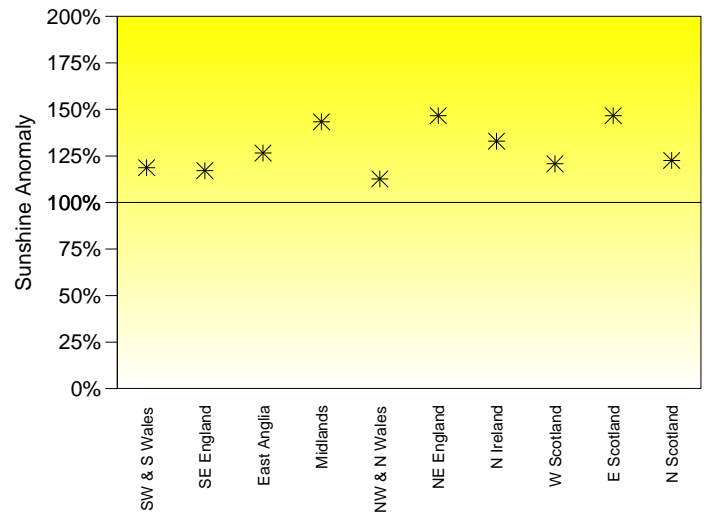
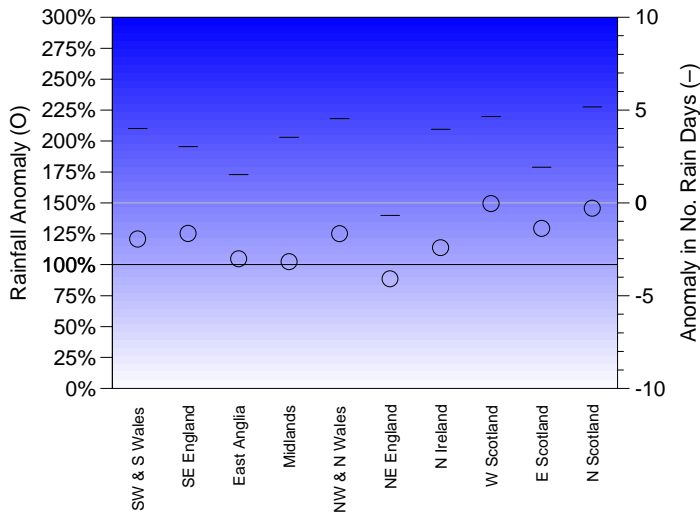


Extremes for January 2015	
Hottest:	16.5°C Exeter, Devon, 9th
Coldest:	-13.0°C Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 20th
Most Rain:	87.6mm Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire, 1st
Most Sun:	7.8hrs Manston, Kent, 24th
Windiest:	113mph Stornoway, Western Isles, 9th
Warmest:	8.7°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coollest:	1.7°C Braemar No 2, Avon
Wettest:	598.2mm Achnagart, Highland
Driest:	18.2mm Cambridge, Niab, Cambridgeshire
Sunniest:	94.9hrs Dyce, Grampian
Dullest:	13.4hrs Lerwick, Shetland



'Generals January and February will fight for us.' So goes an old saying among army brass who knew how to cope with the weather better than their opponents. It reflects the savagery of this winter month, not just in terms of cold but also lack of daylight and storminess. Indeed, the period 5th-15th is a notorious for gales, followed by quieter spells thereafter, and 2015 conformed beautifully to this pattern.

Mild but windy weather characterised the first half of the month. There were plenty of wet days - notably the 1st and 7th when totals well in excess of 40mm fell over the Scottish Highlands. A vigorous depression brought very stormy conditions to the north on the 8th/9th. Gusts of 80-100mph were widespread across northern Scotland and the Western Isles, and Stornoway Airport recorded 113mph. 24 hours later another rapidly deepening depression just to the north of Scotland gave a repeat performance. Gusts reached 100mph across Shetland, the Scottish coastline was battered by monster waves, there was widespread disruption to transport and thousands of homes were left without power. Meanwhile the trailing warm sector brought tropical air to the south and Exeter Airport basked in a balmy 16.5°C (62°F) on the 9th. Unstable polar maritime air invaded the UK on the 13th and there were snow showers to low levels in Scotland. Conditions turned blizzard like overnight 14th/15th as heavy snow in the north was accompanied by further gales. 30cm blanketed Aviemore (Morayshire) and Tulloch Bridge (Perthshire). Blackford Hill, Edinburgh recorded a gust of 80mph and there was at least 1 fatality from a falling tree in County Antrim. The second half of the month marked a dramatic transition to cold and quiet weather with some hard night frosts and wintry showers. By the 19th, snow cover was extensive over the high ground of the north and the month's lowest temperature of -13.7°C (7°F) occurred at Loch Glascarnoch (Highland). Remarkably this occurred during the daytime! Even in the south, there were minima down to -8°C (18°F) over the following week and icy roads were the cause of numerous accidents. It briefly became milder 25th - 27th as winds backed westerly, but a cold front drove squally rain south-east on the 28th. Cold north-westerlies followed and there were showers or longer periods of rain, sleet and snow over the final three days. Buxton (Derbyshire) had 30cm of lying snow by the 31st.

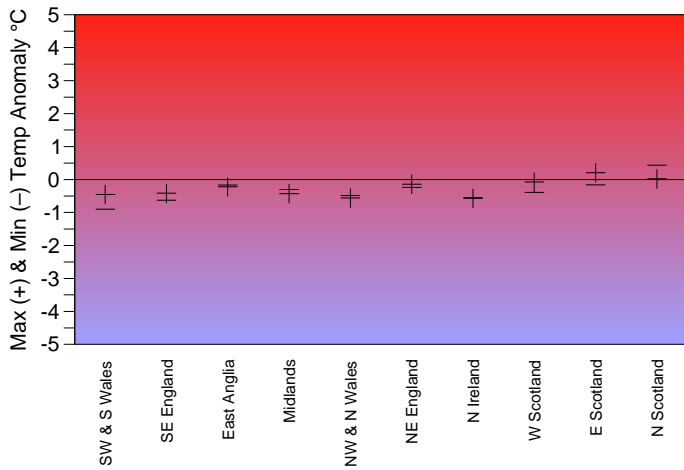
The contrasting halves meant that mean temperatures were very close to the average for the UK, with most of England and Wales fractionally above. As often in an unsettled, mobile winter month, sunshine was well above average - but so was rainfall, and Scotland was especially wet.

In Europe, exceptional föhn winds across the Alps brought exceptional warmth on the 10th. Germany saw a new all time January high with 20.5°C (69°F) at Bad Reichenhall, Bavaria and a new Austrian January temperature record was set when Graz-Strassgang and Obervellach reached 21.7°C (71°F). In striking contrast, northern European Russia was very cold during early January. At Khosedo-Khard near the Ural Mountains, the temperature dropped to a numbing -51.5°C (-61°F) on the 11th. Meanwhile southern Norway experienced exceptional snow which accumulated to depths of 2.5m or more - leaving some households completely isolated.

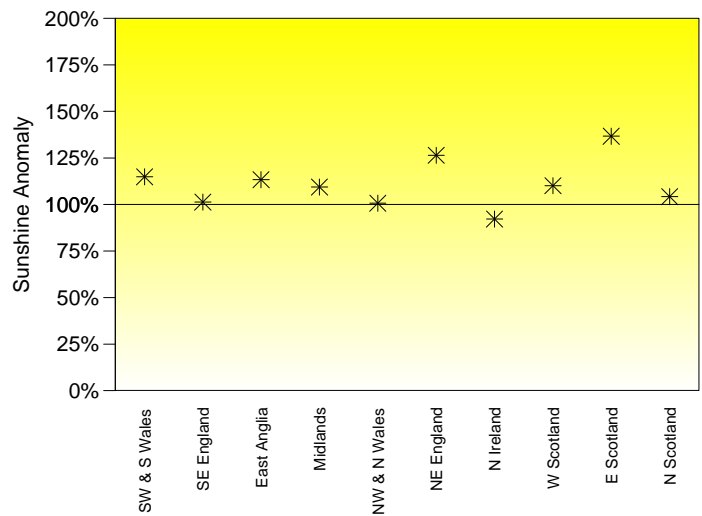
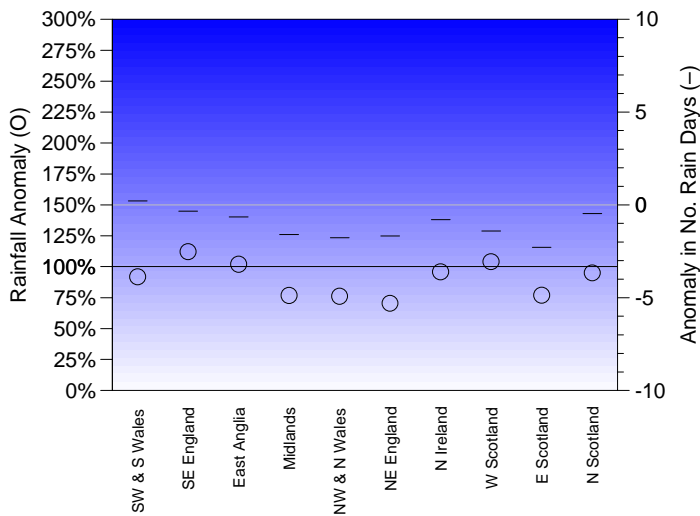
In the USA, the great northeaster blizzard of 2015 raged from central Long Island to southern and eastern New England 26th-27th. This storm brought 87cm snowfall to Worcester, Massachusetts and 63cm to Boston. Storm surges and 30 feet waves caused major flooding and considerable property damage along the seacoast in Massachusetts. In contrast, at the same time as the northeastern 'whiteout' some mid-western states basked in exceptional warmth. At Great Falls, Montana 20.0°C (68°F) was reached on the 26th, and at Hays, Kansas, 30.0°C (86°F) on the 28th - both far surpassing previous January records.

On the 17th, wind driven snow buffeted northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Region, stranding motorists on open roads around the capital Urumqi. In Africa torrential rains in Malawi on the 14th killed at least 48 people, left 70,000 homeless, destroyed bridges and roads and ruined crops. Downpours and flooding also hit neighbouring Mozambique, where 25 schoolchildren were swept away by torrents on the 18th. On the island of Réunion, east of Madagascar, Haute de Ste-Rose received 506mm of rain in 24 hours on the 15th, courtesy of the edge of tropical Cyclone Bansi.

Australia - now in its high summer - also experienced extremes during January. On the 10th, Alice Plaza, in the heart of Alice Springs, received 125mm of rain. Charles River Big Dipper was drenched in 114mm of rain and Mount Lloyd 100mm. However, on the 21st, the town of Carnarvon on Western Australia's northwest coast recorded its equal hottest day ever, with a scorching 47.8°C (118°F).



Extremes for February 2015	
Hottest:	15.1°C Kinloss, Grampian, 18th
Coldest:	-11.0°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside, 3rd
Most Rain:	59.8mm Achnagart, Highland, 18th
Most Sun:	9.4hrs Wittering, Cambridgeshire, 17th
Windiest:	77mph Berry Head, Devon, 13th
Warmest:	7.5°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	1.7°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	281.0mm Achnagart, Highland
Driest:	10.4mm Ryhill, West Yorkshire
Sunniest:	130.4hrs Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands
Dullest:	40.4hrs Lerwick, Shetland



Despite the lengthening of the days, February is rarely much warmer than January and for the south and west is often the coldest month of the year. One weather saying relates to 2nd February - the half way point between the winter solstice and the vernal equinox. 'If Candlemas Day be sunny and bright winter will have another flight; if Candlemas Day be cloudy with rain, winter is gone and won't come again.' Do not trust it! rarely is it borne out by the weather records...

February began cold. Much of the country enjoyed dry, crisp weather but there were snow showers in the east and hard frosts at night. Bewcastle (Cumbria) recorded a minimum of -10.9°C (13°F) early on the 3rd and icy roads caused numerous road accidents nationwide. From the 6th, high pressure began to build leading to a settled and rather less cold spell. Initially it remained quite sunny but from the 9th, anticyclonic gloom became widespread. This is a common winter phenomenon where dreary stratus becomes trapped in the lowest layers of the atmosphere. On the 13th, gales in the southwest (Berry Head, Devon recorded a gust of 77mph), heralded a change to unsettled westerly weather - and over the following week several rain bands crossed the country. The 16th and 19th were both very wet but the days between notably sunny. Fyvie Castle (Aberdeenshire) to the windward of the Cairngorms reached a remarkable 15.6°C (60°F) on the 18th under the curious influence of a föhn wind. Snow showers occurred as far south as the Midlands on the 21st as it briefly turned colder before winds reverted once more to the west. An Atlantic storm in conjunction with record spring tides battered the north and west on the 22nd and this was followed by another very windy day nationwide with driving rain and blizzards on northern hills. Winds eased through the 24th, before tropical air flooded the country and brought a welcome taste of spring. Bournemouth airport reached a balmy 14.0°C (57°F) on the 25th. February ended with yet more wet and windy weather. Vigorous south-westerly winds swept the country on the 28th and Tyndrum (Perthshire) recorded 49.8mm of rain.

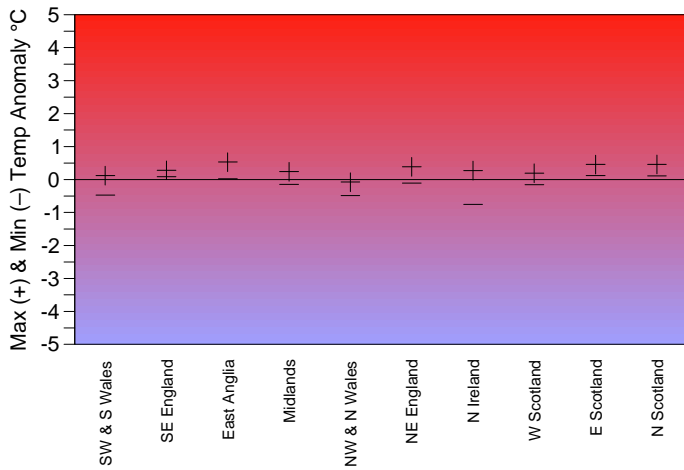
Temperatures for the UK for February were just below normal - bringing to an end a run of five warmer than average months. Rainfall was a little below normal for most places, but sunshine rather above - especially in eastern areas. Interestingly, this has been the sunniest winter in a series since 1929.

In Europe, it was the south of the continent that experienced the severest winter weather. On the 5th, Spanish emergency services rescued 200 motorists trapped by up to 40cm snow and temperatures of -15°C on roads between Cantabria and the province of Palencia. Snowfall closed roads as far south as Andalusia - and in Catalonia, 75mph winds disrupted railway services. Albania was hit by its most severe flooding since 1971. A remarkable 220mm of rain fell in Gjirokaster, Albania 4th - 5th and in Novosela, the river Vjosa burst its banks flooding neighbouring land. On the 17th, heavy snowfall blanketed much of Turkey, disrupting travel and cutting off villages. Istanbul, was brought to a standstill as snow clogged roads throughout the capital - and Turkish Airlines cancelled 123 flights from the main airport. Even further south and east, the higher terrain of Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan was also affected by snow 19th-20th. 25cm fell around Jerusalem and closed roads, businesses and schools.

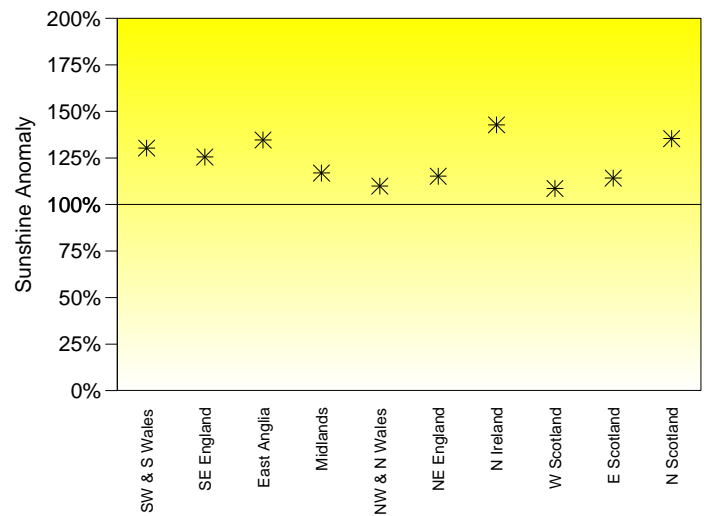
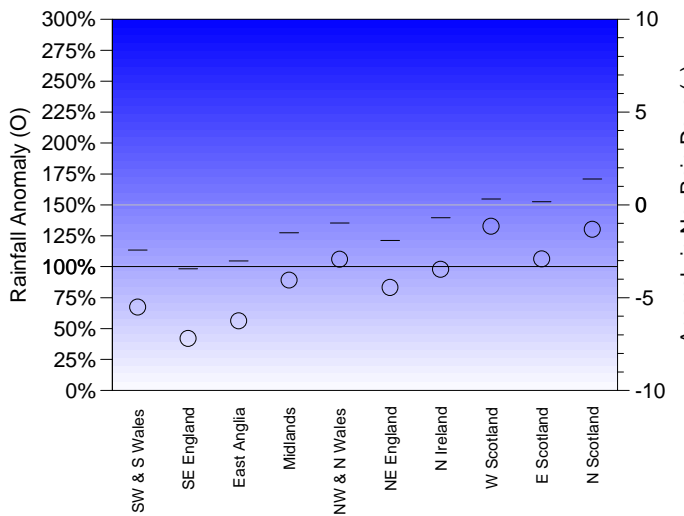
In India, Jakarta was flooded as thunderstorms unleashed 300-450 mm of rainfall 8th - 10th. The deluge knocked out power supplies and inundated roads and homes. 6,000 residents were forced to evacuate and flood waters reached 60cm around the Presidential Palace and the National Monument.

For the Mid-West and eastern USA, February was one of the most extreme winter months on record. On the 1st and 2nd a blizzard enveloped Chicago and deposited 49cm snow - the fifth largest snowstorm ever to impact the city. By the 20th, Boston had already recorded its snowiest month ever, with over 200cm of cumulative snowfall and 18 successive days with half a metre or more of lying snow. On the 20th, the state Mount Washington observatory simultaneously recorded a temperature of -28°C (-18°F) and a mean wind speed of 81mph - combining to give a frightening wind chill of -53°C (-63°F)! At Whitefield, New Hampshire, temperatures plunged to an arctic -35°C (-33°F) on the 23rd. A snow and ice storm 25th - 26th left hundreds of thousands without power - and a trail of disruption from Texas to North Carolina and Virginia. 20cm of snow fell in Huntsville, Alabama, the second-highest daily snowfall to ever hit the city.

In the southern hemisphere, Tropical Cyclone Marcia rapidly intensified just prior to making landfall in eastern Queensland, Australia on the 20th. Marcia became only the sixth cyclone to make landfall in Australia at Category 5 strength and peak wind gusts of 183 mph were experienced as the cyclone came onshore.



Extremes for March 2015	
Hottest:	17.2°C Credenhill, Hereford and Worcester, 7th
Coldest:	-7.4°C Aboyne, Grampian, 15th
Most Rain:	124.0mm Achnagart, Highland, 7th
Most Sun:	11.5hrs Glasgow Bishopton, Strathclyde, 21st
Windiest:	97mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 30th
Warmest:	8.8°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	3.5°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	500.6mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	13.6mm South Farnborough SAWS, Hampshire
Sunniest:	152.3hrs Kinloss, Grampian
Dullest:	73.2hrs Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway



March marks the start of the meteorological Spring. The days lengthen appreciably, gardens and hedgerows begin to bloom and daffodils cheer the waysides. Winter however can still carry a sting - with bouts of polar maritime air bringing sharp frosts and snow. Gales too are not uncommon, and some sources suggest they recur around the Vernal Equinox on the 20th - although there is little evidence for this in fact.

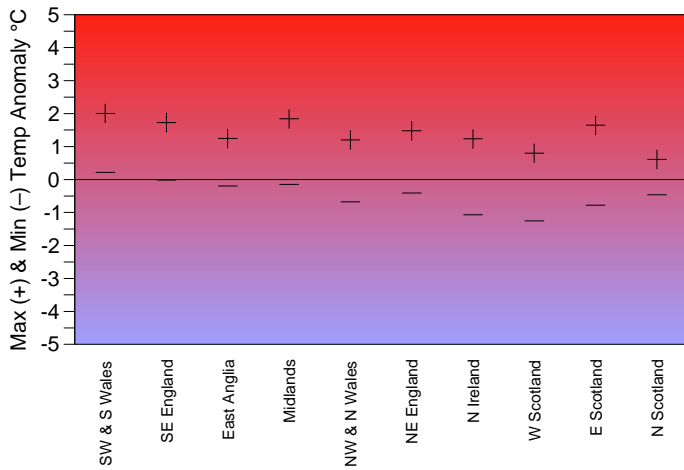
March began unsettled and cold. Showers were heavy and wintry in the north and there were some impressive falls of snow over the Pennines. Malham Tarn (North Yorkshire) measured 17cm of lying snow early on the 3rd. It became increasingly dry and sunny in England and Wales from the 4th, but remained cool. Daytime temperatures struggled to exceed 10°C - and there were some overnight frosts, notably early on the 5th which affected much of the south. Scotland meanwhile remained wet - and its western mountains were struck by a deluge on the 6th and 7th that flooded roads and later triggered several landslips. Achnagart (Highland) recorded 124mm of rain in 24 hours. Meanwhile the 7th was sunny and quite warm over England with temperatures reaching 15°C or more. The second week was characterised by sunshine and showers nationwide, before pressure began to build over Scandinavia - heralding a prolonged settled spell. Cloud amounts were very variable, with some places experiencing glorious sunshine whilst others saw persistent anticyclonic gloom. On the 20th, weak fronts moving south-east brought widespread low cloud which spoiled the view of the partial solar eclipse for most. Temperatures remained depressed throughout, and a cold front moving south-east on the 23rd was followed by scattered sharp showers on the 24th which were wintry over high ground. After a dry, bright day on the 25th, wet and windy weather swept eastward overnight and dumping snow on northern hills. This ushered in a very disturbed final week. At last it became milder, but vigorous fronts crossed the UK at frequent intervals. A severe gale "Niklas" battered the UK overnight 30th/31st and Capel Curig (Gwynedd) recorded a gust of 97mph. Fallen trees caused disruption to road and rail transport, many flights were cancelled and the roof of the Silverstone motor racing circuit in Northampton was damaged.

Mean temperatures for March were very close to normal, but rainfall showed a marked contrast between southern areas which were much drier than average and western Scotland which was very wet. Despite all the rainfall, frequent early morning mist and gloom, sunshine totals were above average nationwide and especially so in the south.

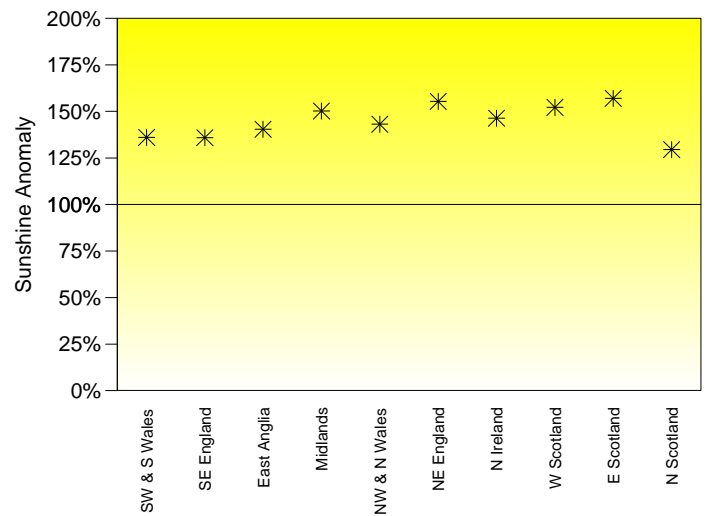
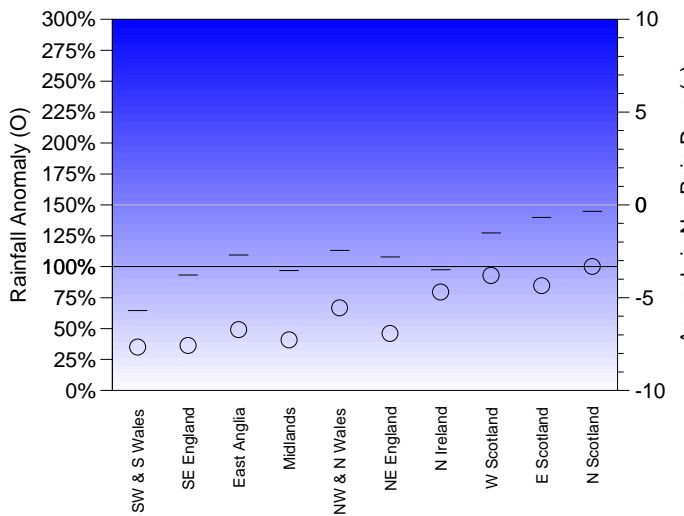
Winter storms swept southern Europe during the opening days of March. A week of heavy rain, coupled with snow melt from the Pyrenees, caused the River Ebro in Spain to burst its banks on the 4th and to flood areas of northeast Spain, including the city of Zaragoza. Around 1,500 people were evacuated from local towns while roads were rendered impassable and bridges damaged by the deluge. On the 5th violent, north-easterly Bora winds left a trail of damage and fallen trees across northern and central Italy. Italy's Capo Mele Lighthouse recorded a gust of 92mph and Florence 80mph. The same day, in the Italian alpine village of Capracotta, an extraordinary 256cm of snow fell in just 18 hours - a new world record for a one day snowfall! Many residents were marooned in their homes, electricity and telephones were cut off and trees snapped beneath the sheer weight of snow.

Record snow was also a feature of the weather in North America during March. By the 18th, Boston had officially endured its snowiest winter season on record with Logan International Airport accruing a colossal 280cm of snow since November. Meanwhile, on the East coast, violent thunderstorms in California on the 2nd created the unusual sight of beaches smothered 20-30mm deep in hailstones. A waterspout was also spotted just off the coast of Santa Monica. The same winter storm left 30cm of snow in Californian ski resorts - and neighbouring states of Arizona and Utah also saw huge snowfalls. Spring thaws caused a dramatic rise in the Ohio River and on the 16th the river crested in Cincinnati at its highest level since 1997. Also on the 16th an exceptional March rainstorm hit western and central Mexico. At Chamela-Cuixmala Reserve in Jalisco, 145mm of rain (equivalent to 20 times the normal March total) fell within just a few hours. In South America, flash flooding affected one of the driest regions in the world, Chile's Atacama desert, on the 24th-25th. Torrential rains in the Andes sent a torrent of floodwater down into the valleys and towns below, leaving at least 2 dead, and 40,000 homes without power.

In Africa, Lagos State, Nigeria was struck by a localised windstorm on the 9th which wrecked 400 buildings and left thousands of residents homeless. Meanwhile Western Australia bore the brunt of Tropical Cyclone "Olwyn". This category 3 storm ripped roofs off homes and destroyed banana plantations around Carnarvon on the 14th. More serious still was damage wrought upon the Pacific island of Vanuatu. The island - which lies between Fiji and Australia - took a direct hit from Category 5 Cyclone "Pam" on the 13th. Maximum sustained winds reached 168mph and gusts topped 200mph. An estimated 103,000 islanders were made homeless and 11 killed.



Extremes for April 2015	
Hottest:	25.2°C Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands, 15th
Coldest:	-8.0°C Katesbridge, County Down, 27th
Most Rain:	54.2mm Achnagart, Highland, 14th
Most Sun:	14.6hrs Tiree, Strathclyde, 30th
Windiest:	76mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 12th
Warmest:	11.5°C St James Park, Greater London
Coolest:	5.6°C Braemar No 2, Avon
Wettest:	166.8mm Achnagart, Highland
Driest:	8.0mm Llydsdinam, Powys
Sunniest:	237.2hrs St. Athan, South Glamorgan
Dullest:	107.5hrs Aviemore, Highland



'April is the cruellest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land', says TS Eliot in *The Wasteland*. This recognises the dramatic changes in temperature that can often be felt during April - as well as the threat posed by damaging late frosts. Benign weather is also possible however, and despite its reputation for showers, April is typically one of the driest months of the year.

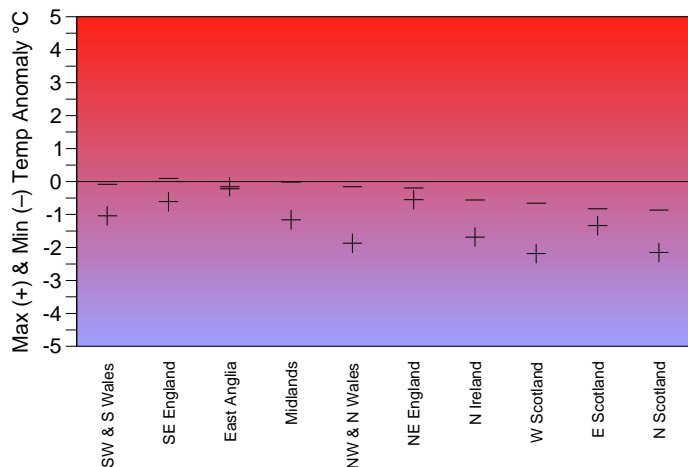
Following the storms of late March, April began unsettled and rather cold with wintry showers in the north on the 1st. A soggy start to the Easter weekend followed, with widespread rain on the 3rd and dull, raw conditions in north-easterly winds the next day. By Easter Sunday (5th) pressure was rising and a fine spell followed - although cloud sometimes masked bright sunshine and mist or fog were prevalent overnight. Days became steadily warmer - and the 10th saw maxima widely exceeding 20°C (68°F), although air quality was notably poor. Southerly winds bore pollution and haze from industrial areas of Europe - and occasionally, even more exotic Saharan dust. Pressure then began to fall, and by the 11th, a cold front had swept much cleaner, fresher air across all of the UK. A small depression moving east across northern England brought a cold, wet day to central areas on the 12th. The following day, there was heavy rain in the extreme north and west (e.g. Achnagart, Highland notched up 60.4mm), but elsewhere, high pressure building over northern France produced an early burst of summer. Faversham (Kent) reached 25.5°C (78°F) on the 15th, and although it became a little cooler everywhere on the 17th/18th in north-easterly winds the sunshine continued - and away from North Sea coasts, persisted throughout the following week. Temperatures were often highest in the Scottish Highlands - bathed in warm air from föhn type winds. By the 24th, high pressure over Greenland forced cold air over the Norwegian Sea south - and this brought an end to the warmth. At Drumnadrochit, on the shores of Loch Ness, snow and a midday temperature of only 1°C (34°F) on the 26th contrasted with blazing sunshine and 21°C (70°F) just five days earlier! The final week was unsettled and cool everywhere with showers or longer spells of rain and some snow on northern hills. Skies were often clear at night bringing an unwelcome return of night frosts for gardeners and growers. The mercury sank to -8°C (18°F) at Katesbridge (County Down) on the 27th.

Despite the chilly finish, average temperatures were 1-2°C above normal nationwide. It was also a very dry month for the south and east although rainfall for northern and western Scotland was more typical. Sunshine was abundant everywhere, making it the sunniest April since at least 1929.

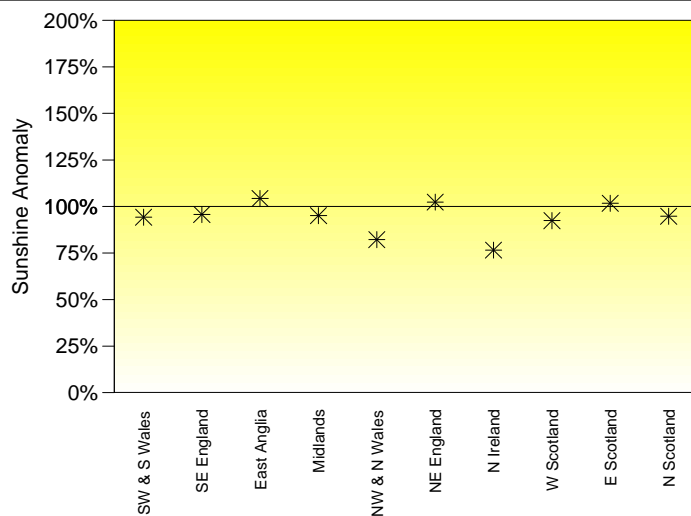
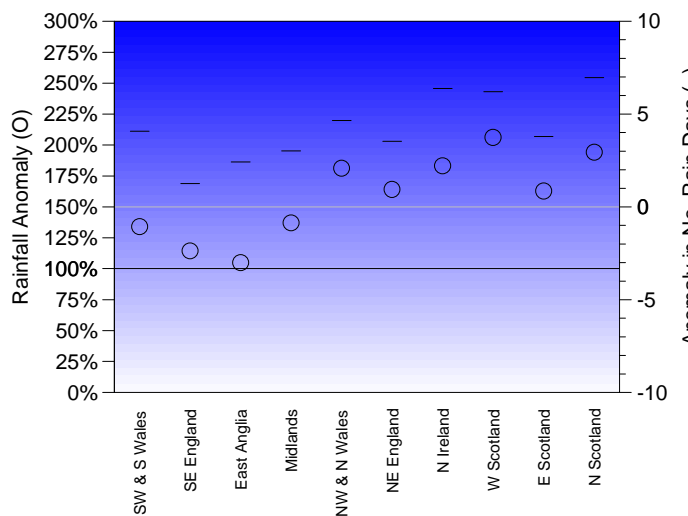
In the USA, eight confirmed tornadoes roared across northern and central Illinois during violent thunderstorms on the 9th. The strongest tornado, an EF4 with winds of 180 to 200mph, hit Fairdale, leaving two people dead and 22 injured. The half-mile wide twister tracked on the ground for 29 miles - a record-long path for the region. Severe storms hit parts of eastern Texas on 26th-27th with softball-sized hail, damaging winds and tornadoes. One tornado struck Rio Vista, about 40 miles south of Fort Worth, leaving overturned trucks and widespread damage to buildings including the local high school. Trees crashing down from Fort Worth to Houston left thousands of residents without power. Early on the 27th, Navasota, Texas, was struck by a tornado while flash flooding sparked travel chaos. Multiple water rescues were required in Johnson County. The destructive storms swept through southern Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi and reached western Florida. Squalls blew several railroad cars off the Huey P. Long Bridge in Metairie, Louisiana and 150,000 people were left without power.

A major sandstorm engulfed Dubai on the 2nd forcing residents to remain indoors. The sandstorm disrupted air traffic and caused extensive traffic jams in the United Arab Emirates capital. On the 5th-6th a succession of severe thunderstorms left devastation across Bangladesh and neighbouring parts of India such as Agartala. Rainfall exceeded 125 mm and 36 people were killed following the storms which downed trees and destroyed many homes. Seasonably dry and hot weather subsequently returned to India and temperatures in New Delhi reached 41°C (106°F) on 20th. On the 26th a small cyclone struck northern Pakistan, killing 45 people and injuring more than 200. It was officially described as the most devastating wind storm ever to hit this region. Sustained winds over 75 mph, accompanied by heavy rain and hail caused widespread damage to buildings and infrastructure.

In Australia, extreme weather struck Sydney on the 22nd-23rd with a huge swell, damaging winds and torrential rainfall. The strongest gusts recorded were 84 mph at Nobbys Head (Newcastle), Norah Head (Central Coast) and Wattamolla (Illawarra). Exceptional 24-hour rainfall occurred in the Hunter Valley, Newcastle and Sydney's northern suburbs, including Maitland (301mm), Dungog (312mm), and Crawford (259mm). Following this deluge, a fierce thunderstorm crossed Sydney on the 25th, covering the ground with hail, flooding roadways and covering yards. Buildings in Huntingwood had 50cm of hail deposited on their roofs - and its sheer weight caused five warehouses to collapse!



Extremes for May 2015		
Hottest:	22.7°C	St James Park, Greater London, 11th
Coldest:	-5.6°C	Tulloch Bridge SAWS, Highland, 1st
Most Rain:	51.6mm	Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire, 3rd
Most Sun:	14.6hrs	Tiree, Strathclyde, 1st
Windiest:	69mph	Mumbles Head, West Glamorgan, 5th
Warmest:	13.6°C	St James Park, Greater London
Coolest:	6.4°C	Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	291.8mm	Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire
Driest:	36.2mm	Kew Gardens, Greater London
Sunniest:	205.9hrs	St. Athan, South Glamorgan
Dullest:	98.4hrs	Bala, Clwyd



'Here we go gathering nuts in May on a cold and frosty morning.' This nursery rhyme from the late 19th century may seem incongruous, but it reflects how May can be a cruelly deceptive month - and snow is by no means uncommon, even at low levels. More so a few hundred years ago when Britain was in the midst of the "Little Ice Age". In 1615, parish records of Youlgreave in Derbyshire state that 'upon May Day, in the morning, instead of fetching in flowers, the youths brought in flakes of snow, which lay above a foot deep upon the moors'

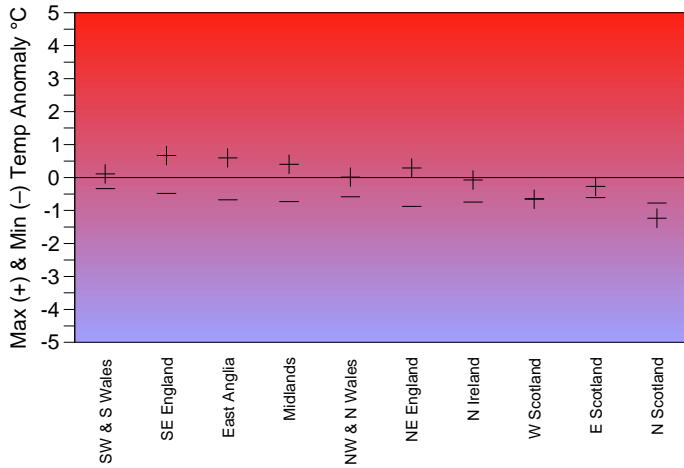
May 2015 was an unsettled month with no prolonged spells of dry or warm weather. It began chilly with a minimum of -5.6°C (22°F) at Tulloch Bridge (Highland) on the 1st. Rain then spread north-east on the 2nd and 3rd - and this was prolonged and heavy in the north, with snow in the Highlands. Parts of Northern Ireland were deluged; Trassey Slievenaman (County Down) received 101.3mm of rain in just 24 hours ending 0900 GMT on the 3rd. A brief brighter interlude on the 4th was followed by more rain sweeping north, then two unusually windy days. Needles Old Battery (Isle of Wight) recorded a gust of 75mph on the 6th. Most enjoyed a fine and settled (if not especially warm) day on the 7th but the 8th was very wet across northern England. Temperatures rose from the 9th and it became quite warm in the south east. Faversham (Kent) reached 23.8°C on the 11th. The fine weather did not last long however. The 12th and 13th were cooler - and the 14th was a miserable cold and wet day over England and Wales with temperatures failing to make double digits in many places. The weekend of 16th/17th was brighter, but in Scotland there was more heavy rain - and in subsequent days, squally showers, hail, thunder and snow over the mountains. Distant high pressure to the south and west, brought more settled conditions 21st-26th, but it remained rather cloudy, and low pressure reasserted over the final four days bringing May to a cool, wet and blustery end.

Mean UK temperatures were below average everywhere, and maxima were at their lowest since May 1996 - a reflection of the dominance of westerly winds combined with a cold Atlantic ocean. Rainfall was well above average everywhere - and especially so in Scotland which saw double its normal rainfall. Sunshine totals were close to, or a little below, average nationwide.

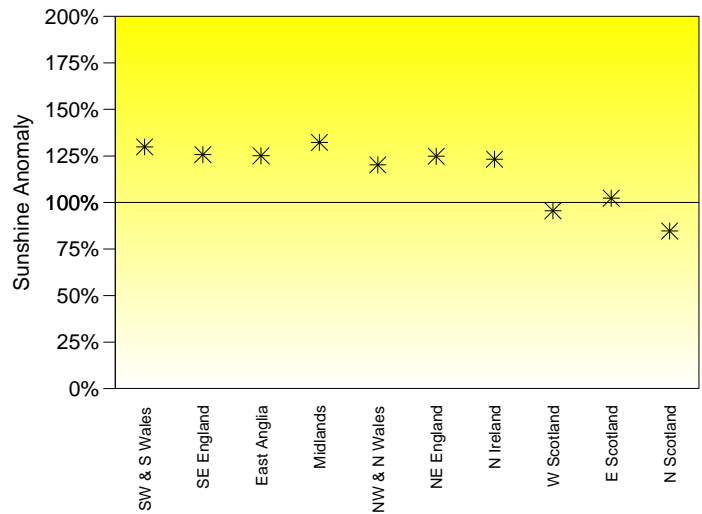
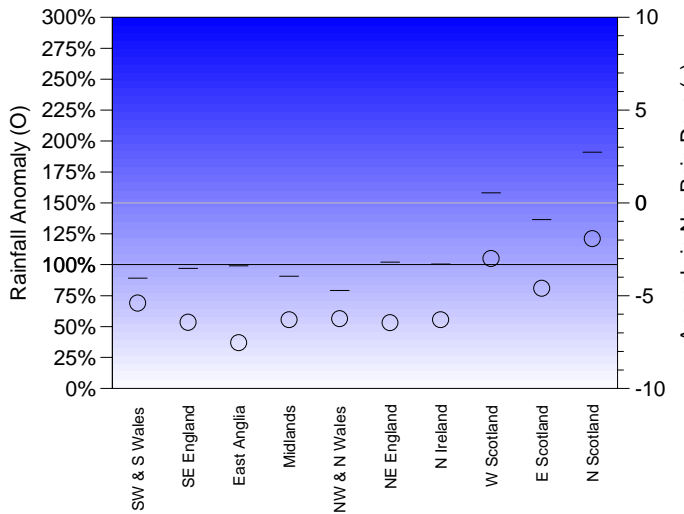
Europe during May saw some significant, if local, storms. On the 5th, the German town of Buetzow was left extensively damaged by a tornado that tore off roofs, overturned cars and ripped up trees. Numerous buildings were left in ruins and several people injured. In southern Germany on the 13th, a severe convective storm in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg packed gusts of 76mph and hailstones the size of golf balls. Nine people were injured and dozens of homes left damaged. Meanwhile in Catalonia, northeast Spain, temperatures on the 14th rose to record breaking levels. Sant Romà d'Abella in Lleida reached 37°C (98°F), and Barcelona 36°C (97°F) - well above the previous May records set in 1912! On 19-20th severe thunderstorms struck Greece and Turkey. Flooding and hail around Izmir, Turkey, brought travel in the city to a standstill - and swollen rivers carried away cars.

In the USA, a series of tornadoes touched down southwest of Oklahoma City on the 6th, flipping cars, downing power lines, snapping trees - and causing the escape of tigers and other exotic animals from a wildlife park! On the 10th, 100 award-ceremony attendees at a high school in Lake City, Iowa, were forced to evacuate to a basement as a violent multiple severe storm outbreak tore off their school roof from right above their heads! Two people were killed in Van, Texas, after an EF-3 tornado ripped through a trailer park. Record rainfall and flash flooding wreaked havoc across a swath of the US mid west 17-18th. Houston recorded a prodigious 280mm of rain on the 18th. About 350 homes in the town of Wimberley were washed away by floods along the Blanco river - which rose by 8m in just one hour. The Red and Wichita rivers also overflowed. Several tornadoes were ultimately spawned and one on the 25th on the US-Mexico border, killed 13 people and left 300 injured as it tore through homes and flipped cars.

A deadly dust storm developed over the Rajasthan region of north-western India on the 19th. Violent winds damaged homes and knocked down power lines leaving at least 17 dead and 60 injured. Travel was severely disrupted as visibility dropped to near zero for a time. Meanwhile, across northern and central India, temperatures began to soar. New Delhi reached or passed 43°C (109°F) for seven straight days, culminating in 48°C (118°F) on the 29th - when roads began to melt. The heat wave claimed at least 1,400 lives. In Australia a deluge across south-eastern Queensland on the 1st broke rainfall records. Brisbane received 183mm in 24 hours, Caboolture 333mm and nearby Beerburum 149mm - the latter within just three hours! There were 5 fatalities across the state caused by cars being swept away by raging flood waters.



Extremes for June 2015	
Hottest:	33.0°C Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands, 30th
Coldest:	-2.0°C Katesbridge, County Down, 9th
Most Rain:	58.8mm Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 1st
Most Sun:	16.2hrs Morecambe, Lancashire, 10th
Windiest:	78mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 1st
Warmest:	16.9°C St James Park, Greater London
Coollest:	9.1°C Lerwick, Shetland
Wettest:	191.6mm Achnagart, Highland
Driest:	8.0mm Kew Gardens, Greater London
Sunniest:	315.0hrs Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands
Dullest:	91.4hrs Lerwick, Shetland



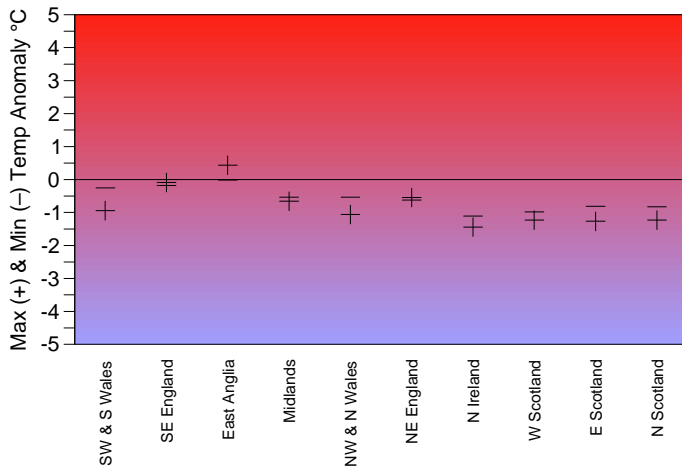
June marks the beginning of the meteorological summer and by the 21st the sun is at its annual zenith. Despite this, it is rarely the warmest month of the year and truly hot spells are rare. Indeed the weather more frequently has echoes of late spring with some cool and rainy spells to dampen the Glastonbury Festival, Royal Ascot and the start of Wimbledon.

June began very unsettled and rain swept east to affect most of the UK late on the 1st with unseasonably strong winds and gales around many coasts. There was a gust of 78mph at Capel Curig (Clwyd), and mean sea level pressure fell to 974 hPa at Tiree (Hebrides) - unusually low for June. A deluge at Rest and Be Thankful (Argyll) gave 64mm of rain for the 24 hours ending 0900 GMT on the 2nd and flooding was reported in parts of Wales. Two days of quiet weather followed before a humid day on the 5th saw outbreaks of rain. Strong winds affected the north on the 6th - but a concerted rise of pressure then led to a settled spell from the 7th and by the 9th, a large anticyclone was situated close to Northern Ireland. While the north of the UK basked in sunshine, the south experienced a nagging north-easterly breeze and much cloud. Rain from the near-Continent pushed slowly and erratically into southern England on the 12th and 13th but its northward progress was blocked by an exceptionally cool northerly airflow over Scotland which caused snow showers on its highest peaks. A north-westerly wind dominated for much of the next week, but high pressure was never too far to the south-west of the UK - so fronts were fairly innocuous and most places stayed dry. Thunderstorms developed over the south east late on the 20th, but fresher, brighter conditions returned for the summer solstice. Conditions stayed mild, sunny and for the most part dry for the Glastonbury Festival - although cold fronts gave outbreaks of rain on the 26th and 28th. Pressure then began to build as a hot and humid air mass extended north from the Continent, providing a sunny and warm finish. Temperatures soared to 28°C (82°F) or more on the 30th and speed restrictions were imposed on some trains due to the risk of railway lines buckling in the heat.

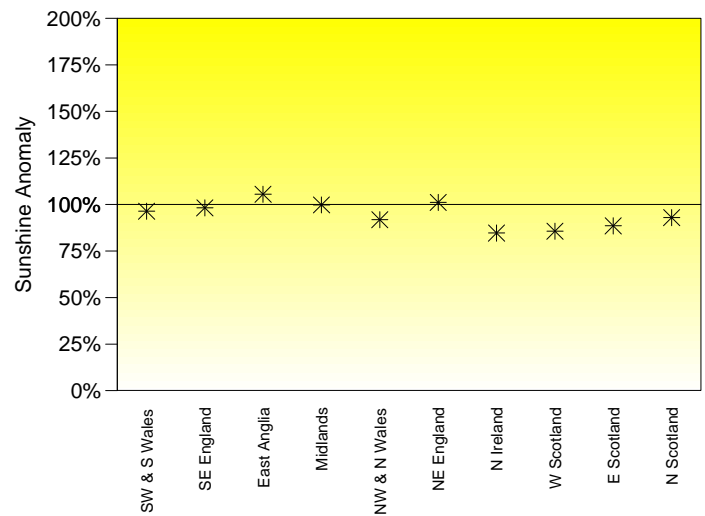
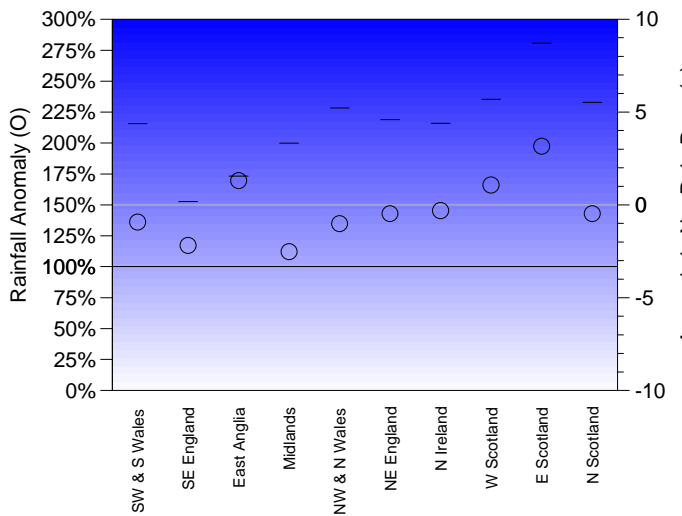
For the month as a whole, temperatures were just below the seasonal average, but while it was wetter than average in northern Scotland, it was a dry month elsewhere and especially so in the south-east and East Anglia - which received half its normal rain for June. Away from Scotland, it was also a sunny month with most places enjoying totals 25% above normal. 6th of the last 7 months have now been sunnier than average for the UK as a whole.

In Europe, temperatures began to rise towards the month's end, with the heat becoming extreme in Iberia. On the 27th, 43.9°C (111°F) was recorded at El Granada, Spain. Meanwhile another searing heat wave - unprecedented for June - scorched the Pacific Northwest of the U.S.A. Both Idaho and Washington set all-time high state temperature records for June on the 28th with 44°C (111°F) measured at Lewiston and 45°C (113°F) in Walla Walla. The heat also spilled over into western Canada where Hope, British Columbia, soared to 37.6°C (100°F) on the 28th. Elsewhere in North America, violent storms across Colorado on the 5th spawned tornadoes that destroyed homes, and hail - which peppered the Denver suburbs and left some residents having to dig themselves out of waist-deep ice. The storms ravaged areas from Fort Collins in the north to Pueblo, nearly 180 miles south. Tropical system Blanca reached major hurricane (category 2) status on the 3rd, the first time on record that two major hurricanes have formed in the Eastern Pacific before the end of June. Socorro Island recorded a peak sustained wind of 74mph and gusts to 101mph, and Loreto, Mexico recorded 130mm of rain in 24 hours before Blanca made landfall in southern California near Puerto Cortes on the 8th. Thunderstorms were triggered over parts of interior northern California and the Sierra and measurable rain fell in Yuma, Arizona, on the 9th - for just the seventeenth time in June since records began in 1876!

Mid June also saw extreme pre-monsoon heat in Pakistan. Karachi reached 45°C (113°F) and the demand for electricity for air conditioning caused power outages. Meanwhile, amidst the antipodean winter, the 2nd was the coldest June day in five years in Sydney (Australia). The temperature of 7.3°C (just 45°F) at 7am produced a wind chill equivalent of 0.3°C (32°F). On the following night, temperatures plunged to -7°C (19°F) in the capital, Canberra.



Extremes for July 2015		
Hottest:	36.7°C	Heathrow, Greater London, 1st
Coldest:	-0.6°C	Katesbridge, County Down, 15th
Most Rain:	53.4mm	Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire, 17th
Most Sun:	15.8hrs	Kinloss, Grampian, 3rd
Windiest:	59mph	Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 6th
Warmest:	18.9°C	St James Park, Greater London
Coollest:	11.1°C	Fair Isle, Shetland
Wettest:	247.4mm	Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire
Driest:	34.0mm	East Malling, Kent
Sunniest:	216.5hrs	Shoeburyness B, Essex
Dullest:	73.5hrs	Thomastown, County Fermanagh



July heralds high summer and as the nights draw in only very slowly, the evenings are pleasantly light and long. Nearly half the time, July features the hottest day of the year, and offshoots of high pressure from the Azores anticyclone can result in prolonged spells of fine and warm weather. Deluges and flooding are equally possible however, when low pressure is steered south of its normal summer track by a displaced jet stream - as happened on a few occasions this year.

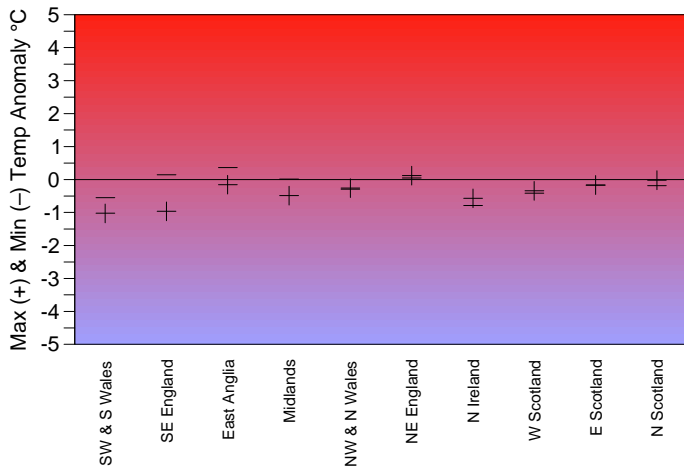
July opened with a surge of very hot air from the Continent - and by 0900 GMT on the 1st temperatures in London had already reached a remarkable 32°C (90°F). The UK maximum temperature record for July was smashed that afternoon as Heathrow reached 36.8°C (99°F). The heat extended far to the north e.g. 31.9°C (90°F) was recorded at Brampton, Cumbria, but was very short lived - and widespread thunderstorms followed that night. Golf-ball sized hail was reported at Ravensworth, North Yorkshire. The 2nd was markedly cooler but temperature and humidity rose once more on the 3rd, culminating in some severe thunderstorms across the south overnight 3rd / 4th. A particularly spectacular storm affected Bournemouth, Dorset and was accompanied by cherry sized hail and local flooding. There were further storms on the 5th and two walkers were killed after being struck by lightning in separate incidents in the Brecon Beacons. The weather then became cooler and disturbed with areas of low pressure bringing showers or longer spells of rain. Scotland was especially cool and wet but bracing north westerlies affected all areas on the 8th. By the 10th, winds had turned southerly once more and most places became warm, although weak, slow-moving fronts made for frequent cloud and drizzle over following days and up to mid month. Severe thunderstorms struck East Anglia overnight 16th/17th. Rothamsted, Herts collected 38mm (nearly a months typical rainfall) within just a single hour and there was localised flooding. Alyth, Perthshire also experienced flooding after heavy rain on the 17th. Fresher air followed on the 18th with sunny spells, but an unsettled pattern then dominated until month end - and there were a number of very wet days. Notable was the 24th when a depression moving north-east along the English Channel to the Low Countries dumped 20-40mm rain widely across the south - and in London caused flooding and severe delays to the Underground. Just two days later another depression approaching from the south-west gave further heavy rainfall in the south before stagnating further north on the 27th to give prolonged rainfall there. Most areas became brighter on the 30th and 31st, although nights were chilly.

Despite the hot start, July was a cool month for the UK and especially so in the north - where temperatures were typically 1°C below the average. It was also wet for everywhere and in Scotland some places recorded twice as much rainfall as normal. Indeed, farmers in the highlands are concerned that the cool, wet weather here will provide very poor growing conditions for grass to feed livestock. Sunshine totals were close to or a little below average nationwide.

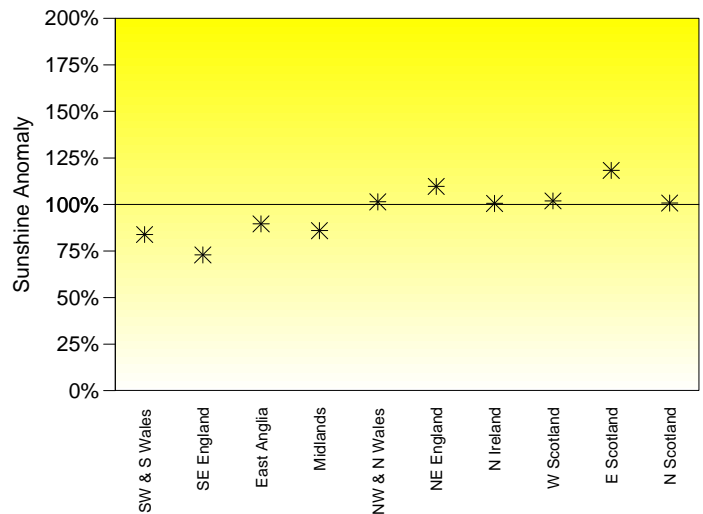
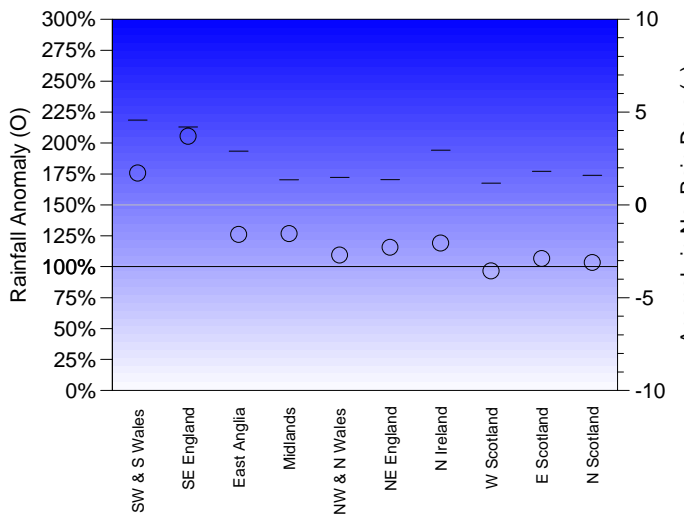
Continental Europe also experienced blistering heat in the first few days of July. Paris recorded 39.7°C (104°F) on the 1st while in the Netherlands, Maastricht set a new national record for July of 38.2°C (101°F) on the 2nd. Germany's all-time highest temperature record was equalled with 40.3°C (105°F) at Kitzingen in Bavaria on the 5th.

In Canada, Manitoba experienced severe thunderstorms on the 1st, with a particularly potent cell striking the town of Roseisle, about 70 miles south-west of Winnipeg. Hailstones the size of tennis balls, damaged cars and destroyed crops, driven on a 60mph wind. On the 7-8th thunderstorms and heavy downpours inundated areas from the southern Plains to the Ohio Valley (USA). There was severe flooding, impassable roadways and numerous water rescues as creeks and streams overflowed their banks. Flooding was so extensive in Cassville, Missouri, that the Barry County Sheriff issued an alert that the entire town was closed. Abilene, Texas, broke its all-time highest daily rainfall total with 211mm on the 7th, whilst 233mm fell across Brady, Texas, causing several cars to be swept away on Highway 377 early on the 8th. The 9th offered little rest bite and featured more violent storms, high winds and isolated tornadoes across the northeast USA. An elementary school in Berks County, Pennsylvania, was badly damaged, thousands of people lost power and there were lengthy flight delays at Philadelphia and New York airports.

Karachi, Pakistan, recorded 48mm of rain 22nd - 28th - a total greater than the city saw during the entire monsoon seasons of 2012, 2013 and 2014. In Bhuj, India, 432mm of rain in just 48 hours 27th - 28th represented more than the average yearly total! In Australia it is mid winter and on the 16th, 8cm of snow around Stanthorpe in southeast Queensland, was the heaviest snowfall there since 1984. In the foothills of the Blue Mountains of New South Wales, towns received up to 15cm snow - cutting power to 2,000 homes, whilst higher altitude ski resorts measured up to 30cm.



Extremes for August 2015	
Hottest:	30.9°C Gravesend Broadness SAMOS, Kent, 22nd
Coldest:	0.0°C Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty, 6th
Most Rain:	72.6mm Katesbridge, County Down, 23rd
Most Sun:	13.9hrs Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands, 2nd
Windiest:	59mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 4th
Warmest:	18.2°C Heathrow, Greater London
Coolest:	11.7°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	215.2mm Achnagart, Highland
Driest:	37.4mm Rhyl SAWS, Clwyd
Sunniest:	209.5hrs Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man
Dullest:	80.8hrs Loch Glascarnoch, Highland



August is the last month of the meteorological summer. In many years a hot start gives way to steadily cooler days - often with some early mist and fog by month's end. August marked a disappointing end to summer 2015 - which was frequently unsettled with just a few - and generally short lived - warm spells. Cold water off southern Greenland may be partly to blame - displacing the jet stream south and diverting low pressure systems from their normal more northerly summer track.

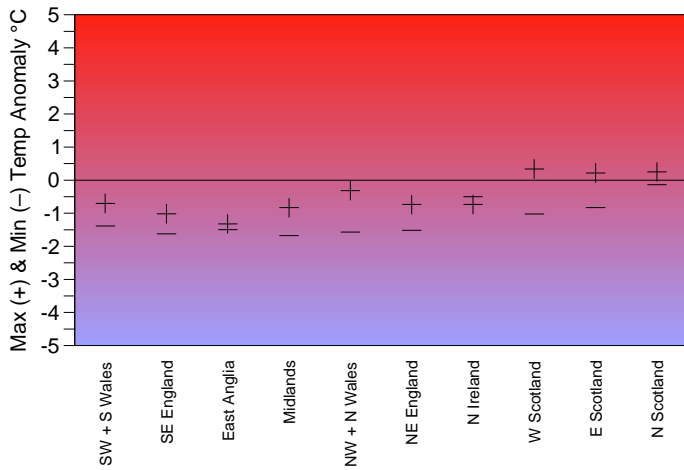
The unsettled conditions that prevailed for much of July continued into August. Much of the first fortnight was wet, especially in the west - and strong winds and a severe swell caused some damage in the south west on the 4th where waves breached harbour walls. On the 13th a plume of warm air from the continent crossed the Channel and brought torrential rain and thunderstorms to south-east England. There were numerous lightning strikes across Kent and Sussex - and Newhaven, East Sussex recorded 74 mm of rain in just 12 hours. The Arndale shopping centre in Eastbourne was flooded. Heavy rain affected northern England the following day and there was flooding in the Manchester area. Hot weather finally arrived on the 22nd (Gravesend reaching 30.9°C, 88°F) but was short-lived and triggered northward-moving thunderstorms over the Midlands and northern England. In parts of North Yorkshire 30mm of rain fell in a single hour, with totals for the day exceeding 60mm. There were numerous lightning strikes and significant localised flooding. The 24th was a very wet day for southern England. Thorney Island in Hampshire recorded 45.6 mm in 24 hours (close to its typical total for all of August) and trains were disrupted after tracks became submerged in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Further north, Grantham and Long Bennington (Lincolnshire) were affected by flash flooding. More storms lashed southern Britain in the early hours of the 26th. Heathrow Airport recorded 47.8 mm of rain for the day - most of which fell in just a few hours - and the was flooding across the south from here to Swansea. A tornado damaged properties in Norfolk. August ended with Bank Holiday Monday on the 31st. It was a disappointment to most - with a prolonged spell of frontal rain giving dull, wet and cool conditions. Eastern England failed to reach 16°C - at least 5°C below the seasonal average.

August was a cool month nationwide and daytime temperatures in the south were a degree or more below the average. It was a wet month everywhere - especially so in southern England where many places received double their normal August rainfall. Sunshine totals were depressed for England, but were slightly in surplus for Eastern Scotland.

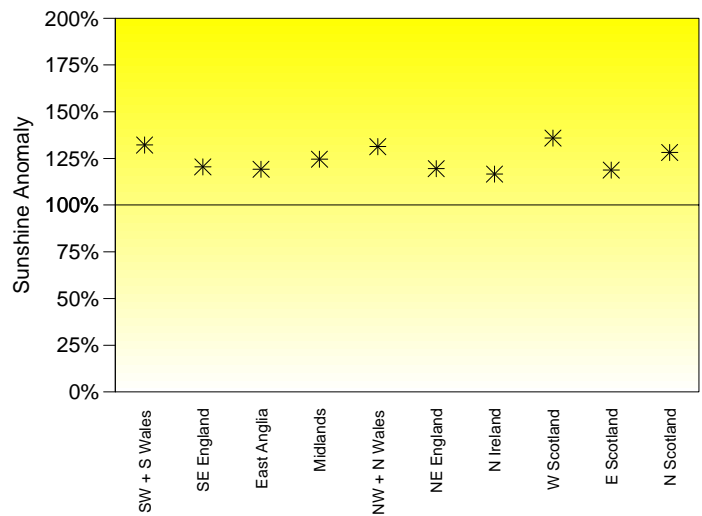
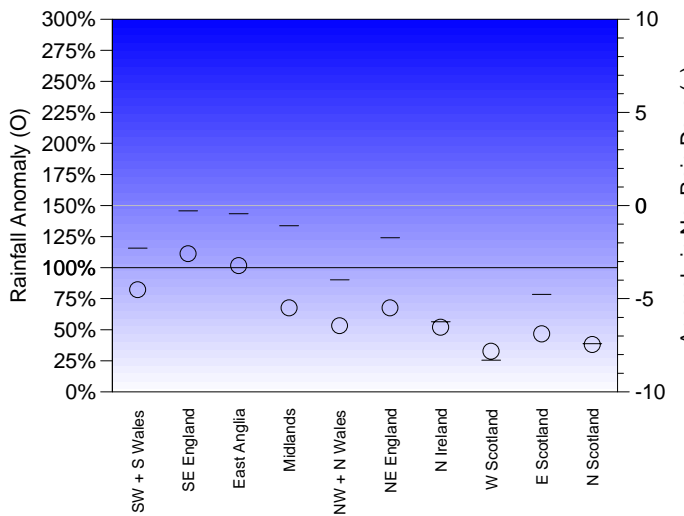
Whilst Britain often shivered, central and eastern Europe found itself in the grip of a heat wave during early August. In Germany, Berlin recorded its hottest day ever on the 7th with 38.9 °C (102°F) whilst further south, Kitzingen soared to 40.3°C (105°F) equalling the national temperature record set just a month before. Wroclaw (Poland) reached an unprecedented 38.9 °C (102°F) on the 8th - and across the Czech Republic, at least 19 cities tied or set new all-time high temperature records. Other local records were set in Minsk (Belarus) which reached 35.8 °C (96°F) on the 8th and Genoa, Italy, (38.5 °C, 101°F), Kaunas, Lithuania (35.3 °C, 96°F) the same day.

Japan also experienced a blistering heat wave during August. 37.7°C (100°F) on the 9th marked an unprecedented eighth consecutive day of "extreme heat" for Tokyo. Across the country at least 55 deaths and >10,000 hospital admissions were attributed to the heat. Elsewhere in Asia, Hong Kong Observatory recorded 36.3 °C (97°F) on the 8th - its hottest day ever. During the third week of August, Typhoon Goni - packing maximum sustained winds of 113mph - swept across the Philippines causing landslides that left at least 19 people dead and 1,000 homes in ruins. On the 24th Goni lashed the southern Japanese islands of Okinawa - by which times winds had strengthened to 159mph - a local record and sufficient to flip cars.

In the southern hemisphere, residents of the small northern Hawke's Bay town of Wairoa New Zealand awoke to find the town streets blanketed with a 2cm layer of snow on the 10th. In Australia, a severe hailstorm hammered Sydney on the 24th. Chunks of ice 30 mm in diameter rained down, stripping foliage and pitting cars. Melt water then caused further damage through flooding. A tornado swept through Dubbo in central New South Wales, leaving a dozen properties damaged.



Extremes for September 2015	
Hottest:	23.2°C Aboyne, Grampian, 29th
Coldest:	-0.9°C Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire, 30th
Most Rain:	51.0mm Loftus, Cleveland, 15th
Most Sun:	12.7hrs Charterhall SAWS, Borders, 7th
Windiest:	66mph Pembrey Sands, Dyfed, 14th
Warmest:	14.8°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	10.2°C Kielder Castle, Northumberland
Wettest:	106.6mm Liscombe, Somerset
Driest:	16.8mm Hull East Park, Humberside
Sunniest:	203.0hrs St. Athan, South Glamorgan
Dullest:	75.2hrs Kirkwall, Orkney



September marks the beginning of meteorological autumn, and gales become increasingly likely after the autumnal equinox on the 22nd. The general character of the month however is typically more benign - with high pressure providing settled weather and warm days - although with an increasing risk of ground frost beneath clear night sky's.

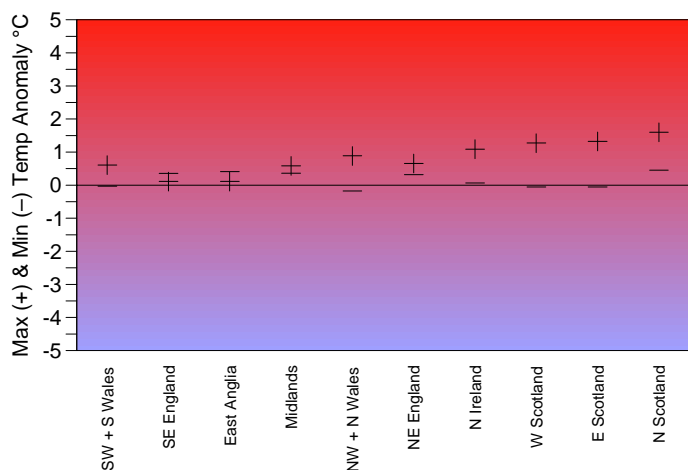
September began cool in a showery northerly airflow and there were thunderstorms over north western England. On the 2nd, very heavy rain (e.g. 40mm within 24 hours at Hawarden, Clwyd) caused localised flooding in parts of North Wales and the Wirral. It remained cool until the 5th when high pressure from the west became established and gave a week of settled and frequently sunny weather. Much of the UK including the north basked in temperatures >20°C (68°F), and Braemar (Aberdeenshire) reported 22.2 °C (72°F) on the 7th. Nights however were chilly with ground frosts in Scottish glens and on high ground. Early morning mist and fog were also common, especially in the east - and notably on the 10th. Winds turned westerly on the 11th and unsettled weather then persisted - with the exception of a brief interlude of high pressure on the 19th / 20th - all the way through to the 24th. On the 13th, large waves inundated part of the railway line between Dawlish and Teignmouth disabling a train. The following day thunderstorms affected Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire and that night South Wales and Channel coasts were pounded by gales (the very exposed Needles lighthouse recorded a gust of 78mph). On the 15th, spells of heavy rain (e.g. Loftus, Cleveland recorded 52mm), led to localised flooding in places as far apart as Dorset and Teesside. Further flooding was reported from Hampshire and East Anglia on the 16th and Kent on the 18th - where it was triggered by thunderstorms. High pressure became established from the 25th and whilst mornings were frequently cool and misty, there were some spectacularly sunny days. Clear skies gave a good view for most of the "super-moon" lunar eclipse overnight 27th-28th. Remarkably, the 30th brought both the highest and lowest temperatures of the month in the UK - and both at Braemar (Aberdeenshire)! The temperature there rose from a low just before dawn of -1.3°C (30°F) to an early afternoon maximum of 24.0°C (75°F)!

Frequent clear skies made nighttimes during September rather cooler than normal for all of the UK - and 1.5°C cooler for most of England and Wales. Daytime temperatures were a little depressed compared to the average - everywhere except for Scotland. For many places in England it was the coolest September in 20 years. Rainfall was below average everywhere except for the extreme south east and East Anglia. Many places received just half their normal September rainfall and swathes of western Scotland - less than one third! Sunshine was in surplus nationwide - typically by 25% or more, making it sunnier than the preceding August.

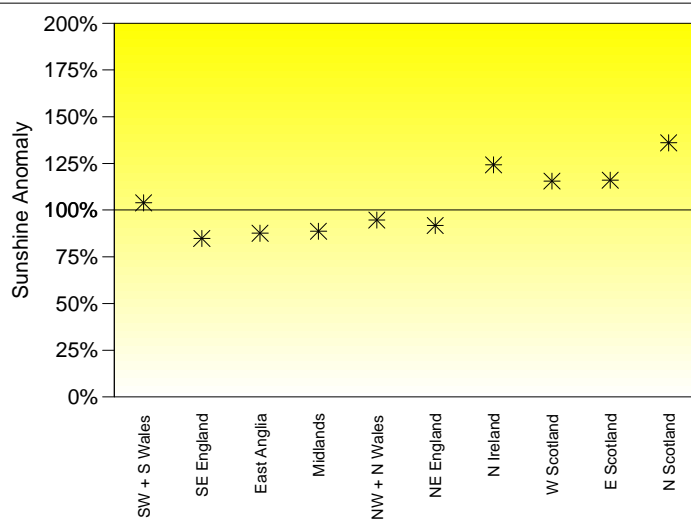
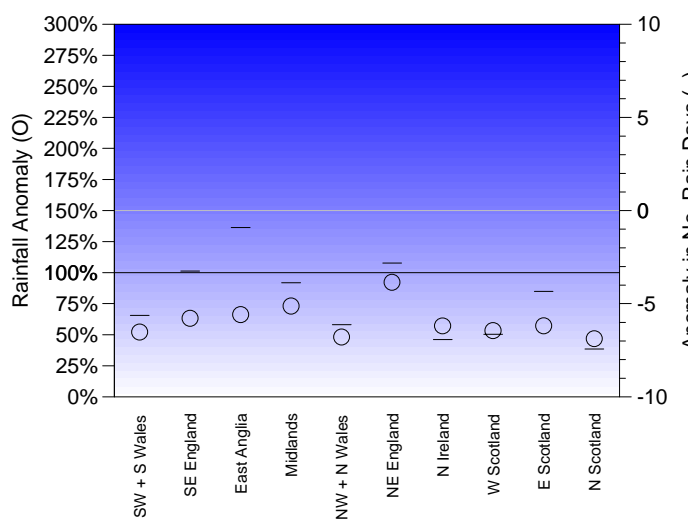
Northwest Europe had a cool September and torrential rain hit western Ireland on the 11th. 79mm fell across Newport, County Mayo and homes were engulfed by flood waters in County Clare. Central and eastern Europe meanwhile basked in outstanding heat. Elefsina near Athens sweltered in 42°C (108°F) on the 6th - a record high for Greece for September. In Germany, Gottfrieding (Bavaria) reached 34.0°C (93°F) on the 17th while Moscow reported 27.6°C (82°F) on the 25th. Violent thunderstorms on the Aegean islands during the evening of the 22nd caused serious damage. On Skopelos, floodwaters trapped drivers in their vehicles and swept away cars. A large part of the island's port was also destroyed. On nearby Rhodes, the airport was shut down after torrential rain led to the formation of an 8m deep sinkhole on the main runway.

Much of Siberia was blanketed by early snowfalls in mid-September. In Khakassia drifts half a meter deep formed - unprecedented so soon after summer. In contrast, the USA experienced record heat with New York's Central Park reaching 36.1°C (97°F) on the 8th. In the Pacific, Tropical Storm Etau had a devastating impact in eastern and central Japan 6th-11th. Torrential rainfall caused floods and landslides that led to the evacuation of 200,000 people. The city of Ikari recorded 551mm of rain in 24 hours, while Nikko received 668mm from 6th-9th. There were at least 9 fatalities and more than 7,000 homes and buildings were damaged or destroyed as the floodwaters spread out across 37 km².

In Australia, Adelaide's streets turned white on the 16th as giant hail fell across the city and surrounding hills. In places the weight of the hail caused roofs to collapse while melt water and heavy rain triggered flash flooding in inner and eastern suburbs.



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.

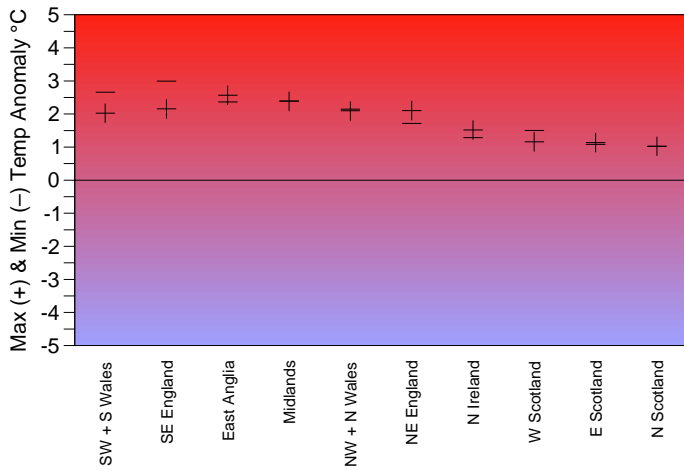
High pressure dominated the first four days, with early morning mist and fog frequent and widespread. The highest temperature of the month occurred on the 1st when Braemar (Aberdeenshire), reached 22.4°C (72.3 °F). On the 2nd and 3rd, in particular, the fog lingered until noon in north-east England - 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.

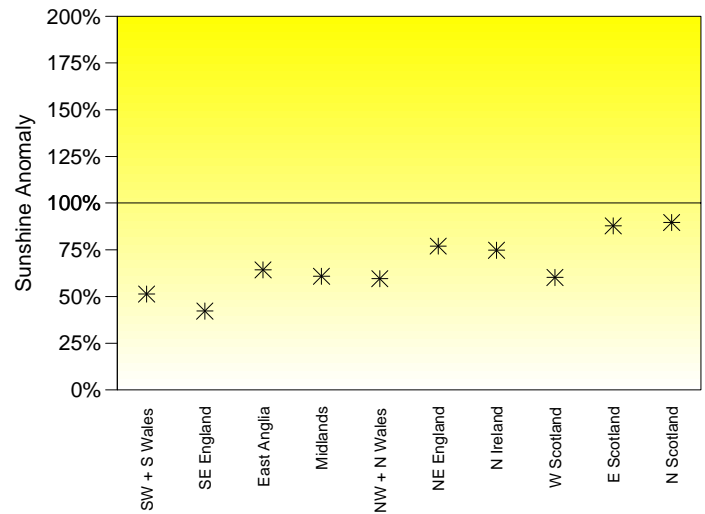
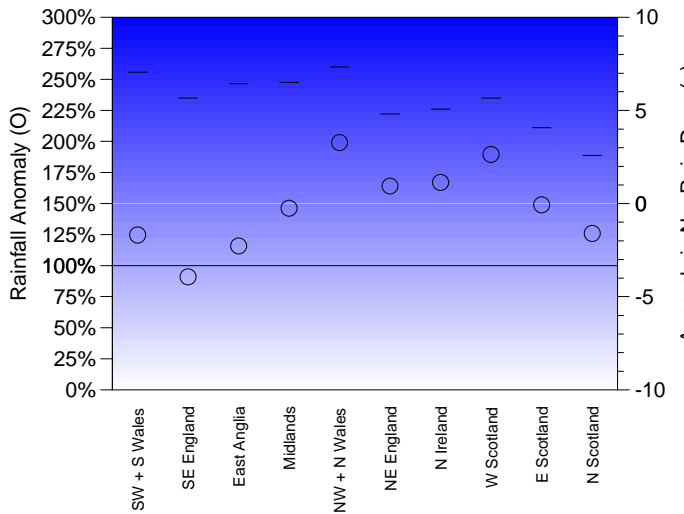
Destructive thunderstorms wreaked havoc along the French Riviera on the 3rd. The River Brague, burst its banks, destroying roads, and in Cannes, cars were swept out to sea. Storms battered southern Italy on the 12th with Sicily particularly badly affected and suffering widespread flooding and mudslides. 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.



Extremes for November 2015	
Hottest:	22.4°C Trawscoed SAWS, Dyfed, 1st
Coldest:	-6.0°C Topcliffe Met Office, North Yorkshire, 22nd
Most Rain:	94.8mm Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 9th
Most Sun:	9.2hrs Jersey Airport, Channel Islands, 1st
Windiest:	93mph Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 29th
Warmest:	12.8°C Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands
Coolest:	5.0°C Braemar No 2, Grampian
Wettest:	470.0mm Cluanie Inn No 3, Ross & Cromarty
Driest:	46.0mm Cambridge, Niab, Cambridgeshire
Sunniest:	66.4hrs Dyce, Grampian
Dullest:	17.1hrs Loch Glascarnoch, Highland



November, with its rapidly shortening days, and frequent murk can be a miserable month of weather. An abundance of mobile westerly systems typically makes November the wettest month of the year (just beating October and December) and especially for Eastern Britain. Dry November's are exceedingly rare. Warm weather supposedly recurs around the 11th whilst settled but often foggy conditions are characteristic 15th - 21st a period known as "St Martin's Little Summer". The first snow of the winter is increasingly likely towards month end over high ground in Scotland and Northern England, but significant falls at low levels are rare.

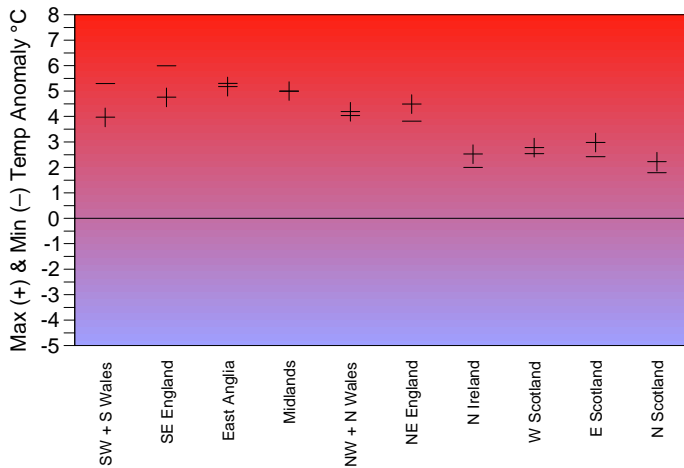
November started foggy but very mild. Trawscoed (Ceredigion) recorded a UK record 22.4°C (72.3°F) on the 1st and was just 0.1°C cooler the following day. Despite the warmth, many places saw persistent fog - and this caused major disruption at airports and was responsible for a spate of road accidents. It stayed mild over the following days as the air stream remained from the south west and temperatures reached 17°C (62°F) widely across England and Wales on the 7th. The 8th was windy with gusts of 60-70mph in Northern Scotland and the 9th was very wet in North Wales (e.g. 96.8mm of rain at Capel Curig) Further heavy rain on the 10th caused the River Conwy burst its banks at Llanrwst in the Conwy Valley. On the 12th-13th Storm 'Abigail' (the first named storm of the season) brought heavy rain and severe gales to the extreme north and west of Scotland. South Uist recorded a gust of 84mph and across the Highlands and Western Isles, 20,000 homes were left without power and many schools were closed. 4 days later on the 16th-17th, Storm 'Barney' swept across central UK. A gust of 85mph was recorded at Aberdaron (Gwynedd) and fallen trees caused delays to road and rail travel across North Wales and the Midlands. All this time it continued to be very mild - exceptionally so in the south. Just briefly and starting on the 20th did the wind change to a colder more northerly flow - leading to some snow flurries as far south as Sussex and Cornwall early on the 21st and drifts blocking roads in the Scottish highlands. The 22nd brought the first air frost of the autumn for much of England. Benson (Oxfordshire) recorded -5.6°C (21.9°F) just before dawn, and the following night was equally as cold. Milder conditions returned on the 24th - but the next few days were frequently wet and windy, culminating in Storm 'Clodagh' which crossed northern Britain on the 28th-29th. Severe gales caused widespread transport disruption with fallen trees blocking roads and railways across the north. High Bradford (South Yorkshire) recorded a wind gust of 97mph. Cold air pushed snowfall south across Scotland on the 30th leaving Aviemore with a snow depth of 9cm - much to the delight of local skiers.

November was exceptionally mild - and for the UK as a whole, the third warmest in over 100 years (beaten only by 1994 and 2011). It was a wet month nationwide - but especially in north western Britain and Northern Ireland which received double their normal rainfall. It was the dullest November in 85 years - and some places in south and west England received just 40% of their usual sunshine.

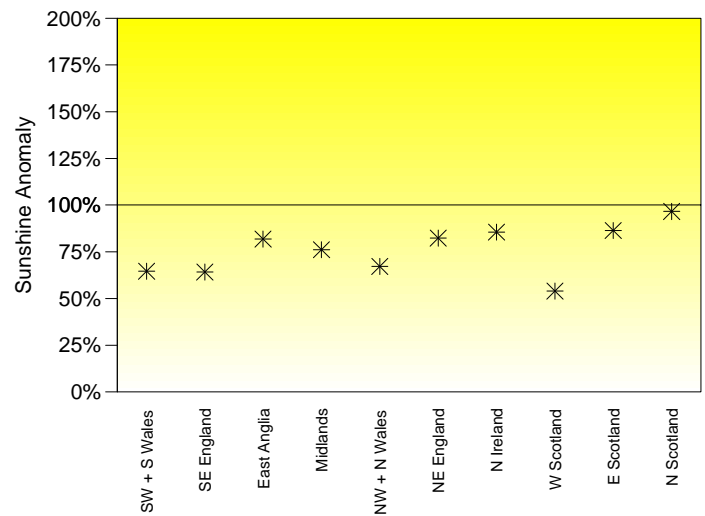
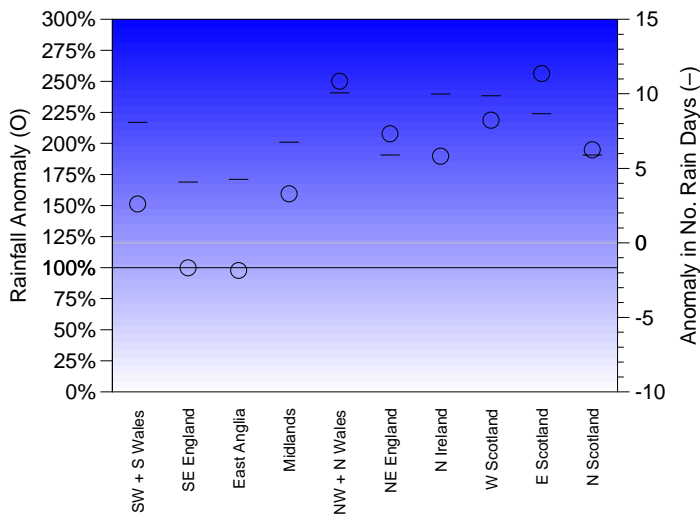
Europe also basked in remarkable warmth during early November. On the 2nd, Finland logged it's warmest ever November day with 13.3°C (56°F) at Jomala. On the 8th, Santander in northern Spain reached 30°C (86°F) while a November record of 24.1°C (75.4 °F) was recorded in Chablis (Burgundy, France). In marked contrast, Iceland shivered in an unusually severe early cold spell. There was widespread heavy snow on the 19th and temperatures fell below 20°C (-4°F) at Sandbúðir in south-east Iceland the following day. Storm 'Gorm' brought hurricane-strength winds to Denmark on the 29th with a gust of 103mph at Sjælland Odde.

In the USA, Death Valley suffered violent storms and devastating flash flooding during the first week of November. The third of three consecutive storms dropped 75mm of rain in five hours, triggering a 1 in 1,000-year flood event that battered historic structures, chewed through roadways and transformed the rugged landscape with layers of mud and rocks. Elsewhere in the USA, more than 1 million homes lost power on the 10th as a destructive storm swept the Pacific Northwest and Washington State recorded winds of up to 119mph. On the 21st - 22nd, Chicago sustained its second heaviest November snowfall since 1884 with depths of 48cm across the city.

On the 25th-26th, storm deluges in Qatar on the Arabian peninsula left cars floating in the streets, water gushing through ceilings and people sailing to work in boats! On the 10th and 11th, South Africa's biggest city, Johannesburg, and its capital, Pretoria, both experienced record high temperatures. Pretoria reached 40.3°C (105°F) on the 11th. Violent thunderstorms hit Queensland, Australia on the 29th causing 17,000 homes to lose power, property damage and disruption to transport. Golf ball sized hailstones flattened crops and broke solar panels around the town of Stanthorpe - and violent winds uprooted trees at nearby Charlton.



Extremes for December 2015		
Hottest:	17.1°C	Gravesend Broadness SAMOS, Kent, 19th
Coldest:	-7.0°C	Kinbrace, Highland, 13th
Most Rain:	201.8mm	Shap SAWS, Cumbria, 5th
Most Sun:	7.0hrs	Jersey St Helier, Channel Islands, 9th
Windiest:	90mph	Capel Curig SAWS, Gwynedd, 5th
Warmest:	12.1°C	St Catherines Point, Isle of Wight
Coolest:	4.2°C	Braemar No 2, Grampian
Wettest:	839.4mm	Shap SAWS, Cumbria
Driest:	40.2mm	Charsfield, Suffolk
Sunniest:	50.5hrs	Jersey Airport, Channel Islands
Dullest:	8.9hrs	Loch Glascarnoch, Highland



December marks the start of winter, but despite the sun being at its nadir, is rarely as cold as January or February. Interestingly, whilst the solstice (shortest day) normally falls around the 21st, the earliest sunset actually occurs a few days before - and the latest sunrise a couple of weeks after. Because the sun is low and scarce, it is incapable of imparting much heat. Warmth this late in the year is inevitably the result of imported air - and so often occurs in overcast conditions or even at night. There is some tendency for Decembers to start and end stormy - with a period of quieter colder weather between - but do not rely upon it!

December 2015 began mild, wet and windy for most of the UK, although snow and ice affected travel over central Scotland on the 2nd. On the 4th the approach of Storm 'Desmond' was heralded by increasingly heavy and persistent rain in the north and west. As it tracked north east across the country on the 5th, 'Desmond' brought storm force gusts and record breaking rainfall to the Lake District. Thirlmere, Cumbria recorded 264.4mm of rain in the 24 hours ending 0900 on the 6th. The 48 hour total ending same time (405mm) was even more remarkable, unprecedented for the UK, and equivalent to a typical annual total for many places! At Honister Pass, Cumbria, 341.4mm of rain in 24 hours ending 1800 on the 5th established a new UK 24 hour record. Unsurprisingly, serious flooding ensued with Keswick, Kendal, Cockermouth and Carlisle, worst affected. There was widespread disruption to road and rail transport with several bridges washed away and two fatalities. The wind and rain eased on the 6th but it remained unsettled over following days and further episodes of heavy rain caused localised flooding across the north west on the 10th and 12th. Rain then turned to snow in the north east and early on the 13th, temperatures dipped to -8.7°C (16.3°F) at Dalwhinnie (Inverness-shire) and remained below freezing all day across central Scotland. There was significant snow fall over higher ground and by the 14th Aviemore (Inverness-shire) had 16cm lying - much to the delight of skiers. A rapid thaw however soon followed as mild air spread to all parts. There were some remarkably warm temperatures: Teignmouth, Devon and Achnagart, Highland both reported maxima of 17.2°C (63°F) on the 16th. It remained mild, but very unsettled over the next few days with frequent rain and strong winds. The 19th and the 22nd were particularly wet with North Wales and the north west again baring the brunt - and leaving these areas primed for further flooding. On the 23rd Storm 'Eva' formed and brought widespread gales to Scotland - with heavy and sometimes thundery showers that continued to the 24th. For much of Wales and northern England, rainfall continued unabated through Christmas Day and Boxing Day - culminating in major flooding across Lancashire and Yorkshire. Tadcaster, Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd were all badly affected and 3,500 properties were flooded in York when the River Foss burst its banks. 11,000 homes lost power in Rochdale, Greater Manchester and several roads were closed due to standing water. Around 500 properties were also flooded in Leeds. 48-hour rainfall totals to 0900 GMT on the 27th included 210.6mm at Capel Curig (Gwynedd). The 27th and 28th offered a brief rest bite of mild, dry and calmer weather before another storm - 'Frank' approached late on the 29th. This brought severe gales to the north (e.g. 77 mph at Loftus, Cleveland, 85mph on South Uist), and torrential rain that was worst over central and southern Scotland - and the cause of more flooding. The border towns of Dumfries, Hawick and Peebles were badly affected and the villages of Moffat and Carsphairn cut off. In South Ayrshire 12 passengers had to be airlifted from a bus stuck in flood water and 100 people had to be evacuated from their homes in Ballater, Aberdeenshire. Elsewhere, thousands of homes across Yorkshire experienced power cuts and fallen trees blocked roads in Northern Ireland. By month end, the Association of British Insurers (ABI) estimated the final bill for the flood damage caused by storms Desmond, Eva and Frank to homes, businesses and motor vehicles to be £1.3 billion.

For most of December, the UK was under the persistent influence of warm, moist tropical air - diverted to our latitude by a raging jet stream. It made for an incredibly mild month - for central England the warmest December since 1659. Average temperatures were typically 4°C above average - and in southern England, 5°C or even 6°C - making them more typical of May! Most of England and Wales was devoid of any overnight frost. Just as remarkable, and following from an exceptionally wet November, was the prodigious rainfall. For the UK as a whole it was the wettest December - and indeed the wettest calendar month ever. This however disguises significant local variation, with the headline borne by record amounts of rainfall in Wales, the north and west which sometimes totalled quadruple the average. In contrast, rainfall for the south east and East Anglia was entirely normal. Sunshine was in short supply everywhere - and for the UK as a whole, it was the dullest month in a decade.

Other European countries also shared the exceptional warmth. In Finland, all-time December temperature records were broken twice: on the 6th Åland reached 11.1°C (52°F) and on the 20th Kokemäki reported 11.2°C (52.2°F). It was the warmest December in Brussels (Uccle) since records began in 1833 and, remarkably, warmer also than the warmest ever March! (1991). Severe downpours associated with storm Desmond, 5th-6th caused many homes in the south of Norway to be evacuated. In Rogaland, torrential rain left much of the town of Vikeså underwater and several warehouses were swept away in the torrent.

December warmth was even more outstanding in central and eastern USA. New York's Central Park failed to dip to freezing the entire month - the first time in December since records began in 1871. On Christmas Eve both New York City and Albany, New York state, soared to 22°C (72°F). At Albany this represented the highest ever temperature to be experienced in winter. Around the same time in central and southern America a massive storm system spawned tornadoes in Texas, flash-floods in Oklahoma and blizzards in New Mexico. Together, these were responsible for at least 43 deaths. Earlier in the month, on the 6th, Portland, Oregon experienced its wettest day ever. A deluge brought 82mm of rain which triggered landslides and flooding throughout northern Oregon and southern Washington.

In the southern hemisphere - where it is summer, South Africa also saw record-breaking heat during December - and its most severe drought since 1992. The capital, Pretoria, reached 41°C (106°F) on the 7th - way above the previous December high of 37°C set in 2003. In contrast to all of this, in Australia, the temperature dipped to 7°C (44°F) on the 8th at Pearce near Perth - making it the coldest December day on record. The 16th saw a devastating tornado rip through south Sydney with 140mph winds leaving behind a trail of destruction. Syria also experienced record cold early in December. On the 8th, temperatures in Damascus fell to -9°C (16°F). Widespread frosts also affected Saudi Arabia.