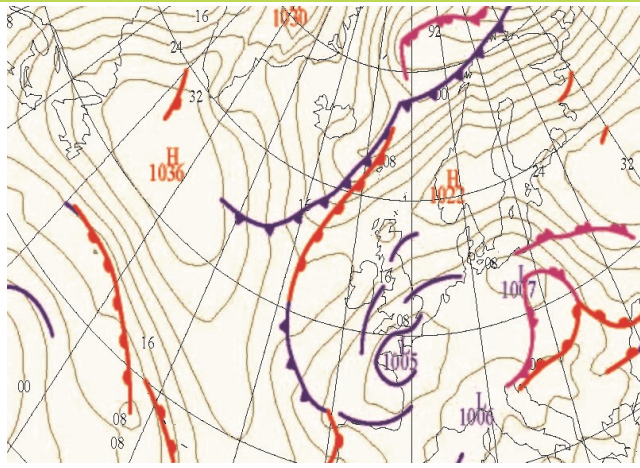


## Weather chart for 1200 UTC on 2 December 2010



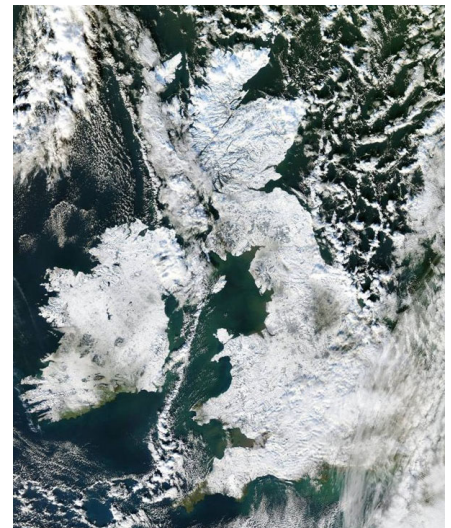
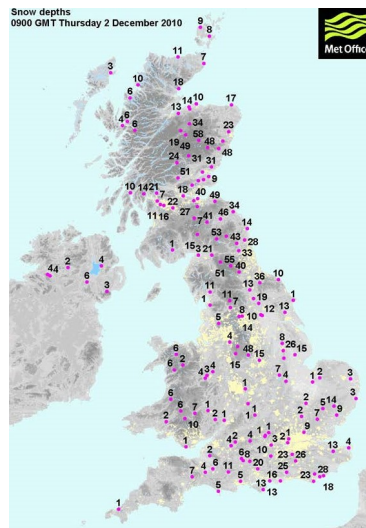
## General summary

During this period the UK experienced two spells of extreme winter weather. From 25 November - 9 December persistent easterly or north-easterly winds brought bitterly cold air from Northern Europe and Siberia with associated snow. Milder and quieter conditions saw a gradual thaw from 9 to 15 December but a second spell of severe weather began on 16 December with very cold Arctic air moving over the UK from the north. Snow showers affected the North and West on 17, with heavier snow across Southern England and Wales on 18 and heavy snow in the SW on 20 December. The UK remained under this bitterly cold Arctic air until Boxing Day and lying snow remained until 26 to 27 December.

## Significant weather event

During both spells of extreme weather temperatures struggled to rise above freezing and there were severe frosts at night with temperatures widely falling below  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  and on one occasion below  $-21^{\circ}\text{C}$  in Scotland. It was the coldest December in the UK for 100 years and snow depths reached over 50cm in places.

Snowfalls disrupted road, rail and air networks. Schools were closed, there were widespread accidents and freezing temperatures affected water supplies. Heavy snow on 1 December left 400 lorries stranded overnight on the M25 and on 2 December the Forth Bridge was closed for the first time in its history. Meanwhile the closure of airports including Heathrow caused particular difficulties in the run-up to Christmas.



Snow depths at 0900 on 2 December showing 13cm lying snow as far south as the Isle of Wight and image from NERC Dundee Satellite Receiving Station, Dundee University, showing snow across most of the UK on Friday 24 December.

## Weather extremes 25 November - 26 December 2010

### Highest Maximum Temperature (11 December)

10.9  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  at East Bergholt (Suffolk)

### Lowest Minimum Temperature (3 December)

$-21.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Altnaharra No 2 (Sutherland)

### Most Rainfall (17 December)

108.2 mm at Colonsay: Homefield (Argyll and Bute)

### Most Sunshine (26 November)

8.0 hours at Eastbourne (East Sussex)