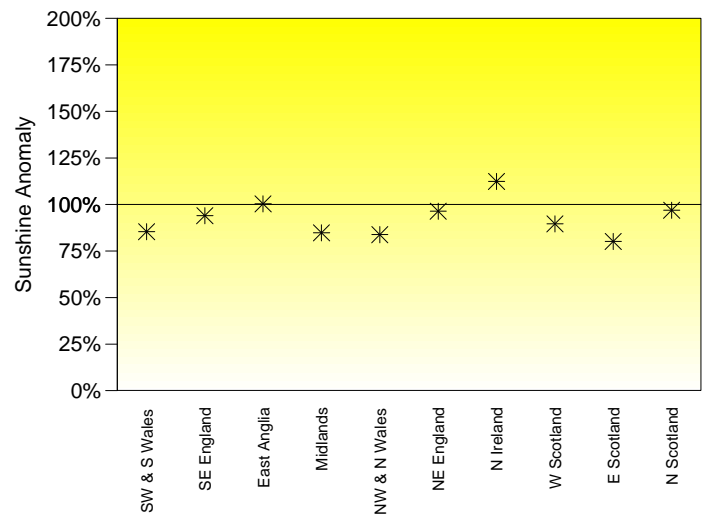
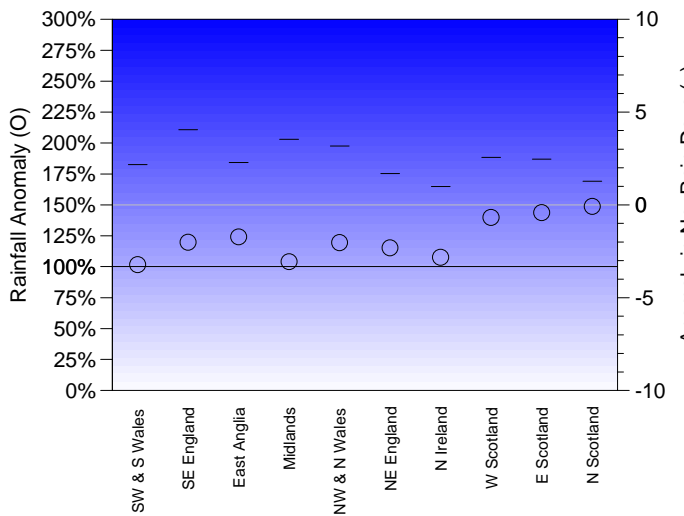


Extremes for October 2014	
Hottest:	23.6°C Gravesend Broadness SAMOS, Kent, 31st
Coldest:	-3.2°C Altnaharra SAWS, Highland, 13th
Most Rain:	103.0mm Kinlochewe, Highland, 26th
Most Sun:	10.4hrs Valley, Gwynedd, 2nd
Windiest:	84mph South Uist Range, Western Isles, 6th
Warmest:	15.8°C Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands
Coolest:	8.1°C Braemar No 2, Avon
Wettest:	580.6mm Achnagart, Highland
Driest:	34.4mm Linton-on-Ouse, North Yorkshire
Sunniest:	113.9hrs Wattisham, Suffolk
Dullest:	43.0hrs Aviemore, Highland



October marks the start of autumn proper; ground frosts become common and the first snow may whiten our northern hills. It can also be a windy month, and often the remnants of an Atlantic hurricane or tropical storm can get caught up in a depression, giving it an extra punch and adding to the impact of the wind and rain.

The month began with three warm days as the late September heat persisted but on the 4th there was a dramatic change as a cold front ushered in rain and a sharp temperature drop. A colossal 96.1mm fell at Drumburgh (Cumbria), and snow fell on the highest Scottish peaks. The 5th then saw early ground frost and a bright, crisp day before wet and stormy weather arrived on the 6th. A gust of 84mph was recorded at South Uist (Western Isles). The following 5 days were governed by a slow-moving depression over the northern UK which delivered a bombardment of heavy, squally and sometimes thundery showers, with longer spells of heavy rain in Scotland. It was mild and 16°C (61°F) was regularly exceeded in the south. Fog and low cloud became extensive overnight on 11th/12th as the gradient slackened but more heavy rain affected England and Wales on the 13th/14th. Western Scotland and N. Ireland were much brighter, but further Atlantic depressions soon dominated giving a very unsettled but also very mild second half of the month. The remnants of tropical storm Gonzalo swept rain and gales across the country overnight on the 20th/21st. Many trees were still in leaf and so were easily toppled. There was extensive disruption to railway services and a woman was killed by a falling tree in Knightsbridge, London. The final week saw the main thrust of wind and rain across northern and western areas while the south and east often experienced warm, mellow days and a taste of Indian summer. Persistent frontal rainfall in western Scotland over a three day period beginning on the 25th led to 200mm being recorded in some places and numerous landslides. October bowed out on a very balmy note, with spectacular warmth in southerly breezes on the 31st. 23.6°C (75°F) was reached at Gravesend (Kent) and Kew Gardens (Greater London), making this the warmest Halloween on record for the UK.

It was another warm month overall especially in the south with daytime temperatures typically 1.5°C or more above the average. Rainfall totals were generally above normal, especially so over Scotland and Cumbria with some places recording double their usual October totals. Sunshine was a little below average everywhere except for N. Ireland.

Europe also experienced warm but unsettled weather during October. In Spain, Malaga Airport recorded a maximum of 36.4°C (98°F) on the 22nd - a new October all time record. The remnants of Hurricane Gonzalo caused havoc elsewhere in Europe 21st-26th. On the 22nd, homes and streets were swamped in the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana where 137mm of rain fell in under six hours. The following night, 100mm of rain fell across southwest Romania, Serbia, Kosovo and Montenegro. The storm system then drifted through Greece and the Balkans 24th-26th. Significant flooding affected Athens with more than 60mm falling in northern suburbs. Torrential rain and snow brought travel chaos to Bulgaria on the 26th as nearly 125 mm fell in the city of Burgas. Numerous vehicles were swept down streets and piled onto one another - courtesy of the ferocious force of the flood waters. Up to 20cm of snow fell in Pamporovo. Violent thunderstorms dumped up to 100 mm rain across the Canary Islands 19th-20th causing floodwater to surge through streets.

In the USA, a violent microburst with 100mph winds slammed Easthampton, Massachusetts, early on the 8th, flattening trees and battering homes over a mile long swathe. During the following two days a 'nor'easter' storm struck New England. 44,000 customers lost power across Connecticut, New York, Maine and Massachusetts. Winds of over 60mph sent trees crashing throughout the region and blocked roadways across Massachusetts. Several airports (including New York's JFK) suffered extensive delays. Hurricane Gonzalo grew into a major category 3 storm approaching Bermuda on the 14th with sustained winds of 115mph. In South America, the Brazilian capital of Brasilia experienced record October heat as the temperature soared to 36.0°C (97°F) on the 15th.

On the 5th, typhoon Phanfone lashed southern Japan. On Kyushu island, winds of 90mph grounded flights, knocked out power to 10,000 homes and caused several injuries. In the Pacific, unseasonably heavy rain hit the island of Vanuatu with Port Vila receiving 271mm in 24 hours on the 7th. Tropical Cyclone Hudhud brought devastation to India 12th-14th. It made landfall near Visakhapatnam, one of the largest cities on India's eastern coast, drenching the city with 150mm of rainfall and blasting it with 130mph winds. The heavy rain led to flooding across eastern India and many trees were felled. 400,000 people were evacuated from the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa states. On the 14th severe thunderstorms swept Sydney, Australia. Winds reached 70mph at Sydney Airport and rainfall averaged 75-150 mm south and west of the city. Nearby hills were blanketed by snow.