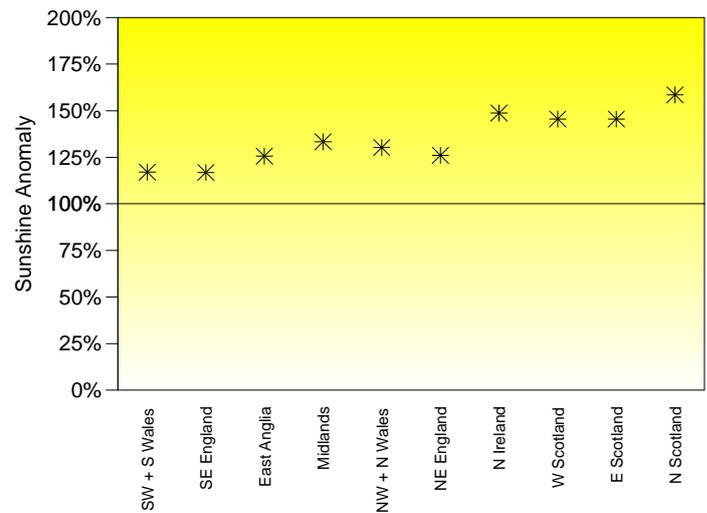
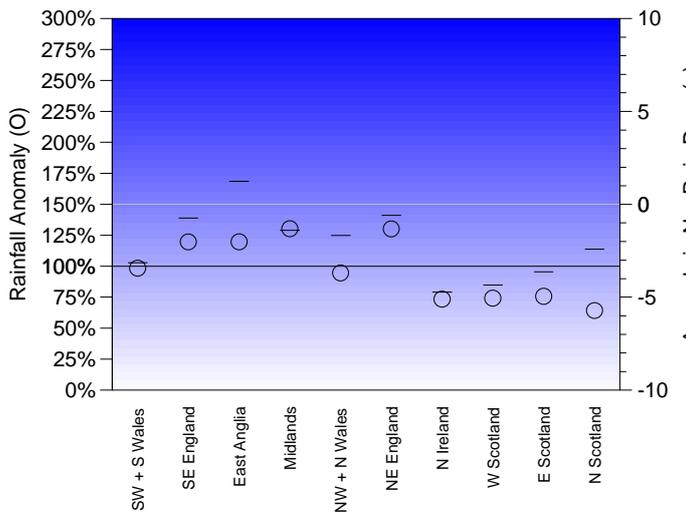


Extremes for November 2016	
Hottest:	19.0°C Cardinham (Bodmin) SAWS, Cornwall, 1st
Coldest:	-11.6°C Braemar No 2, Grampian, 21st
Most Rain:	63.0mm Dunkeswell, Devon, 21st
Most Sun:	8.5hrs Charterhall SAWS, Borders, 1st
Windiest:	84mph Shawbury, Shropshire, 17th
Warmest:	10.2°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	1.7°C Braemar No 2, Grampian
Wettest:	218.4mm Blencathra, Cumbria
Driest:	15.6mm Santon Downham, Norfolk
Sunniest:	97.1hrs Hurn, Dorset
Dullest:	38.0hrs Bala, Clwyd



The stereotypical November day is grey, dank and rather gloomy - with mist and fog that never seems to lift. However, one of the most notable climate change traits evident in recent decades, is that November is becoming rather less dull. The month enjoys >10 hours more sunshine on average than it did just a century ago - and this year confirmed that trend.

November began quiet and mild with Cardinham (Cornwall) recording a maximum of 19°C (66.2°F) on the 1st. After that - and for the first week - it steadily turned colder from the north, as northerly winds brought some early snow to parts of Scotland and Northern England. Bingley (West Yorkshire) reported 7cm snow on the 9th leading to the closure of Leeds Bradford Airport for a time and a spate of road accidents on surrounding high roads. A milder, changeable westerly regime followed and persisted for the next week or so, with a succession of frontal systems crossing the country. On the 17th, a particularly active cold front tracking from West Wales across the Midlands to Lincolnshire produced some very strong and localised winds - which rather took forecasters by surprise. There were reports of a tornado near Aberystwyth (Ceredigion) and Shawbury (Shropshire) recorded a gust of 84mph - remarkable for so far inland. Numerous trees were felled and these caused significant disruption to roads, rail and power. Late on the 19th, the first named storm of the season 'Angus' developed in the southwest approaches and tracked northeast across southern England the following day. There were towering seas in the Channel, gales on exposed coasts (although these failed to penetrate far inland or cause much damage), and widespread heavy rain with a little flooding in South Wales and Devon (Exeter Airport recorded 27.2mm rain in one hour to 0100 on the 20th!) In contrast, northern Britain enjoyed a period calm, dry and sunny weather - although it was distinctly chilly - and cars were left stranded by snowfall across parts of northern England. On the 21st the temperature at Strathallan near Perth never rose above -1.8°C (28.8°F) Another depression crossed southern Britain 21st-23rd deluging ground already sodden from 'Angus' and triggering flooding that blocked road and rail routes across the south. Pressure steadily built during the final week and the month ended dry and sunny but with some hard night time frosts e.g. -9.0°C (15.8°F) at Benson (Oxfordshire) on the early morning of the 30th.

November was a cold month everywhere but especially for northwest England and central and southern Scotland, where mean temperatures were 1-2°C below the long term average. This was mainly the result of some very chilly nights, which for eastern Scotland were the coldest of any November in 30 years. Rainfall was relatively infrequent nationwide, but where it fell across the south during the 3rd week produced some prodigious totals and made for a wet month here. Further north, it remained remarkably dry and parts of central Scotland and Northern Ireland received just half their normal rainfall. Sunshine was well above average everywhere except for Cornwall and Snowdonia. Scotland enjoyed record November sunshine - with half as much again as usual - and for the UK as a whole (and despite leaden skies during the 3rd week) it was 3rd sunniest since 1929.

On the 8th heavy rain triggered flooding that destroyed bridges, inundated fields and killed at least three people in Albania's mountainous northern region. By the 16th and in a stark contrast to the early-winter snow droughts of recent seasons, the Alps had already benefited from an excellent start to the ski season. Some areas received up to 75cm of snow allowing resorts like Alpe d'Huez to open several weeks ahead of schedule. In North America there was an unprecedented dearth of snow. By mid-November about 13% of the country usually has snow cover whilst this year it was less than 1%, and confined to the highest peaks. Persistent warmth was to blame; at Fargo, North Dakota, temperatures reached 23°C (73.4°F) on the 6th, breaking the early November record of 21°C (69.8°F) set in 1887 - and on the Pacific coast, Seattle reached 21°C (69.8°F) on the 8th, a record for so late in the year. However, soon after, winter arrived with a vengeance across the north-eastern States with gargantuan 'lake burst' snowfalls in New York State 20th-21st. Total mean depths included 137cm at Redfield, 102cm at Lacuna and 95cm at Lorraine.

Tokyo recorded its first November snowfall since 1875 on the 24th and in the town of Nakashibetsu, Hokkaido, temperatures dropped to as low as -17.4°C (0.7°F). Vicious thunderstorms in South Africa 9th-11th triggered flooding that resulted in 6 fatalities. Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni were worst affected with extensive damage to homes and motor vehicles. On the 12th, violent thunderstorms with hail and hurricane-force winds swept through Brisbane, Australia. The airport was forced to close and a gust of 100mph marked the strongest wind recorded there in 30 years. On the 21st it was the turn of Melbourne and surrounding areas of the state of Victoria to be battered by terrific thunderstorms and squalls. These were responsible for thousands of pollen allergy asthma attacks ('thunderstorm asthma') which hospitalised 8,000 people and caused at least 6 deaths.