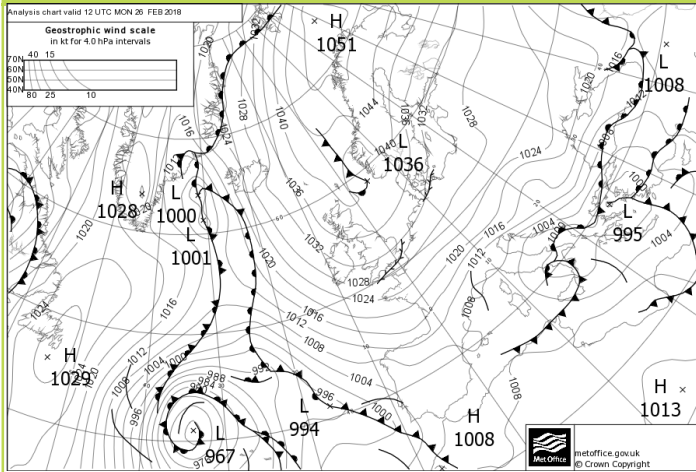


Weather chart for 1200 UTC on 26 February 2018



General summary

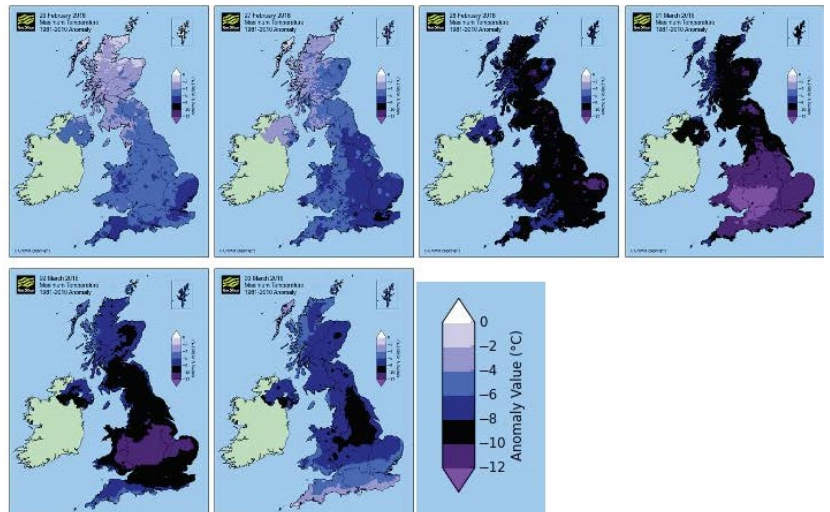
A large area of high pressure dominating Scandinavia and Northern Europe resulted in an easterly airflow across the UK, drawing bitterly cold air across much of Europe and extending well out into the Atlantic. An associated stratospheric warming event over the previous few days also blocked the Jet Stream and milder air associated with Atlantic weather systems.

The UK experienced a spell of severe winter weather with very low temperatures and significant snowfalls across much of the country from 26 February to 8 March 2018. The freezing temperatures combined with a strong east wind, particularly on 28 February and 1 March, resulted in a wind-chill at times widely below -10°C .

Significant weather event

The severe winter weather brought widespread impacts. The Met Office issued two Red Warnings for snow and almost all areas experienced some lying snow with the greatest accumulations across upland northern and eastern areas and subsequently parts of South West England and South Wales.

On 28 February a man died after falling into a frozen lake in a London park. There was severe travel disruption with roads closed and numerous road traffic collisions. Cars were stranded overnight on many roads in both Scotland and England. Rail services were cancelled and air transport was severely disrupted. Thousands of schools across England, Wales and Scotland were closed, and many areas suffered power cuts. Isolated communities and farms across the North Pennines received supplies by helicopter.



Weather extremes over the period 26 February to 8 March 2018

Highest Maximum Temperature (5 March)

11.9°C at Weybourne (Norfolk)

Lowest Minimum Temperature (28 February)

-14.2°C at Faversham (Kent)

Most Rainfall (6 March)

43.3 mm at Fettercairn, Glensaugh No2 (Aberdeenshire)

Most Sunshine (8 March)

10.3 hours at Preston, Cove House (Dorset)