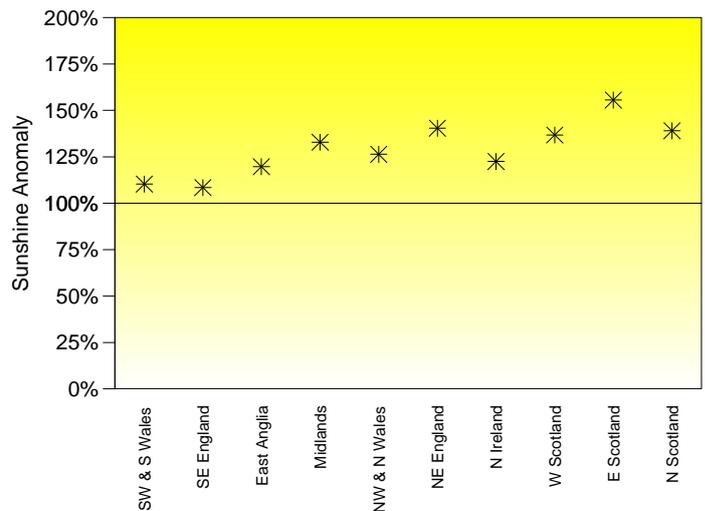
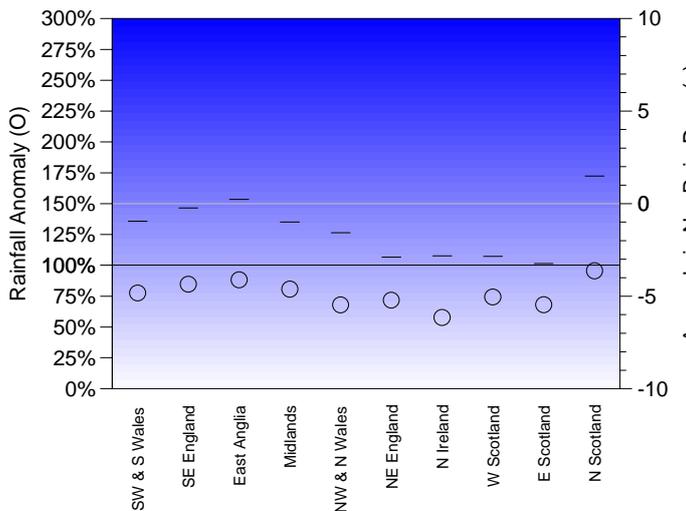


Extremes for November 2013	
Hottest:	16.2°C Yeovilton, Somerset, 6th
Coldest:	-7.4°C Tulloch Bridge SAWS, Highland, 22nd
Most Rain:	46.8mm Lerwick, Shetland, 3rd
Most Sun:	8.6hrs Waddington, Lincolnshire, 4th
Windiest:	89mph Mumbles Head, West Glamorgan, 2nd
Warmest:	10.3°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	3.0°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	298.0mm Achnagart, Highland
Driest:	23.2mm Leuchars, Fife
Sunniest:	162.8hrs Monifieth, Tayside
Dullest:	33.8hrs Lerwick, Shetland



November is the month of dwindling daylight and depressing piles of damp autumn leaves which may have been brought down in the first widespread gale of the season. Whilst not a winter month, it is quite capable of delivering snowfall to northern hills, and night frosts usually become more widespread and severe. By contrast, we may also experience a 'St. Martin's summer', a short spell of very mild weather that is often a feature of mid month.

November opened on a boisterous note as a deep depression transferred across Scotland into Scandinavia on the 2nd/3rd. There were thundery showers in western districts on the 2nd - with hail carpeting the ground in places - and very severe gales affected Wales and Northern Ireland overnight. Mumbles (West Glamorgan) recorded a gust of 89mph. Winds moderated on the 3rd, but more rain reached southern areas later, before it cleared on the 4th to leave most places with a crisp, sunny day under a ridge of high pressure. Bonfire Night was unsettled and breezy, albeit relatively mild, and there followed four days of changeable conditions with thundery showers on the 8th. It was fine for the Remembrance Sunday parades on the 10th, but most places saw further rain during the following week - although with pressure relatively high - sunshine was plentiful in between the rain belts. After a quiet but dull weekend on the 16th/17th, the weather changed markedly from the 18th as an Arctic air mass invaded Scotland. On the 19th, everywhere became much colder - and snow showers in the north led to the first covering of the season for some places, with 5cm recorded at Altnaharra (Sutherland) and Tulloch Bridge (Highland). The following day, a vigorous cold front swept southwards across the entire UK and brought driving rain, hail and that rare meteorological phenomenon - simultaneous thunder and snow. There was one unconfirmed report of a tornado at Irthingborough (Northants.) The weather subsequently stayed rather cold, and while large amounts of cloud limited frosts over England and Wales, there were some chilly nights for Scotland. Braemar, Aberdeenshire recorded -8.1°C (18F) early on the 25th. The dry but rather dull conditions lasted until the 29th, when another active cold front moved south-east. Strong winds and squally showers turned wintry on northern hills, but milder, damp weather soon returned to the north as the month drew to a close.

November overall was a little drier than on average for all of the UK. It was also distinctly sunnier - exceptionally so for Scotland - where it was the sunniest November in at least 80 years. Temperatures were a little below normal countrywide - mainly due to some early frosts.

While the Atlantic hurricane season was the quietest since 1982, both the Pacific and Indian Oceans unleashed fearsome tropical storms during November. The full force of Pacific 'super' Typhoon Haiyan smashed into the Philippines on the 7th-8th. Upon landfall, the maximum sustained winds of this Category 5 storm were an astounding 195mph - with gusts up to 235mph. Hundreds of thousands of residents were displaced and 3600 people were killed across the islands. The winds flattened homes, schools and even the airport in Tacloban. A massive storm surge up to 10m high washed large ships ashore and swept away vehicles as it roared inland. Both Tacloban and the nearby town of Palo were left devastated. On the 11th, Haiyan made landfall in north Vietnam and it still carried destructive gusts of up to 100mph as it hit the Ha Long Bay tourist destination. Hot on its heels, a further tropical depression produced extreme rainfall and deadly flooding across central Vietnam 15th-17th. Over 500mm rain fell in Hue, and over 425mm in Da Nang. The National Floods and Storms Control Agency confirmed that 41 people died in the floods, with 80,000 more forced from their homes. An Indian Ocean tropical cyclone hit Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland region on the 10th producing torrential rains which unleashed flash floods that led to 140 deaths and the loss of 100,000 livestock. Many fishing boats were swept away into the Indian Ocean. Meanwhile an early taste of winter reached parts of China at the month's end. On the 26th, nine people were reported killed after heavy snowfalls caused a building to collapse in Heilongjiang Province in north-east China. Elsewhere in the province the snow caused major traffic disruption, flight cancellations, and school closures.

Closer to home, 'Cyclone Cleopatra' struck the Italian island of Sardinia on the 18th-19th. The area around the north-eastern city of Olbia was worst-hit. 440 mm of rain in 24 hours led to flash flooding that killed at least 18 people, swept away cars and caused many bridges to collapse.

Meanwhile severe weather pounded the US Midwest on the 17th with tornadoes, intense thunderstorms and giant hail affecting 53 million people across 10 states, leaving tens of thousands without power and at least 6 people dead. 15 tornadoes hit the state of Illinois alone - with 65 more reported elsewhere across the country. Overnight 24th-25th a severe winter storm hit the central and southern USA. Hundreds of flights in Texas were cancelled amid freezing rain, Oklahoma was blanketed beneath 25cm of snow and the severe weather was responsible for hundreds of road traffic accidents and at least 10 deaths.