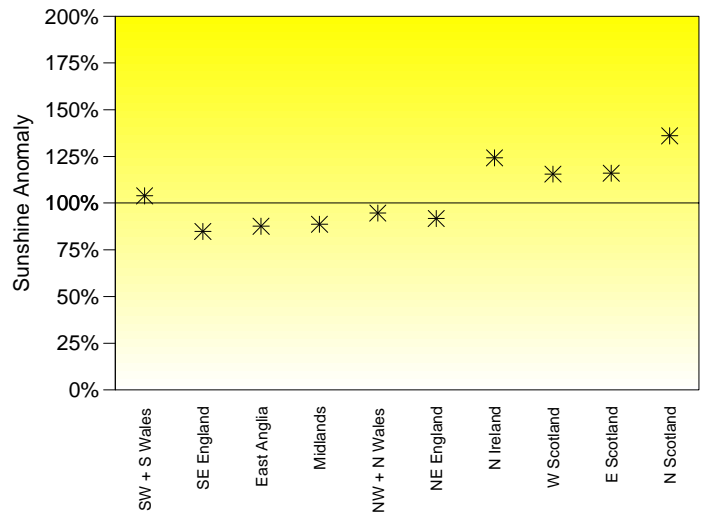
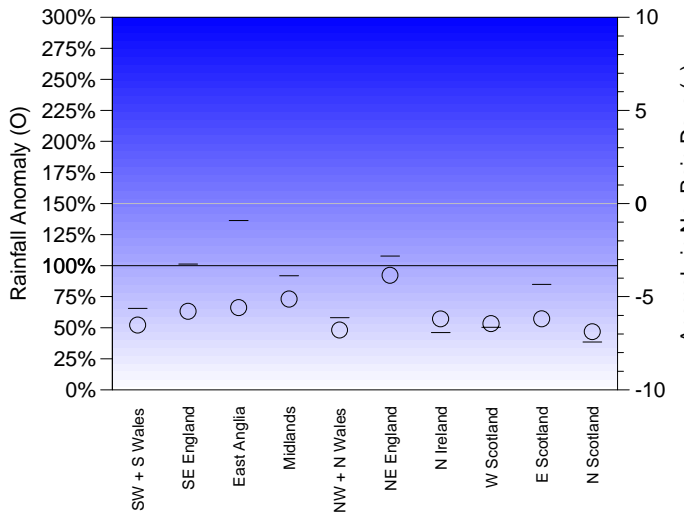


Extremes for October 2015		
Hottest:	22.4°C	Braemar No 2, Grampian, 1st
Coldest:	-4.7°C	Braemar No 2, Grampian, 17th
Most Rain:	39.8mm	Lerwick, Shetland, 7th
Most Sun:	11.1hrs	Kinloss, Grampian, 1st
Windiest:	69mph	Kirkwall, Orkney, 22nd
Warmest:	13.4°C	Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	7.4°C	Braemar No 2, Grampian
Wettest:	173.0mm	Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire
Driest:	24.8mm	Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden, Lothian
Sunniest:	127.3hrs	Kinloss, Grampian
Dullest:	57.6hrs	Lerwick, Shetland



October's weather can be quite varied - but the large temperature contrasts that exist in the Atlantic at this time of year mean that it rarely stays the same for long. High pressure can produce some remarkable warmth (27°C (80°F) is achieved somewhere in the UK about one October in twenty), but is more often associated with fog. Frosts become common for upland UK from mid month but snow is comparatively rare. Gales are very characteristic of the final week.

High pressure dominated the first four days, with early morning mist and fog frequent and widespread. The highest temperature of the month occurred on the 1st when Braemar (Aberdeenshire), reached 22.4°C (72.3 °F). On the 2nd and 3rd, in particular, the fog lingered until noon in north-east England - causing some disruption to flights. On the 5th low pressure moving across Ireland dragged frontal systems northwards across the UK bringing heavy rain nationwide. The 6th remained unsettled and saw thunderstorms and some very heavy downpours across Yorkshire which caused some localised flooding. A tornado at Balby South Yorkshire damaged several homes. High pressure re-established from the 8th and the next few days were dry but rarely very sunny as mist and fog formed around dawn and dusk. The 14th and 15th were showery for the south east and the 16th-18th rather cloudy, despite the prevailing high pressure. The month's lowest temperature of -5.0°C (23.0 °F) was recorded at Braemar just before dawn on the 17th. It turned very unsettled from the 20th first in the north west. The 21st was a very wet day nationwide - but also remarkably mild - with parts of north eastern Scotland nudging 21°C (70°F). Gales over Scotland on the 22nd felled trees, caused disruption to road and rail and numerous ferry services to be cancelled. It remained unsettled out to month end, with repeated bands of rain crossing the country. For the most part it was mild, but on the 24th, during a cool interlude, the first snow showers of the season occurred over high ground in northern Scotland. On the 31st Kinloss (Moray) recorded a maximum of 17.8 °C (64°F) warm for this late in the year - but even more remarkable for occurring at 6AM! In contrast, just 24 hours previously the temperatures had been just 2.5°C (36.5°F)

Daytime temperatures were a little above average for all of the UK during October - and Scotland was especially mild averaging 1-1½°C above normal. Night time temperatures were close to average everywhere. It was a very dry month nationwide - and many places received just half their usual October rainfall. Only in Scotland however did this correspond to a surplus of sunshine. Elsewhere, and despite it being dry and mild, mist and fog frequently masked the sun, making all of England and Wales rather duller than normal.

Destructive thunderstorms wreaked havoc along the French Riviera on the 3rd. The River Brague, burst its banks, destroying roads, and in Cannes, cars were swept out to sea. Storms battered southern Italy on the 12th with Sicily particularly badly affected and suffering widespread flooding and mudslides. Many parts of Poland, including Krakow, experienced an early snowfall on the 12th with 10cm in parts of the south.

In central America and the south-east USA, October was a story of two great hurricanes. Hurricane Joachim swept the Bahamas on the 2nd, packing winds of 100mph, which blew down homes and left others submerged. Subsequently, while the hurricane core remained offshore from mainland USA, the associated moisture spawned a phenomenal deluge across South Carolina. Mount Pleasant, just a few miles northeast of Charleston, recorded an astonishing 617 mm of rain. 40,000 residents lost water supplies and many hundreds of people had to be rescued in boats and helicopters. On the 23rd, Hurricane Patricia exploded into the strongest ever storm in the East Pacific as it approached Mexico, with an eye 6 miles wide. The storm made landfall in Jalisco state with 165mph sustained winds - and gusts to an astonishing 211mph, before weakening rapidly over the rugged Mexican interior. Meanwhile extreme heat affected Southern California on the 9th. Camarillo Airport reached 42°C (108°F), the highest temperature ever recorded there since records began in 1948.

On the 27th, Vredendal (South Africa) sweltered in a record 'spring' high of 48.4 °C (119 °F). In Australia, intense early season heat was followed by a dramatic thunderstorm across the south of Sydney that gave marble-sized hail and an astonishing plunge in temperature from 30°C (86°F) to 14°C (57°F) in just a few minutes! On the 18th, tens of thousands of hectares of crops near Newdegate, in the south-east coastal district of Western Australia, were wiped out by walnut sized hail.