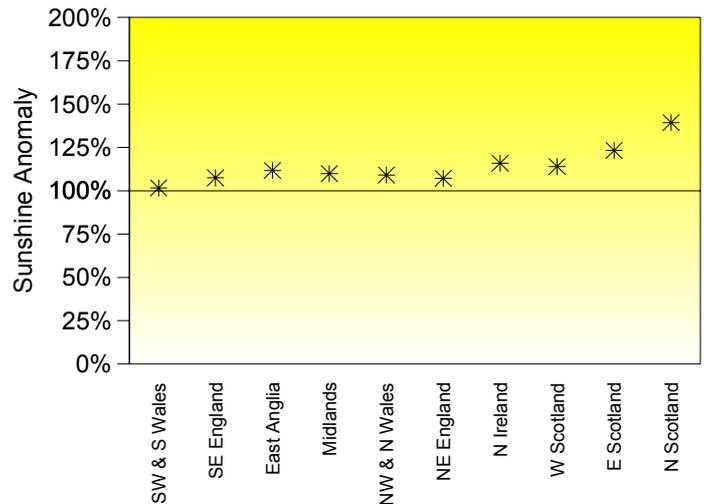
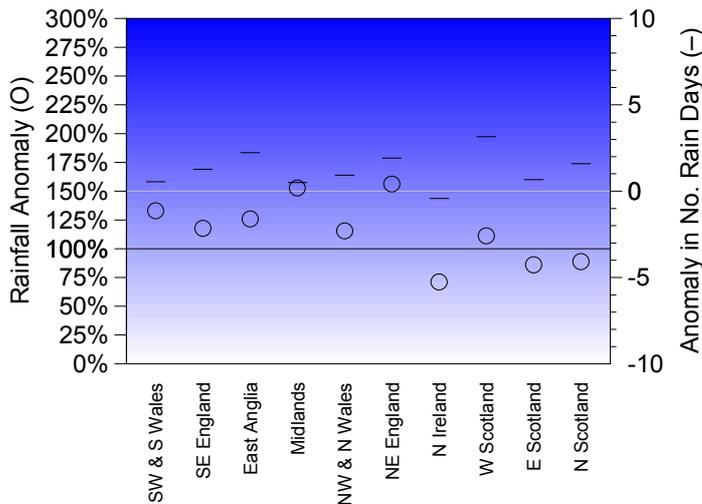


Extremes for November 2012	
Hottest:	16.8°C Totterdown, Bristol, 3rd
Coldest:	-11.1°C Guernsey Airport, Channel Islands, 13th
Most Rain:	71.6mm Blencathra, Cumbria, 26th
Most Sun:	8.7hrs East Malling, Kent, 7th
Windiest:	77mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 22nd
Warmest:	10.0°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	3.5°C Braemar No 2, Avon
Wettest:	317.6mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	34.1mm Kinloss, Grampian
Sunniest:	98.0hrs Hastings 1, East Sussex
Dullest:	38.9hrs Magilligan No 2, County Londonderry



'If there's ice in November that will bear a duck, there'll be nothing after but slush and muck.' This saying suggests that a cold, frosty November may precede a mild winter, but it has little basis in fact. November 1988 was a bright, cold and frosty month and the winter that followed was outstandingly mild, but the frigid late November of 2010 was followed by one of the coldest Decembers on record.

The month opened with three bright days, but there were showers and on the 1st and in the west these were heavy and accompanied by hail and thunder. Rain was more persistent on the 4th in central and southern areas, and wet snow was reported from parts of Dorset, Wiltshire and Sussex. A frosty and crisp bonfire night was followed by milder air on the 6th and an early morning temperature of -2°C (28°F) at Kew contrasted with 9°C (48°F) at Glasgow. A mild, changeable spell followed with steady rain in the west and north - although it remained mostly dry in the south and east until a cold front moved through on the 10th. Remembrance Sunday was dry and bright but more fronts followed on the 12th. Winds became lighter on the 13th and fog and gloom were widespread over the next four days - before a cold front cleared the murk on the 17th. The north was notably cold and there were snow showers over the Scottish hills, followed by a sharp air frost at night. The 18th was sunny but this soon gave way to very unsettled weather which persisted for most of the remainder of the month. Heavy and prolonged rainfall caused flooding in parts of the south-west on the 22nd and in Bishop Sutton, Somerset, a woman in labour had to be rescued from her flooded home. The weekend of the 24th/25th was extremely wild as a deepening depression over Biscay ran quickly north-east to be centred over the North Sea by midday on the 25th. South-west England and the Midlands were particularly badly hit by flooding and while most new flood defences worked well, their failure at Kempsey, Wiltshire, led to the inundation of many homes. Another low followed hard on the heels of its predecessor on the 26th and this time northern England bore the brunt of prolonged rainfall. Drier, colder, conditions gradually took over during the closing days of the month with frost becoming increasingly widespread and a few wintry showers in the north and east. The mix of weather resulted in mean temperatures close to the November average. It was a wet month for most places, but paradoxically also a sunny one - a situation not uncommon amidst unsettled weather in late autumn and winter.

In Europe during November, Italy was hit by severe floods mid month. Storms on the 10th-11th caused huge damage in southern Tuscany, washing out roads and isolating towns. Three electric company workers were killed when their car fell off a collapsed bridge and near Orvieto in Umbria dozens of people only found refuge from floodwaters on the roofs of their homes. On the 11th, the water level in Venice reached the sixth highest level since records began in 1872. St Marks's Square was so submerged that some tourists were able to swim there! On the 12th, Orbetello San Donato, in the Grosseto province north of Rome, recorded 343 mm of rain - smashing the previous November daily record of 185 mm set during the 1966 flood episode. One of Rome's most historic bridges was closed on the 14th as the swollen Tiber River roared through the capital and flooded outlying districts. On the 16th a tornado struck the Algarve in southern Portugal and at Carvoeiro vehicles were blown into the air causing injuries to at least 8 people. On the 28th a tornado also tore through the southern Italian city of Taranto, hitting Europe's largest steel plant, with reports of 20 injuries. Meanwhile, at the opposite end of the continent, Moscow was hit by more than 20cm of snow on the 29th causing hundreds of flights to be delayed at the Russian capital's three major airports.

An unusually heavy early snowfall hit the populated north eastern USA from Maryland to Maine during the first week. By the 7th New York City's Central Park had recorded 12cm from the 'Nor'easter' storm. Since 1869, Central Park had never previously measured more than 8cm of snow this early in the season. Other snowfall totals, by the 8th, included Freehold (New Jersey) with 33cm and Clintonville (Connecticut) with 34cm. In contrast, on the 11th Canada experienced unseasonal warmth and people in Ontario and Quebec donned shorts and T-shirts. Temperatures in some areas peaked at around 20°C (68°F)

A violent snowstorm cut electricity to 41,000 homes in northern Japan on the 24th. Gusts of up to 90mph were recorded in Muroran on Hokkaido's Pacific coast. Tens of thousands of homes in and around the city were left without power after winds and snow downed transmission cables and dozens of trains and domestic flights were cancelled due to the blizzard. On the 28th, roof damage, broken trees and blackouts were the aftermath of a blast of severe winds in Australia's western metropolis of Perth. There was extensive roof damage to property and power was blacked out to more than 50,000 homes. In contrast, on the 29th parts of eastern Australia were sweltering in an extreme heat wave. A reading of 45.4°C (114°F) at Ouyen set a new high November temperature record for the state of Victoria beating the previous state record of 45.0°C (113°F) which had stood since the early 1900s.