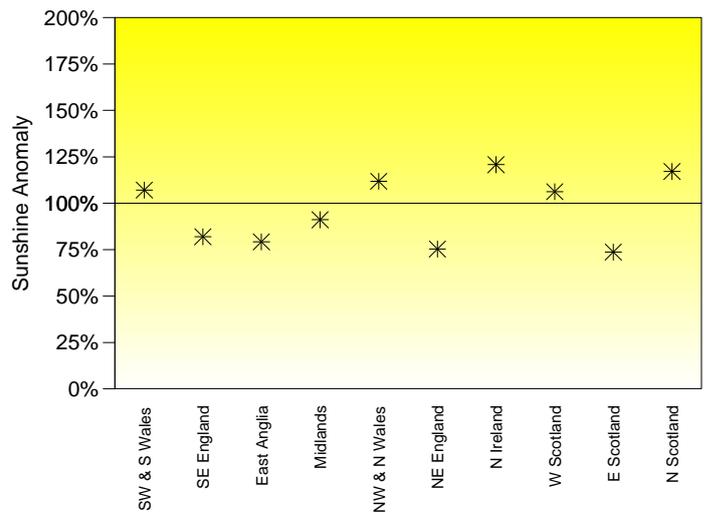
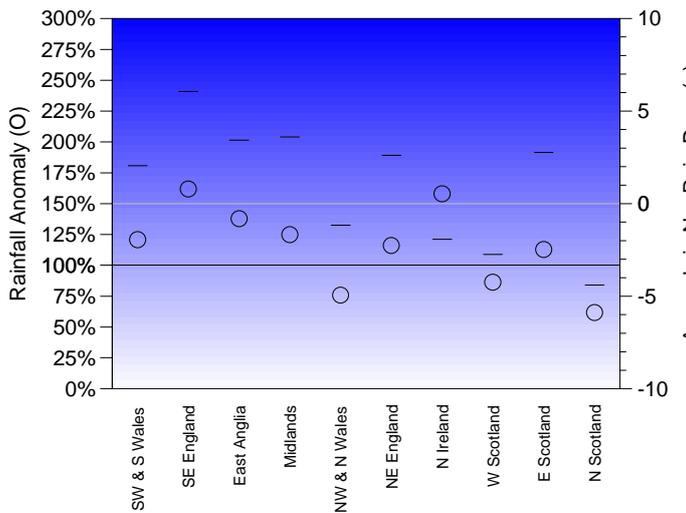


Extremes for November 2014	
Hottest:	19.0°C Oban Airport, Strathclyde, 4th
Coldest:	-4.3°C Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 10th
Most Rain:	65.6mm Port Ellen SAMOS, Strathclyde, 6th
Most Sun:	7.8hrs Valley, Gwynedd, 18th
Windiest:	75mph Mumbles Head, West Glamorgan, 13th
Warmest:	11.9°C Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands
Coollest:	5.1°C Braemar No 2, Avon
Wettest:	194.8mm Lough Fea Waterworks, County Fermanagh
Driest:	53.2mm Rostherne, Cheshire
Sunniest:	88.0hrs Valley, Gwynedd
Dullest:	26.5hrs Aviemore, Highland



Damp leaves, dwindling daylight, misty days interspersed with bouts of wet and windy weather - these are typical characteristics of UK November weather. Snow is still a rarity at low levels but becomes increasingly likely over higher ground, while mild and sunny weather may still remind us of early autumn days. According to folklore, this is especially likely around 15th-21st, a period known as St. Martin's Summer which has some reliability in the weather records.

The month opened with a bright and fairly warm day as a legacy of the late October heat and the mercury reached a respectable 18.7°C (65°F) at Writtle (Essex). Rain hurried in from the south-west overnight and a cold front brought a drop in temperature on the 2nd. There were squally winds and an unconfirmed report of a tornado in Leicestershire. Low pressure dominated over the next two days, but the gradient slackened by the 5th, giving a quiet, crisp Bonfire Night on which mist and fog formed readily. Rain and strengthening winds advanced from the west the next day and only cleared from eastern areas on the 7th. The 8th was another wet and windy day but bright conditions graced the Remembrance Sunday parades for most places - although showers peppered western and southern coasts. For much of the following week, pressure building over Scandinavia caused fronts to slow over the UK - and these gave prolonged rainfall. A little localised flooding arose in some places in south-west England and south Wales and a gust of 93mph was recorded at Berry Head (Devon) on the 13th. From the 18th, the Scandinavian high exerted greater influence, but the net result was quiet, cloudy weather with relatively high temperatures since eastern Europe was not particularly cold. Indeed, it became balmy over England and Wales on the 22nd in southerly winds before a cold front brought a sharp drop in temperature the next day and an overnight frost. The following four days were characterised by very light winds, widespread mist and fog. Winds picked up on the 28th, lifting the fog, and the final weekend saw dry, bright weather with spring-like temperatures.

It was a very mild month overall with few air frosts; in fact, frogs spawn has even been sighted in Cornwall! Despite the fact that November 2011 was warmer, this was the fifth warmest in a series from 1910. Rainfall was above average generally - and especially so in parts of Northern Ireland, eastern Scotland and southern England. Western areas fared best in the sunshine stakes, with eastern areas duller than normal reflecting persistent low cloud.

Exceptional rainstorms lashed southern Europe 4th - 17th. Rainfall in excess of 175mm inundated Nice, France on the 4th-5th. Kotschach, Austria, recorded more than 300mm in the same 48 hours and Cevio, Switzerland, 265mm. 90cm of snow buried the higher elevations of the Alps at Andermatt. In Italy's provinces of Tuscany and Liguria, boats and helicopters were used to rescue dozens of residents trapped in their homes by flood waters and evacuations were ordered in the coastal regions. For the fortnight ending 17th, rainfall exceeded 250mm in a wide belt extending from southeast France into northern Italy and southern Switzerland. Nice, France collected 420mm for the period and Genoa, Italy, a remarkable 600mm. A cloudburst over southern France on the 30th dumped a further 125mm rain on Perpignan and 169.5mm on Cap Bear - of which 80mm fell in just two hours! The deluge forced 3,000 people to leave their homes near the Agly river.

In Russia, on the 25th, passengers on a flight taking off from Igarka, helped push a plane down the runway after it became frozen in temperatures of -50°C (-58°F). Across the Atlantic, the eastern USA experienced an extreme roller coaster of November weather - but with winter hazards predominant. On the 1st, 25cm of snow fell over the southern Appalachians, setting a new record for early season snowfall. Further north, up to 53cm of snow settled across Maine and left 70,000 residents without power. On the 20th snow fell continuously for 24 hours over upstate New York - the result of extremely cold arctic air sweeping over a moist and warm Lake Erie. A surge of warmth then saw temperatures exceed 20°C (68°F) on the 24th, but winter returned with a vengeance for the Thanksgiving Holiday (26th - 28th) as a powerful snowstorm cut electricity to 160,000 residents of New Hampshire.

In the southern hemisphere, severe thunderstorms battered Brisbane, Australia on the 19th. 50mm of rain falling within an hour caused flash flooding which knocked out electricity and left many roadways impassable. However, this was merely a prelude to an epic storm on the 27th which was accompanied by hailstones the size of golf balls and winds of 85mph which brought down trees and power lines. Commuters were left stranded after rail services were suspended across Brisbane, 90,000 homes lost electricity and the cost of damage was estimated at >£50M. The force of the storm ripped roofing from homes and businesses, and tipped over light planes at Brisbane's Archerfield Airport where over 60mm of rain fell in 20 minutes.