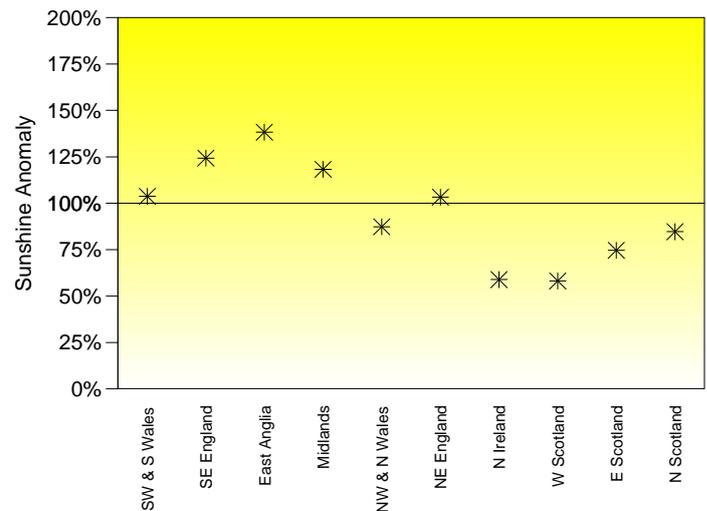
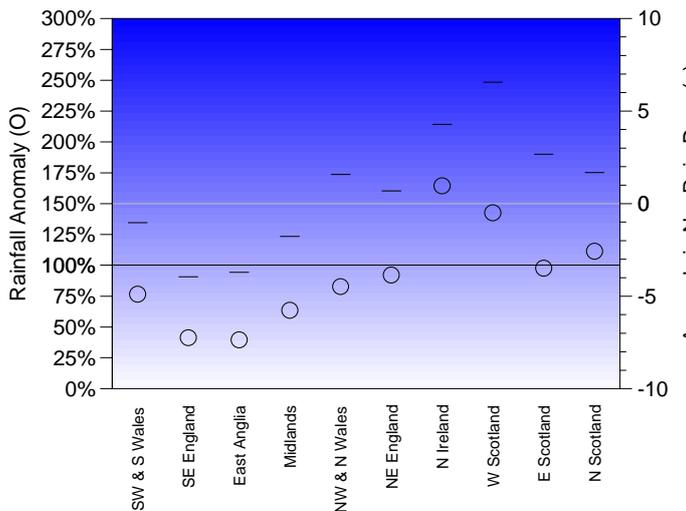


Extremes for October 2011		
Hottest:	30.0°C	Cambridge Airport, Cambridgeshire, 1st
Coldest:	-3.3°C	Santon Downham, Norfolk, 20th
Most Rain:	67.5mm	Cardinham (Bodmin) SAWS, Cornwall, 24th
Most Sun:	11.3hrs	Portchester, Hampshire, 1st
Windiest:	73mph	Aberdaron SAWS, Gwynedd, 17th
Warmest:	14.8°C	London 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.