an estimated \$1.2 billion U.S. dollars in direct economic losses.



Extremes for July 2011	
Hottest:	29.0°C Culford, Suffolk, 2nd
Coldest:	-0.8°C Kinbrace, Highland, 13th
Most Rain:	73.4mm Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 17th
Most Sun:	16.4hrs Morecambe, Lancashire, 3rd
Windiest:	61mph Berry Head, Devon, 6th
Warmest:	17.7°C London Olympic Park South, Greater London
Coolest:	11.8°C Lerwick, Shetland
Wettest:	179.7mm Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd
Driest:	3.0mm Cromer, Norfolk
Sunniest:	331.5hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	63.1hrs Lerwick, Shetland



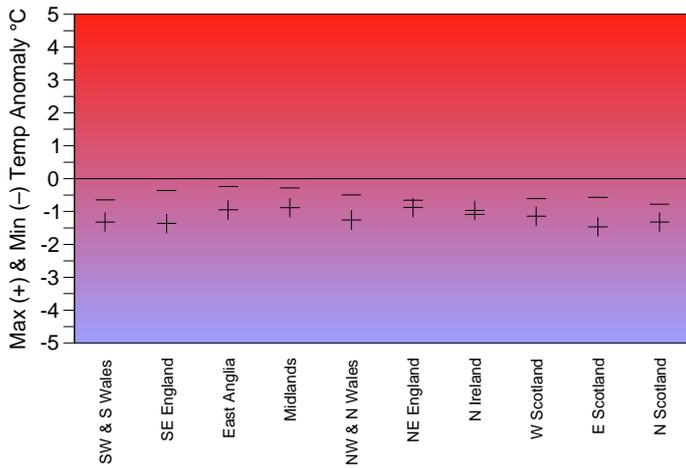
July marks the start of high summer but this rarely heralds a settled month. A spell of warm, sunny weather occurs most years but it can be relentlessly cool and changeable (e.g. 1988). Popular folklore has it that rain on St Swithun's day (15th July) will be followed by forty days of rain. Whilst the saying may not be literally true it holds a kernel of truth - summer weather patterns which become established by the middle of July often persist until the end of August.

High pressure at the start of the month gave some fine days but cool nights. Sennybridge, Powys recorded a minimum of just 3.4°C (38°F) early on the 2nd. The days became steadily warmer during the first week and Gravesend, Kent reached 27.3°C (81°F) on the 5th. By this time, pressure was falling and a period of more unsettled weather followed with rain or thundery showers through to the 10th. Braemar, Aberdeenshire collected 34mm in 12 hours on the 6th and Walney Island, Cumbria, 35mm in 12 hours on the 8th. From the 11th, it became generally drier - albeit rather cool and cloudy with the odd light shower. Nights remained chilly and there was an air frost -0.8°C (30°F) at Kinbrace, Highlands, early on the 13th. Most places saw increasing sunshine and warmth the next couple of days and Heathrow reached 25.3°C (77°F) on the 15th. Any hopes of a long fine spell were dashed on the 16th however as an unseasonably deep depression began to dominate. There was rain for all followed by blustery and sometimes thundery showers. Rain over eastern Scotland was persistent and slow to clear - and flooding was reported from Perth. The showery regime continued until the 23rd as areas of low pressure stagnated over the North Sea and near Continent. Capel Curig, Conwy, recorded 96mm in just 24 hours to 0900 on the 18th and there were several reports of funnel clouds. Temperatures remained very depressed and maxima across the UK for the 18th were widely just 13-14°C (55-57°F) - more typical of October or November. Pressure finally began to rise during the last week and the weather became warmer and more settled. 25°C (77°F) was reached as far north as Aviemore, Highlands, on the 27th.

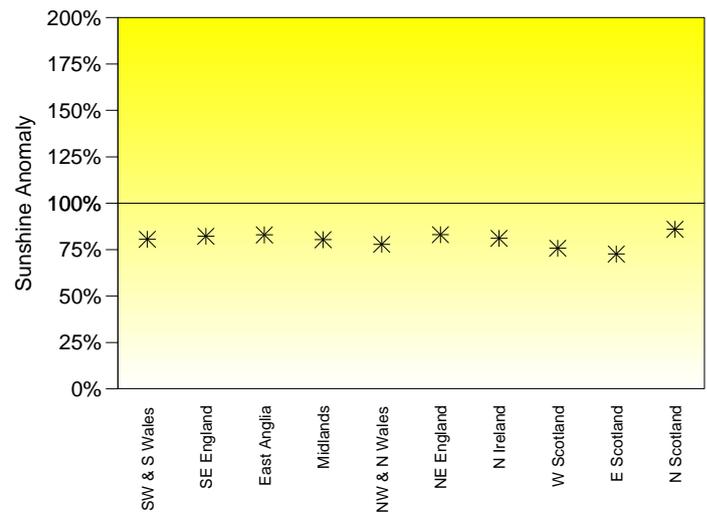
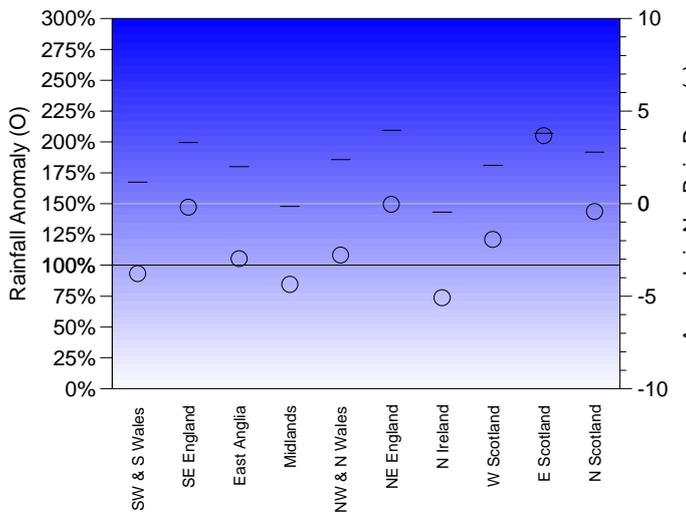
For the month and UK as a whole, it was rather cool and in terms of night time temperatures it was the coldest July since 1980. Rainfall totals were close to average although there was significant regional variation, reflecting the showery nature of the rain; north-east England and eastern Scotland had double their normal amounts but by contrast, Orkney and the Western Isles were relatively dry. Most places were dull but Northern Ireland and south-west Scotland enjoyed a little more sunshine than usual.

In Europe during July, intense heat affected eastern states from the third week. Gjirkastrain, Albania recorded 42°C (108°F) on the 16th and destructive thunderstorms followed across southeast Poland on the 19th with hailstones 75mm (3") in diameter recorded at Ranizow. In Sweden violent thunderstorms overnight 21st-22nd produced 40,000 lightning strikes and the entire Baltic island of Gotland lost power. Heatwaves scorched the central and eastern United States for most of July with over 1000 daily maximum temperature records smashed. Interstates and highways in several states buckled from the heat. Raleigh, North Carolina, recorded at least 38°C (100°F) every day from the 20th-24th and Newark, New Jersey sweltered through its all-time highest temperature of 42°C (108°F) on the 22nd. Sizzling heat also broke records across Canada. On 20th, Markham, Ontario, reached an all time high of 35.9°C, breaking its previous record of 35.6°C set in 1991.

Several Asian countries were affected by extreme monsoon rainfall during July. In China on the 5th rains triggered a landslide in the north-western province of Shaanxi which damaged or destroyed 7,000 homes. In South Korea, landslides triggered by up to 400mm rain hit the provinces of South Jeolla, North Jeolla, and South Gyeongsang 8th-10th. Meanwhile, the second typhoon of the 2011 Pacific typhoon season became a powerful Category 4 super typhoon on the 15th, packing wind speeds of up to 132mph. The storm weakened as it made landfall on the southern coast of Japan, but due to its slow-moving nature, exceptional rainfall swamped the region. 851 mm rain fell at Umaji on the 19th - a single day Japanese record and total rainfall from the typhoon exceeded 1,000 mm on the Pacific side of Japan. In the southern hemisphere on the 7th, a cold front brought the heaviest snowfall in nearly two decades to one of the driest places on Earth. Up to 80cm of snow fell in the Atacama desert in northern Chile. Local roads were closed and dozens of people had to be rescued from stranded vehicles.



Extremes for August 2011		
Hottest:	30.3°C	Gravesend Broadness SAMOS, Kent, 3rd
Coldest:	0.0°C	Tiree, Strathclyde, 18th
Most Rain:	115.2mm	Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, 10th
Most Sun:	16.2hrs	Leeds W/C, West Yorkshire, 9th
Windiest:	68mph	Rosehearty, Grampian, 28th
Warmest:	17.7°C	Gravesend Broadness SAMOS, Kent
Coolest:	11.3°C	Loch Glascarnoch, Highland
Wettest:	263.8mm	Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd
Driest:	19.4mm	Newport (Salop), Staffordshire
Sunniest:	280.6hrs	Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	52.9hrs	Kinlochewe, Highland



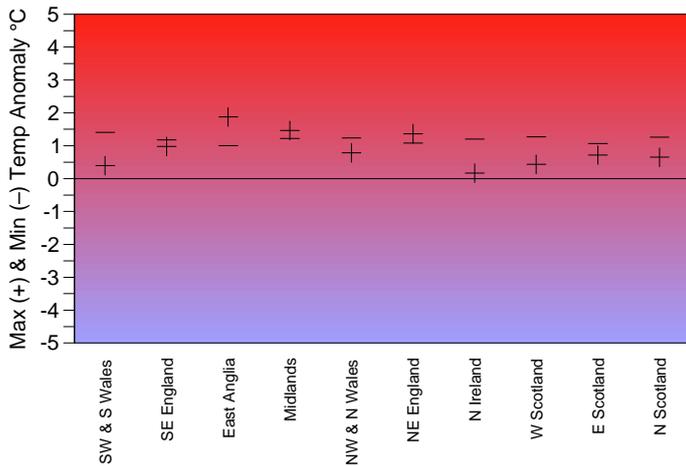
August is prime holiday season - yet the weather often conspires to disappoint with humid days devoid of sunshine and slow-moving areas of heavy rain. A notable example was August 2008 when some places had less sunshine than during the following December! Summer really begins to wane by month end. The nights draw in noticeably and early mornings can become misty and quite chilly.

August began sultry with some sunshine and a peppering of thundery showers. The 3rd marked the climax of the hot weather and 30.3°C (86°F) was recorded at Gravesend (Kent) before heavy thunderstorms broke out in eastern England during the evening. The 4th was a much cooler and wetter day and this marked the start of an unsettled period as slow-moving depressions took control. There were showers or longer periods of sometimes thundery rain, and Wallington (Northumberland) recorded 39.6mm on the 6th. The next two nights were chilly as the cool north westerly wind eased, but the 9th brought a glimpse of summer sunshine under a ridge of high pressure. Active fronts drove widespread rain across the north on the 10th and a humid, changeable period ensued with more rain over the next three days; Malham Tarn (North Yorkshire) recorded 78.6mm for the 24 hours ending 0900GMT 11th. For much of the following week, slow moving fronts affected the southern UK while the north escaped. A deluge affected several places in England and Wales on the 18th; Portland, Dorset, collected 58.4mm (its average August total) in just 12 hours - and there was major flooding in Bournemouth town centre. Wokingham (Berkshire) was also inundated. The 22nd saw a short lived reprieve before more sluggish systems brought prolonged and sometimes heavy rain 23rd-27th. The Bank Holiday weekend offered mixed fortunes; most places experienced some sharp showers and a little sunshine, but north-east Scotland had a true taste of autumn on the 28th with gale force northerly winds, very cool temperatures and driving rain. Pressure rose during the final two days but it stayed generally cool and cloudy.

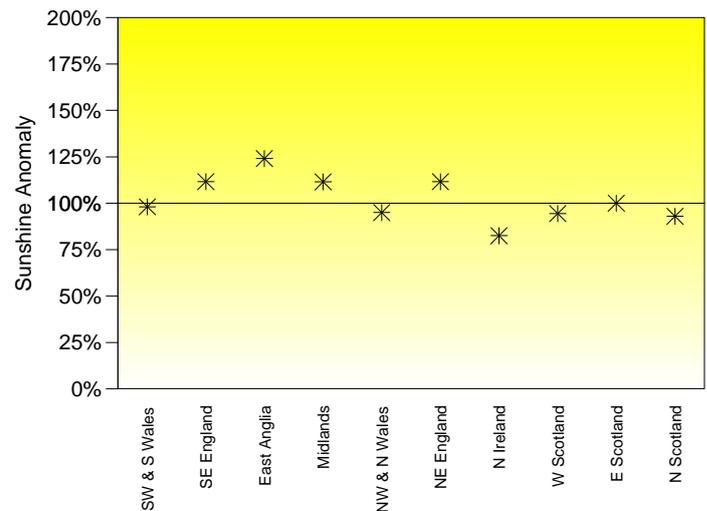
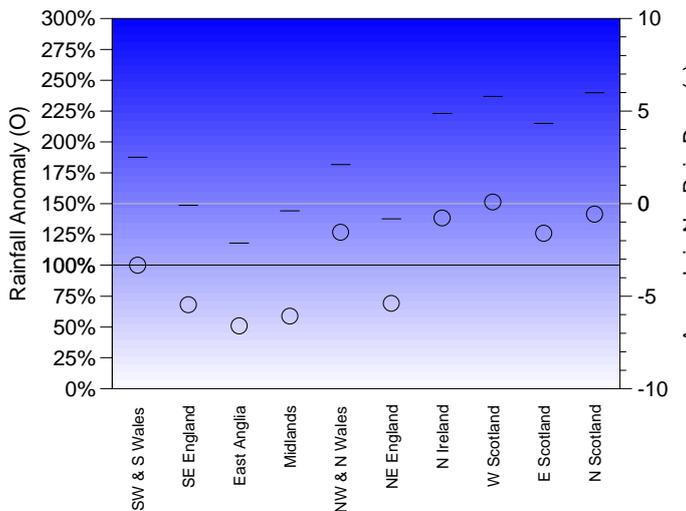
For August and the UK as a whole, it was a dull month, with 25% less sunshine than normal. Temperatures were also depressed everywhere - and for Scotland and Northern Ireland it was the coolest August since 1993. Rainfall totals were very variable, reflecting the localised nature of the downpours; it was a very wet month for southern England, the eastern half of Scotland and north-east England - but parts of Northern Ireland, Wales and the Midlands were drier than average.

Southern Europe endured blistering heat in the second half of August. Cordoba, Spain, hit 44.3°C (112°F) on the 20th, Florence, Italy, an all time high of 40.7°C (105°F) on the 21st and Cape Carbonara, Sardinia a phenomenal 47°C (117°) on the 23rd. In Greece, 6,200 acres of forest and cropland were destroyed by wildfires. In Belgium, high winds from a severe thunderstorm caused a stage to collapse at the Pukkelpop music festival on the 19th. Tragically, five people were killed and 40 others injured. In North America a similar disaster occurred when a line of severe thunderstorms moved through central Indiana on the 13th. Winds of over 60 mph caused the roof of the concert band stage to collapse at the State Fair, killing seven people and injuring many more. There were some scorching temperatures in the southern USA; Fort Smith, Arkansas, recorded 46.1°C (115°F) on the 3rd - setting a new all-time high; Waco, Texas broke the 1980 record for the greatest number of consecutive days over 37.8°C (100°F) with the 44th and final day ending on the 12th. New York, Kennedy Airport recorded a prodigious 198mm of rain on the 14th smashing the all time city record (159 mm set in June 1984). This was a prelude to Hurricane Irene which struck the east coast and New England on the 28th and brought catastrophic flooding to Vermont which left several towns, including Brattleboro and Bennington submerged. 26 monitoring stations broke their all-time daily rainfall records between the 27th and 29th and in New York, the Passaic River reached a new record height of 7.35 m on the 30th. Towns were cut off and roads and bridges were swept away. Newark also had its wettest ever day (227 mm) on the 28th. New York, Philadelphia and Newark, New Jersey all recorded their wettest month ever. Storm damages were estimated at \$7 billion. In Canada, an EF-3 (T6) tornado, with wind speeds of 174 mph, tore through the town of Goderich, Ontario on the 21st.

In Asia, Super Cyclone Muifa continued its northwest track into the East China Sea and the Yellow Sea during August. Although winds had abated, Muifa still flooded 220,000 homes in South Korea. In New Zealand, an Antarctic polar blast brought frigid temperatures and icy conditions 14th-16th at the end of the antipodean winter. Auckland saw its first snowfall since 1939 and recorded its all-time lowest daytime temperature 8.2°C (47.8°F) on the 15th - breaking the previous record set in 1996. Wellington recorded a daytime max of just 6.8°C (44.2°F) - its second coldest day since records began at the airport in 1959. Thousands of homes in Wellington, Christchurch, and the Coromandel Peninsula lost power and schools across the lower South Island were closed. High winds produced 5m swells which halted ferry services in the Cook Strait between the North and South Island.



Extremes for September 2011	
Hottest:	29.2°C Cambridge, Niab, Cambridgeshire, 30th
Coldest:	-0.4°C Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire, 15th
Most Rain:	68.4mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty, 13th
Most Sun:	13.2hrs Cosby, Leicestershire, 1st
Windiest:	78mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 12th
Warmest:	17.7°C London Olympic Park South, Greater London
Coolest:	11.2°C Loch Glascarnoch, Highland
Wettest:	533.4mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	0.8mm Keele, Staffordshire
Sunniest:	237.6hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	40.2hrs Kinlochewe, Highland



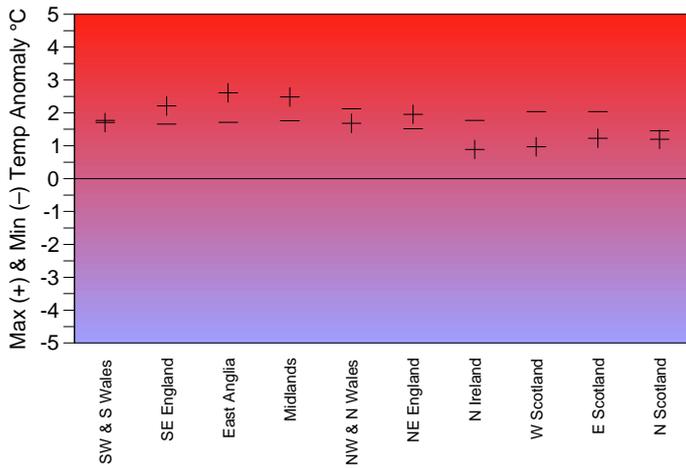
Meteorologically speaking, September marks the beginning of autumn. As the midday sun drops lower in the sky, shady places may stay damp all day and overnight mists are slower to clear in the mornings. The odd gale may occur, especially in the north, but spells of mellow sunshine and late warmth feature too, as was the case this year.

September opened on a dry and relatively warm note and maxima exceeded 26°C (79°F) in parts of the south-east on the 2nd and 3rd. Cooler, more changeable conditions followed on the 4th and 5th with showers or longer spells of rain as Atlantic fronts displaced the sultry weather. A deep depression brought rain then showers and strong winds on the 6th and there were further fronts and more rain over the next few days. A brief surge of warm, humid air followed from the 9th before temperatures fell sharply on the 11th amidst widespread showers. A depression that contained the remnants of Hurricane Katia arrived on the 12th and gales lashed much of the UK - with the worst conditions in the north-west. Gusts exceeded 70mph in Scotland's central belt, towering waves battered the west Cumbrian coast and many ferry services were cancelled. Edinburgh Castle was evacuated amid fears that falling roof slates could injure visitors and there was one fatality near Barnard Castle, Co Durham, after a tree crushed a car. The weather was a little less boisterous on the 13th as the depression moved into Scandinavia but winds were still strong and it remained showery. A rise of pressure brought a quieter spell with chilly nights 14th-16th, but the changeable theme was quick to resume by the 17th. Two cool, showery days were followed by a cold night on the 18th/19th but the main thrust of the unsettled weather then transferred to northern and western parts with drier, warmer conditions in the south and east. An anticyclone became established over mainland Europe by the 23rd and spells of warm sunshine developed in the east. After scattered heavy downpours in SE England late on the 26th, the final four days saw a spell of exceptional warmth that has few parallels so late in the year. In central and eastern England sunshine was abundant, and 28.8°C (84°F) on the 29th at Kew Gardens, London, set a new UK record for that date. The 30th was no less spectacular and the record for this date was again smashed with 29.2°C (84°F) at Cambridge and Sutton Bonington, Notts.

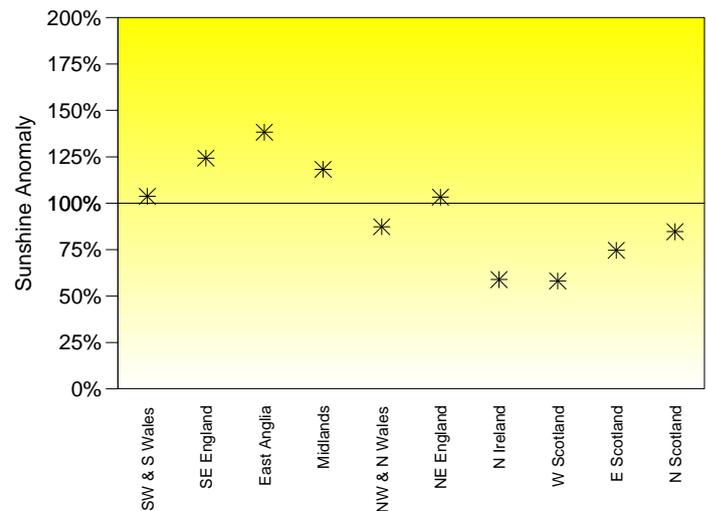
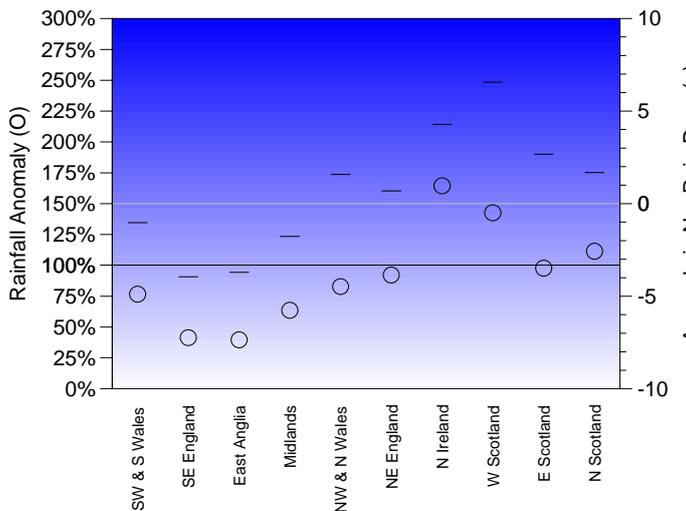
The remarkable end of month warm spell helped make it the 6th warmest September in the last 100 years. Most of England saw rainfall below average and it was especially dry in the east. Meanwhile, the western Highlands of Scotland and parts of north-west England were wet with 150% of average rainfall. Sunshine patterns reflected this north-west/south-east split, and a relatively sunny East Anglia contrasted with a dull western Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Europe experienced a month of contrasting extremes. Jokkmokk, Sweden, recorded 181 mm of rain in September smashing the previous record of 136 mm in September 1876. In central Europe, snow fell in the Swiss Alps overnight on 18-19th to levels unprecedented for September and caused major traffic disruption with the St Bernard, Flüela and Nufenen passes all closed. In the ski resort of St Moritz, 45cm of snow was measured early on 19th as a cold front lowered the snow line to 800m. Lower down, 100mm of rain was recorded in Santa Maria, also in Grison - the highest daily fall for any month since records began in 1901. Western Europe basked in heat waves early and late in the month. On 10th, Troyes in France reached 33.8°C (93°F) while, more remarkably, Pontoise near Paris soared to 32.0°C (90°F) on the 30th. A tornado came ashore on the Greek island of Lefkada on the 20th and a tourist was killed as moored boats were sucked out of the harbour and onto land.

Sweltering heat that gripped the southern United States throughout the summer continued into September. On the 13th, Wichita Falls, Texas recorded its 100th day of 100°F (37.8°C) temperatures in 2011, shattering the old record of 79 days set in 1980. From 1st-11th, Tropical Storm Lee inundated Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee before bringing more floods to the north-eastern states recently hit by Hurricane Irene. New Orleans received more than 300mm of rain and Chattanooga, Tennessee 241mm on the 5th alone - smashing the previous daily record of 40mm set in 1959. Monsoon rains in southern Pakistan's Sindh province from August 10th through to mid-September, led to disastrous flooding that swamped 4.2 million acres (including 1.6 million acres of cropland) and destroyed or damaged one million homes. In northern and north-eastern Thailand, monsoon rains, flooding and landslides led to at least 112 deaths, left more than 300,000 homes wrecked and 1.3 million acres of cropland submerged. In China a week of heavy rains during mid-September inundated the central provinces of Sichuan, Henan, and Shaanxi and caused estimated economic losses of \$2.7 billion. Typhoon Talas unleashed torrents of rain across western Japan 2nd-5th. At least 59 people were killed and many thousands left stranded by the storm with landslides, flooded rivers and collapsed bridges hampering rescue efforts.



Extremes for October 2011		
Hottest:	30.0°C	Cambridge Airport, Cambridgeshire, 1st
Coldest:	-3.3°C	Santon Downham, Norfolk, 20th
Most Rain:	67.5mm	Cardinham (Bodmin) SAWS, Cornwall, 24th
Most Sun:	11.3hrs	Portchester, Hampshire, 1st
Windiest:	73mph	Aberdaron SAWS, Gwynedd, 17th
Warmest:	14.8°C	London Olympic Park South, Greater London
Coolest:	8.7°C	Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	480.4mm	Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	1.0mm	Cambridge University, Cambridgeshire
Sunniest:	176.3hrs	Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	28.6hrs	Threave, Kirkcudbrightshire



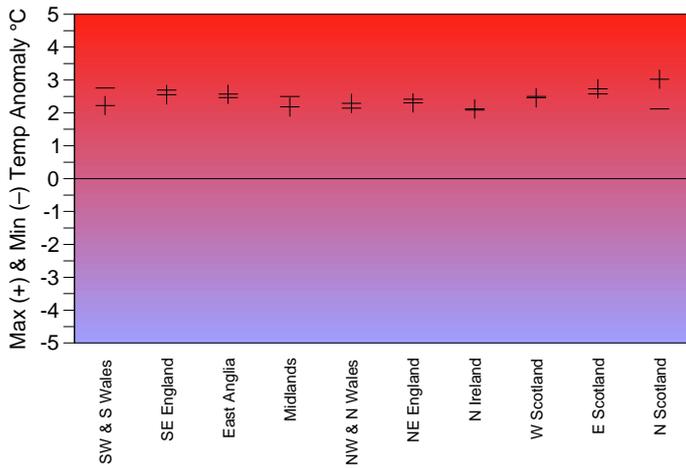
October is traditionally an unsettled month, but fine spells are not uncommon - and where they occur after the first frosts have whitened the grass are termed "Indian summers". Wind and rain become more frequent towards month end, hence the farmer's advice: "dry your barley in October, or you'll always be sober". This year saw a marked division in weather between East and West, with the former often basking in fine and warm weather the result of persistent high pressure over Europe.

The month began with an outstanding hot spell following the remarkable warmth of late September. Gravesend, Kent, reached 29.9°C (86°F) on the 1st, making it the hottest October day ever and beating the previous record of 29.4°C (85°F) set in 1985. The 2nd and 3rd were almost as warm, but thereafter the heat began to wane as Atlantic westerlies began to prevail. By the 6th temperatures were back to the seasonal norm and there were strong westerly winds and frequent showers in the west and north. Warm and humid air arrived from the west around the 9th and much of the following week was mild if rather cloudy. Temperatures rose to around 20°C (68°F) in East Anglia and south-east England. In Scotland, colder drier air behind a cold front slowly penetrated southward and reached southern England by the 14th giving some cold nights but brilliantly sunny days. Pressure fell on the 17th when a vigorous cold front swept south east bringing heavy rain and gales to Scotland and Northern Ireland. A gust of 77mph was recorded at Killowen (County Down). A couple of cool, blustery and showery days followed. There was snow over the Scottish mountains and a clear night on the 19th/20th led to the first widespread frosts of autumn. Santon Downham, Suffolk, recorded a minimum of -3.3°C (27°F) early on the 20th. By the 21st, high pressure was firmly established over the near Continent and southern and eastern areas became dry, quite sunny and exceptionally mild. Further west, slow-moving fronts delivered prolonged rainfall and overnight 23rd/24th totals of 40-50mm were widespread across Devon and Cornwall. Cardinham, Cornwall recorded 67mm and there were numerous reports of flooding. Rain spread north and east on the 25th, while in the south and west, there were heavy showers, with several funnel clouds sited. The final week saw a run of very mild south-westerly winds with minima over southern England a balmy 13-15°C (55-59°F) on the night of 30th/31st.

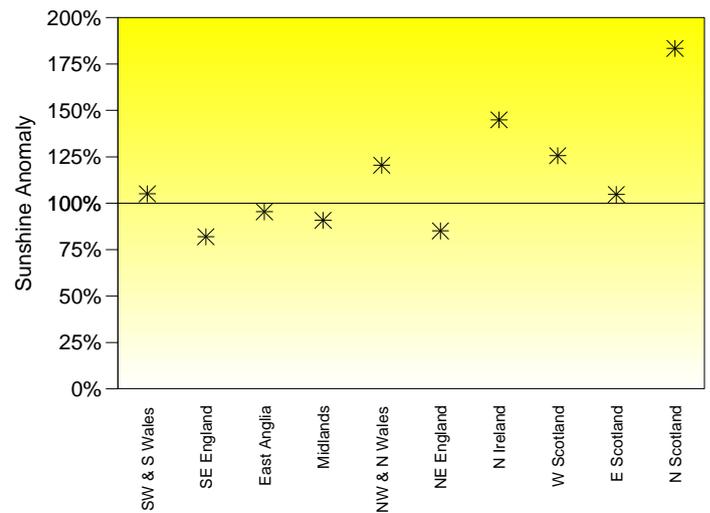
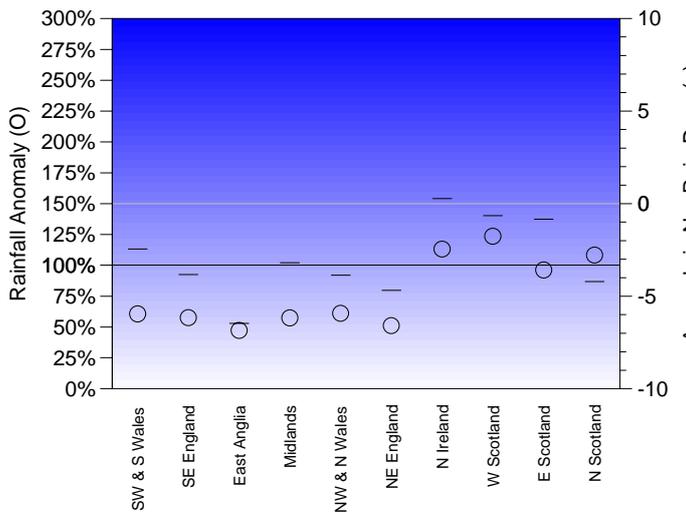
For the month as a whole, mean temperatures were well above normal everywhere - making it the eighth warmest October in the last 100 years. It was another dry month in central and eastern Britain, and many fields remained parched and dusty at the month's end. By contrast, it was very wet over the north and west - and Northern Ireland had one of its wettest and dullest Octobers ever. Sunshine was abundant and well above average for eastern Britain.

In Ireland, 82.2 mm of rain at Dublin's Casement Aerodrome on the 24th, marked a new October record, and caused severe flooding to the city centre. The Tuscany and Liguria regions of Italy also experienced exceptional rainfall during October. A colossal 500mm fell in just a few hours overnight 25th/26th sweeping away bridges and gutting villages. Seven people were drowned. In Algeria, days of heavy rainfall during the first week culminated in floods that killed 10 people and destroyed hundreds of homes around El-Bayadh.

In Asia, Super Typhoon Nalgae roared ashore in the Philippines on the 1st packing winds of 150 mph. In Thailand, storms and heavy monsoon rains contributed to the worst flooding since 1942. By the 24th 27 of the country's 77 provinces had been inundated, 4 million acres were submerged and 356 people had been killed. Several large industrial parks near Bangkok were swamped, including hundreds of factories and thousands of workers, causing disruption in global shipments ranging from computer hard drives to cars. Two separate storm systems - one from the Pacific and another system from the Caribbean - wreaked havoc across Central America, 11th-20th. At least 105 deaths were reported across Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Up to 1.5m of rain caused devastating flooding and landslides which left nearly one million people displaced or affected. The early 'winter' storm that affected the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast USA 28th-30th broke record snowfall totals for October and contributed to 19 deaths. Communities in western Massachusetts were among the hardest hit. Some places recorded up to 81cm of snow - and even New York's Central Park received 7cm - the earliest significant snowfall there since at least 1869. Connecticut experienced a record number of power outages and over 3 million households were left without electricity across the Mid-Atlantic and New England states.



Extremes for November 2011	
Hottest:	18.4°C Nettlecombe Birds Hill, Somerset, 12th
Coldest:	-6.1°C Redesdale Camp, Northumberland, 7th
Most Rain:	101.8mm Cassley, Sutherland, 26th
Most Sun:	8.7hrs Aberporth, Dyfed, 6th
Windiest:	78mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 29th
Warmest:	12.5°C St Catherines Point, Isle of Wight
Coolest:	6.6°C Loch Glascarnoch, Highland
Wettest:	432.4mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	5.0mm Ravensworth, North Yorkshire
Sunniest:	101.3hrs Kinloss, Grampian
Dullest:	13.1hrs Threave, Kirkcudbrightshire



As November draws to its close the sun sinks lower and winter beckons. There is a saying "if there is ice in November that will bear a duck, there will be nothing after but slush and muck". This suggests that an icy November will be followed by a mild winter, but in reality, it is rarely reliable. This year, there was very little ice of any sort as southerly or south-easterly winds gave an outstandingly warm month.

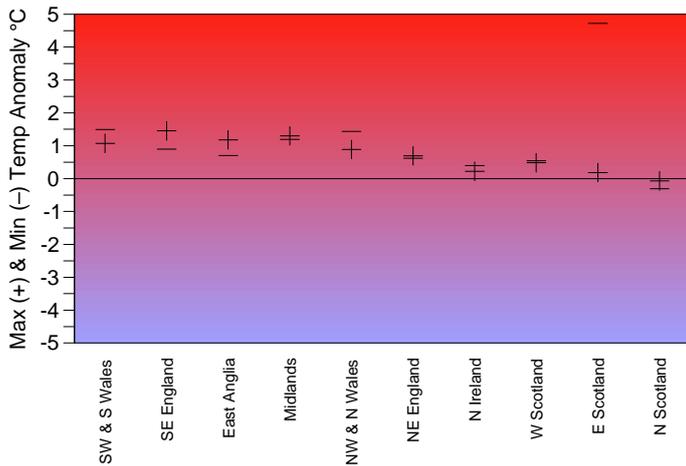
Very mild weather was already well established as the month opened, but it was rather unsettled with showers or longer spells of rain. Winds turned north-easterly on the 5th bringing grey and damp conditions to eastern areas and the next two days saw a marked division between a dull England and Wales and a much sunnier Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England. Redesdale (Northumberland) recorded -6.1°C (21°F) early on the 7th - one of the very few frosty mornings of the month. From the 9th and persisting for a fortnight, high pressure was the dominant feature over Scandinavia and eastern Europe and much of the UK was dry and very mild. Weak fronts brought occasional rain to the far west, and mist and low cloud sometimes caused temperatures to fall in eastern areas - notably on the 11th and 16th. The 13th was an outstandingly warm day with 18.1°C (64°F) recorded at Otterbourne (Hampshire) and 19.2°C (66°F) at Tregarth (Gwynedd). Fog affected central and eastern parts on the 20th, before lifting into low cloud the next day. By the 23rd, the influence of the formidable European anticyclone weakened and a mobile westerly type asserted itself for the final week. It remained very dry in the south however, raising fears of drought for next year unless substantial winter rainfall tops up the aquifers. Northern Britain was much windier and wetter. Coastal flooding was reported from the Northern Isles on the 24th, with wind gusts to 70mph and very high seas off the Hebrides. A warm sector caused damaging gusts to the lee of the Pennines on the 26th and it was also very windy further north with a gust of 73mph at Inverbevie (Aberdeenshire) and 90mph at Fair Isle the following morning. Scotland and Northern Ireland were especially wet on the 28th and 29th and 55mm fell at Glasgow.

Overall November 2011 ranked second warmest for the UK since records began in 1910 with an average temperature of 8.7°C (47°F) - just 0.1°C short of the record set in 1994. This combined with the mild September and October has made 2011 the second warmest autumn on record, trumped only by 2006. The number of air frosts was among the lowest for November in the last 50 years. Rainfall was above normal for western Scotland and N. Ireland, but below average in most other areas; indeed in parts of eastern England it was one of the driest Novembers on record. It was a very sunny month in northern Scotland, but dull over the Midlands and eastern England, reflecting the dominance of dry but overcast days.

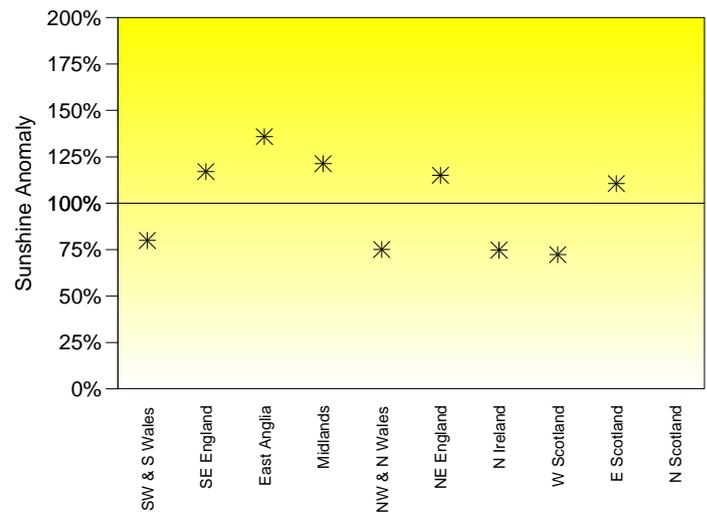
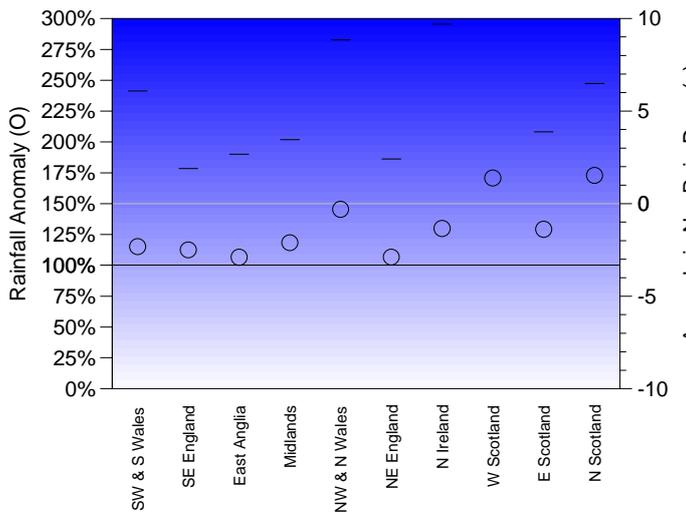
Europe experienced huge contrasts in November. Heavy rains during the first week caused severe flooding in northwest Italy. In the city of Turin, schools were closed on 7th and thousands of residents were evacuated as the River Po rose by 4m. Exceptional rainstorms also hit southeast France. From 1st-6th, 217mm fell at Montpellier and 936mm was recorded at Valleraugue in le Gard. On Corsica, 210mm fell at Corte on the 5th - a daily record, of which 172mm fell in just 6 hours! Four people died after hours of torrential rain caused heavy flooding and mudslides in north-eastern Sicily on the 22nd. Buildings and vehicles were left submerged in Saponara, near Messina with streets turned into mud-filled watercourses. Ironically, across France, the first half of November 2011 was also the hottest November fortnight ever recorded with a mean temperature nearly 4°C (7°F) above normal. In Holland, November was a record dry month with an average of just 9mm of rain nationwide, compared to the normal 82mm.

In America, the strongest winter storm since 1974 struck Alaska's western coast on 8th-9th. Winds gusted to 89mph at the western tip of the Seward Peninsula, the U.S. side of the Bering Strait. At Nome, the largest town in the path of the storm, a surge of 3m breached the sea wall, washing heavy equipment out to sea. Subsequently in Fairbanks, Alaska, extreme daily 'cold' temperature records were set every day from the 15th to the 19th. The lowest temperature was recorded on the 17th -41°C (-41°F). Even chillier was North Pole, Alaska where temperatures plunged to a numbing -45°C (-49°F) Further south, a cold front stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the Northeast United States collided with a surge of warm air ahead on 16th, creating severe storms across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and South Carolina. Dozens of homes and buildings were damaged and thousands of people were left without power as trees and power lines were downed. In South Carolina, three people were killed and five injured when a tornado swept through a village near Rock Hill.

Torrential rains fell over East Africa 9th-15th. In Kenya, at least four people were killed in the Kolowa region and a total of 10,000 residents were displaced. On 30th five people were killed with a further 30 missing in western Indonesia after a landslide buried 37 houses in a village on the island of Nias following three days of torrential rain. In southeastern Australia destructive thunderstorms unleashed high winds, hail and torrential rain on the 9th. A tornado struck the town of Bellbridge, Victoria, ripping off roofs and there were numerous reports of flash flooding and building damage. Northern Tablelands (New South Wales) was flooded on the 24th when up to 100 mm of rain fell in 24 hours.



Extremes for December 2011	
Hottest:	16.0°C Plymouth / Roborough, Devon, 9th
Coldest:	-9.4°C Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 18th
Most Rain:	85.8mm Kinlochewe, Highland, 26th
Most Sun:	7.2hrs Hastings 1, East Sussex, 9th
Windiest:	98mph Foula No 2, Shetland, 8th
Warmest:	9.2°C Carrefour-au-Clercq, Channel Islands
Coolest:	1.7°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	658.2mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	33.7mm Cambridge University, Cambridgeshire
Sunniest:	86.3hrs Hull North, Humberside
Dullest:	8.1hrs Bala, Clwyd



December is the darkest month of the year, yet is often surprisingly mild. The seas which surround our shores still retain some of their autumn warmth and January or February are usually rather colder. 2010 was a notable exception to this when ice and snow were widespread very early in the winter season, but this year reverted to the more familiar pattern of wind and rain.

The first week was dominated by a north-westerly flow and polar maritime air. With relatively warm sea temperatures, there was marked instability and plenty of showers, especially in the north and west - where they frequently fell as snow. 15cm was measured at Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, at 0900 on the 5th and 6th. A rapidly deepening depression moved east near northern Scotland on the 8th and a major storm affected northern Britain. Gusts reached 164mph on Cairngorm and 145mph on Aonach Mor. Even at lower levels and further south, there were gusts in excess of 70mph e.g. 74mph at St Bees Head, Cumbria. Disruption and damage was widespread. More than 300 passengers were stranded on the Rotterdam-Hull ferry off the East Yorkshire coast, the Forth road bridge was closed and a wind turbine was wrecked and burst into flames at Ardrossan, Ayrshire. After two bright cold days, the weather once more turned unsettled on the 12th with several deep depressions passing close to the UK. A rapidly deepening low moved east along the English Channel overnight 15th/16th, but the strongest winds affected northern France, leaving most of the South coast unscathed. Much of England had heavy rain on the morning of the 16th and this turned to snow over higher ground. There followed two days of bright, frosty weather with a peppering of wintry showers, but mild conditions became well established by the middle of the third week. Northern Britain remained unsettled, but the south came under greater influence from the Azores High - keeping the rain at bay. Santa's sleigh would definitely have struggled this year and Christmas Day was grey and extraordinarily mild - with widespread maxima of 11-14°C (52-57°F) Similar values were recorded on Boxing Day and 15.5°C (60°F) was achieved at Fyvie Castle, Aberdeenshire - remarkable for this time of year and for so far north. The 28th saw more stormy weather in the north with gusts of 79mph at Tyree and South Uist. On the 30th snow fell on northern hills ahead of a warm front but the old year ended on a very mild and damp note in the ensuing warm sector.

Mean temperatures for December were well above average and it was a massive 5°C (9°F) warmer than December 2010. Air frosts were conspicuous by their absence over England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It was a very wet month in northern and western Scotland, Northern Ireland and north-west England, but totals were close to normal elsewhere. Sunshine was well above average over the Midlands and eastern England but well below across Northern Ireland, western Scotland and some western parts of England and Wales, reflecting the dominance of westerly winds.

Northern Europe experienced a stormy December. A record-high wave of 20.4m was measured off Co Donegal on the Irish coast at the peak of a severe North Atlantic storm which skirted Ireland en route to northern Scotland on 13th-14th. Another severe storm 'Joachim' struck Western Europe on December 15th-17th. Heavy rain and snow, combined with gusts as high as 94mph caused travel disruption and hundreds of thousands of power outages across northern and western France, Germany, and Switzerland. The Austrian and Swiss Alps welcomed the snowfall - where resorts had started their winter ski season unusually dry and barren. Another fierce Atlantic Storm 'Dagmar' pounded Scandinavia on 25th-26th, cutting off electricity to 265,000 residents across Norway, Finland and Sweden. Trains were halted and roads were closed in the worst storm to hit the region since 2001. The highest winds were in Norway with means of 100mph and gusts of 145mph.

In the United States, a severe wind storm caused damage in California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming 1st-2nd. The ferocious Santa Ana winds toppled thousands of trees, knocked power out to hundreds of thousands of homes and blew over trucks in California and Utah. Gusts over 140 mph were measured on the Sierra Crest mountain ridge. In the east, a winter storm on the 7th unleashed a widespread swath of 90mm rainfall from the central Appalachians to New England. Washington, D.C. received 79mm rain that day, more than it typically receives during a whole December! A major winter storm brought blizzards to the Southern Rockies and Central Plains on 19th-20th. New Mexico received 61cm of snowfall and many highways were closed from New Mexico to Kansas, stranding hundreds of holidaymakers. Heavy rains caused a mudslide on the 8th that flooded 3500 homes and killed six people about 200 miles south of Bogota, Colombia.

On the 16th tropical Storm Washi made landfall over the southern Philippine island of Mindanao. 142mm of rain fell at Lumbia Airport in just 12 hours causing rivers to swell and burst their banks. Entire villages were destroyed, and at least 1257 residents perished in landslides - with thousands more injured. In northern Australia, Tropical Cyclone Grant brought heavy rain and destructive winds to the Tiwi islands north of Darwin on Christmas Day. The storm also caused flash flooding in the Northern Territory, knocking a freight train from a bridge and destroying large parts of a major highway. Further south, large hailstones shattered glass in cars and buildings in Melbourne and a tornado touched down in nearby Fiskville.