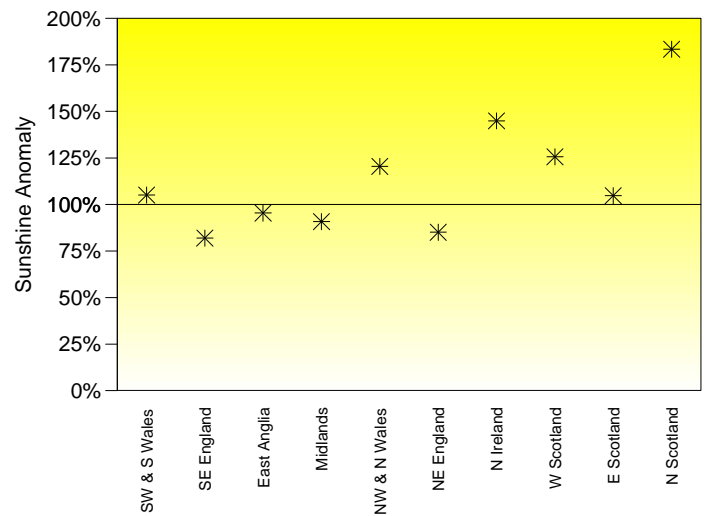
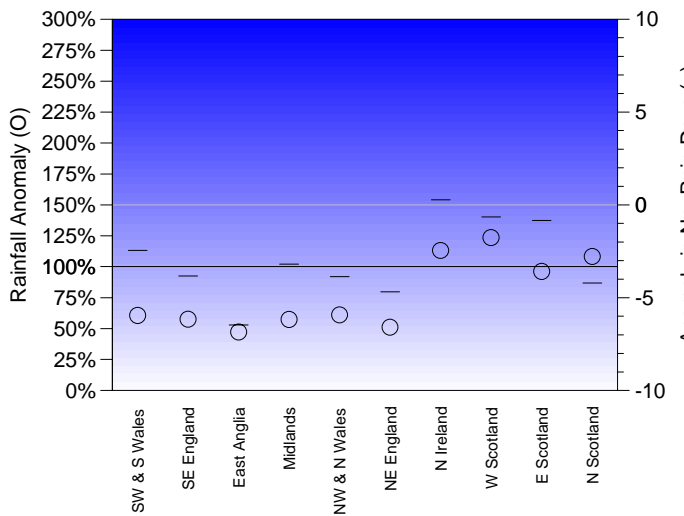


Extremes for November 2011	
Hottest:	18.4°C Nettlecombe Birds Hill, Somerset, 12th
Coldest:	-6.1°C Redesdale Camp, Northumberland, 7th
Most Rain:	101.8mm Cassley, Sutherland, 26th
Most Sun:	8.7hrs Aberporth, Dyfed, 6th
Windiest:	78mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 29th
Warmest:	12.5°C St Catherines Point, 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.