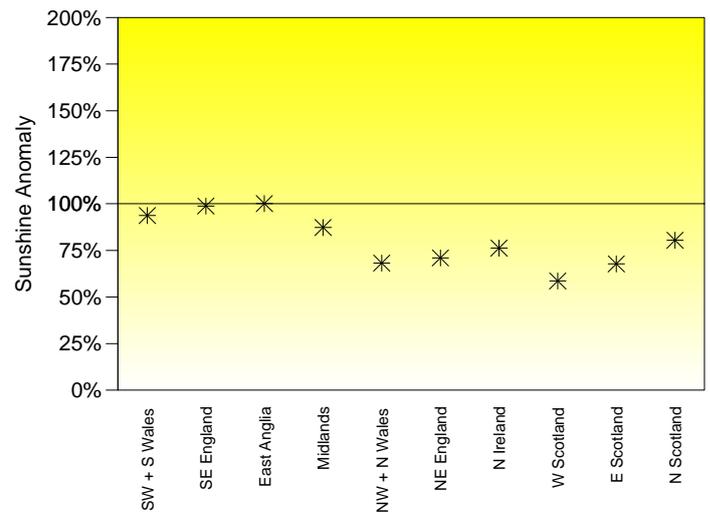
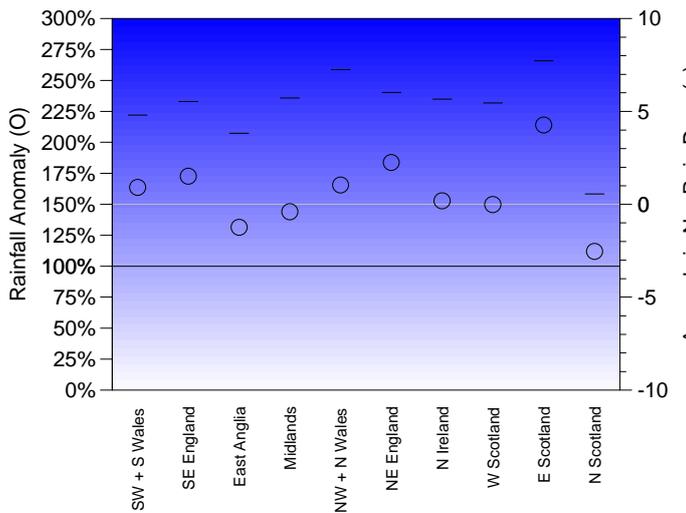


Extremes for January 2016	
Hottest:	16.2°C Achnagart, Highland, 24th
Coldest:	-10.2°C Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 17th
Most Rain:	73.6mm Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 26th
Most Sun:	7.7hrs Yeovilton, Somerset, 20th
Windiest:	105mph Baltasound SAWS, Shetland, 29th
Warmest:	9.5°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	1.9°C Braemar No 2, Grampian
Wettest:	366.4mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	53.6mm Sutton Bonington, Nottinghamshire
Sunniest:	62.5hrs Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands
Dullest:	11.5hrs Loch Glascarnoch, Highland



January is typically both cold and unsettled. The sun remains low and can impart little warmth and polar air is rarely far away. January is most likely to be the coldest month (about 4 years in 10), and is invariably the windiest - with depressions racing along the stark temperature gradient that exists between the still relatively warm Atlantic and the frigid Arctic. Storms are most common during the first fortnight and around month end.

January started mild, wet and windy with frequent active depressions and fronts. The first week saw widespread rain that was persistent and heavy in north east Scotland and led to flooding across Aberdeenshire. Northern Ireland was also affected by flooding and on the 6th/7th the water of Lough Neagh reached a 30 year high. England was a little less wet, but fog stretching from the Thames Valley to Yorkshire marred the 5th and 6th. The 9th was stormy along the south coast and Needles lighthouse (Isle of Wight) recorded a gust of 85mph. It remained very unsettled until the 13th - when the air flow turned northerly and showers became more wintry over Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. This heralded a cold but often bright week that saw temperatures at night plummet and significant snowfall across Scotland and the higher ground of England and Wales. Noteworthy was 16cm of lying snow at Spadeadam, Cumbria on the 14th. The 15th was a cool - but glorious clear day, the 16th chillier and rather less sunny. Overnight 16th-17th snow fell across south-western Scotland, northern England - and as far south as the Home counties, but whilst many awoke to a dusting - it had mostly melted by later that day. The nights of 19th-21st saw some very sharp frosts across northern Scotland e.g. -12.4°C (9.7°F) at Kinbrace, Sutherland on the 19th and southern England e.g. -8.8°C (16.2°F) at Benson, Oxfordshire on the 20th. The final 10 days were mild - often remarkably so. 16.5°C (61.7°F) was recorded at Achnagart (Highland) on the 24th and on the 25th the temperature at Magilligan, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland did not fall below 13.1°C (55.6°F) all day and night - a new UK record for January. The remnants of Storm 'Jonas' from the USA hit the UK on the 26th and brought very wet and windy weather nationwide with counties neighbouring the Irish Sea worst affected. Capel Curig (Conwy) recorded 74.6mm of rain and gusts of 83mph. On the 28th, Storm 'Gertrude' struck Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. Lerwick (Shetland) recorded a gust of 105mph in the early hours of the 29th. Gales continued in the Northern Isles on the 30th and 6cm of snow fall at Aviemore (Inverness-shire).

For the UK as a whole, January 2016 was the fourth wettest on record. Parts of the north and east, received double their normal rainfall - and for eastern Scotland it was the 2nd wettest calendar month ever! (after December 2015!) Not surprisingly, these places were correspondingly dull, whilst in the south sunshine was close to normal. It was a mild month for England and Wales, but temperatures were closer to the average for Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Winter finally arrived with a vengeance across Scandinavia and eastern Europe during January. Naimakka in northern Sweden recorded a numbing -43°C (-45°F) on the 7th - and in Finland, the western province of Merikarvia received 73cm of snow on the 9th - a new Finnish 24 hour record. In Poland, the capital Warsaw recorded -18°C (0°F) on the 3rd - a remarkable contrast to the 14°C (57°F) experienced barely a week before! A European 'ice storm' on the 23rd turned large parts of Germany into a no go area with extensive and deadly glaze on the roads - and hundreds of accidents ensued. Turkey also grappled with Arctic weather and heavy snowfall that led to the cancellation of flights and ferries in Istanbul, and isolated many provinces in the east of the country. On the 26th, 2500 roads were blocked by snow e.g. 76cm in Ankara and 48cm in Erzurum. Temperatures plunged to -27°C (-17°F) in Ardahan's Göle.

A massive snowstorm swept across eastern USA 22nd-23rd. The heaviest fall (108cm) occurred in Glengary, West Virginia. New York's Central Park received 69cm, the second-biggest fall since 1869. It was the fourth most powerful snowstorm to hit the Northeast in the past 66 years, affecting 103 million people across 434,000 square miles in 26 states. A blizzard swept Russia's Pacific coast around Vladivostok 19th-20th January and deposited >50cm of snow in the city with drifts several feet deep. The Khasan district received three months worth of snow in 48 hours and temperatures plunged to -18°C (0°F) with wind gusts of 60mph.

Snow fell in Kuwait on the 28th for the first time in the country's history, while on the other side of the Asian continent there was the equally unusual spectacle of sleet in Hong Kong on the 24th. The elevated Hong Kong Observatory recorded -5.7°C (22°F), amplified by a strong wind chill. Meanwhile, sweltering heat continued in the 'southern' summer. Temperatures reached 36°C (97°F) in Buenos Aires, Argentina on the 22nd and soaring electricity demand left 443,000 residents without power. In southern Africa, Botswana experienced record heat 6th-10th. In the west of the country, Tsabong and Werda recorded highs of 43.5°C (110°F) on the 6th, while on the 7th, 44°C (111°F) at Maun represented a new national maximum temperature record.