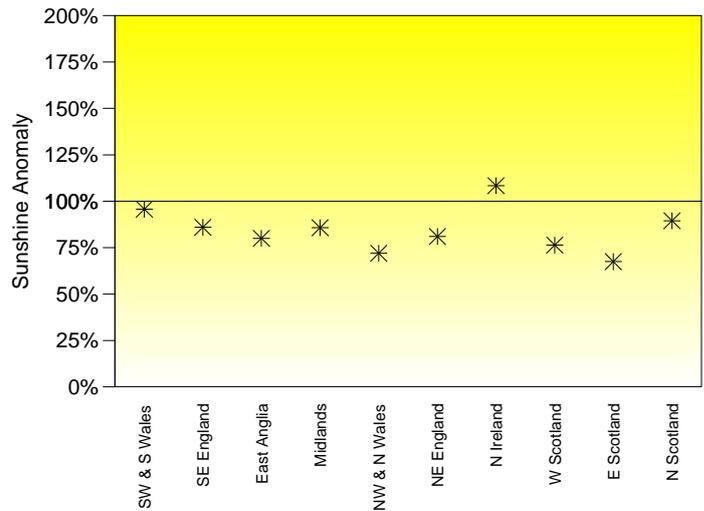
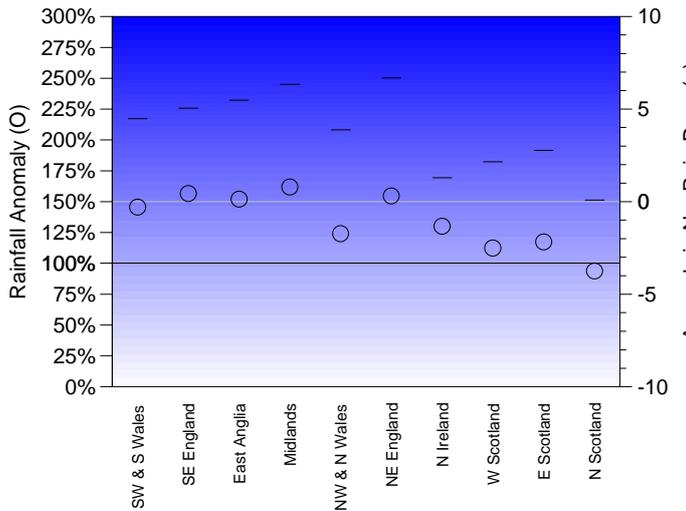


Extremes for October 2013	
Hottest:	24.1°C Leigh-on-Sea 2, Essex, 8th
Coldest:	-3.4°C Aviemore, Highland, 12th
Most Rain:	61.7mm Ebbw Vale, Gwent, 21st
Most Sun:	10.8hrs Monifieth, Tayside, 5th
Windiest:	82mph Pembrey Sands, Dyfed, 27th
Warmest:	15.0°C Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands
Coolest:	8.3°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	347.1mm Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd
Driest:	31.0mm Chillingham Barns, Northumberland
Sunniest:	161.7hrs Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands
Dullest:	30.5hrs Bala, Clwyd



A variety of weather can grace October. A warm, dry spell after the first of the autumns frosts is not uncommon and termed an 'Indian summer', but equally, the first flurries of snow often buffet northern hills. According to the seasonal calendar of HH Lamb, the period from 24th October to 13th November can be a notably stormy one as depressions pass close to the UK, and this year provided a notable example of this.

October began with pressure high over Scandinavia and humid south easterlies across the UK. There were heavy rain showers in the west, but it became fine and warm in the south from the 5th. Fog was slow to clear in the mornings, especially on the 7th and in the north it remained unsettled. The 9th saw a dramatic change as the highest pressure transferred to the west of the UK and much colder northerlies plunged southwards. There were snow showers on the Scottish mountains and from the 11th, slow-moving depressions brought periods of cold, wet weather to England and Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland were brighter but remained chilly with night frosts. A more general drier interlude on the 15th was followed by renewed bouts of rain from the 16th although it steadily became warmer by the 18th as winds veered southeast. Heavy showers were widespread on the 20th with hail and thunder reported widely. Tornadoes occurred at Hayling Island (Hampshire) and Walsall (West Midlands), the former causing damage to over 100 properties. Much of the following week saw further rain and strong winds and more tornadoes were reported at Bognor Regis, West Sussex on the 23rd and Huby, North Yorkshire on the 25th. Winds from a southerly or south-westerly direction meant a continuation of very mild conditions with maxima widely above 16°C (61°F) until the 26th. The interaction of a strong jet stream with the warm air then spawned an intense depression which moved rapidly northeast across England and Wales during the early hours of the 28th following the "feast of St Jude". South of the centre, severe gales brought extensive disruption to transport and communications from southwest England to East Anglia. Over £100M of property damage resulted - mostly concentrated in Essex, Suffolk and along the Sussex coast. The port of Dover was closed and more than 130 flights cancelled at Heathrow. At Luton, Devon a 27m tall wind turbine was blown down. More than 850,000 homes lost power in the UK and the storm was responsible for at least 5 deaths. The highest recorded gusts for the UK were 104mph at Sandettie Light Vessel, (English Channel), and 99mph at Needles lighthouse (Isle of Wight). Gusts of 150mph were measured high up the turbines at the Gunfleet Sands Offshore Wind Farm off the Essex coast. As month end approached, the weather became less boisterous, but it stayed windy with showers or longer spells of rain. It also became noticeably cooler, and there was a widespread ground frost early on the 30th. For the month as a whole, temperatures were well above normal for all of the UK - especially at night. In terms of rainfall and sunshine, it was a wet and a dull month everywhere, except for the extreme north of Scotland.

The unsettled weather also extended into Europe during October. Holland experienced prolonged rainfall on 12th-13th. Totals of over 75mm were widespread and some places in the southwest received more than 120 mm of rain - which caused considerable flooding. Windstorm "Jude" also battered northern Europe on the 28th - where it was more properly named windstorm "Christian". The Danish capital of Copenhagen saw record gusts up to 120 mph - causing 100,000 houses to lose power in Vejen, Kolding and southern Funen - and 2 fatalities. There were 8 more deaths across Germany as hundreds of trees were uprooted or split, blocking roads and crushing cars. Transport disruption was widespread and both Düsseldorf and Hamburg airports saw many flights cancelled, leaving hundreds of passengers stranded. In France, 65,000 houses lost power across Brittany, Normandy and Picardy and the storm was responsible for at least 1 death. In Holland Amsterdam's central railway station was closed due to falling masonry and wind gusts toppled trees into canals, rail and tram lines in the capital's historic centre - halting almost all public transport and causing 3 fatalities.

In north America, early blizzards swept large areas of South Dakota and Wyoming 4th- 6th closing airports and roads. The Black Hills in South Dakota resembled a Christmas card scene when they were coated with 110cm (1.1m!) of wet, heavy snow that fell in just 24 hours. In north eastern Nebraska and north-western Iowa, severe thunderstorms spawned devastating tornadoes.

Several destructive tropical storms affected the Pacific and Indian Oceans. On the 7th, Typhoon Fitow hit China's eastern coast packing winds of up to 100mph. The storm caused economic losses estimated at £2.1bn. Tropical Cyclone Phailin made landfall in north-eastern India on the 12th. The approach of the storm - among the most powerful ever known in the region - led to the evacuation of 1 million people. Phailin destroyed hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of crops and was equivalent to a Category 5 hurricane. A week later on the 16th, tens of millions of people in Japan felt the wrath of Typhoon Wipha. Oshima, an island south of Tokyo, reported 824 mm of rain from the storm in less than 24 hours. The deluge caused landslides responsible for at least 17 deaths. Winds of hurricane force and driving, torrential rain lashed parts of Tokyo causing 400 flights to be cancelled and 20,000 people to be evacuated from their homes. Typhoon Krosa hit the northern end of the main Philippine island of Luzon on 17th. 100 mph winds ravaged the coastal province of Caqayan, about 430 kilometres north of Manila.