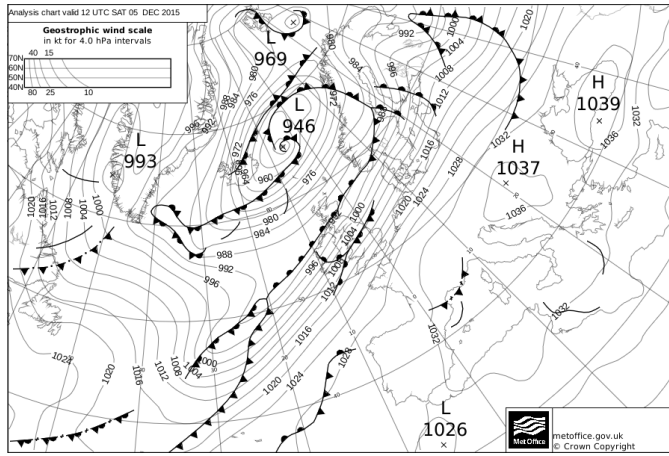


Weather chart for 1200 UTC on 5 December 2015



General summary

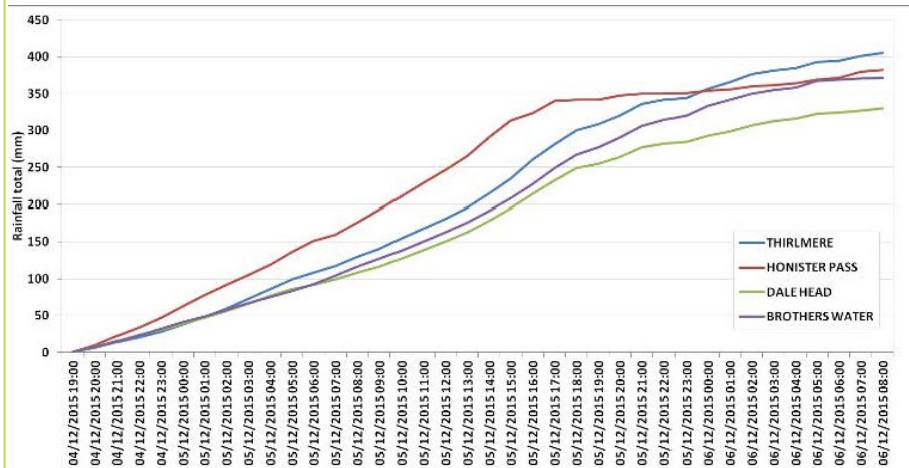
Storm Desmond brought a deep Atlantic low pressure system to the east of Iceland, with associated fronts stretching across northern Britain. The UK was located in a mild, moist south westerly airstream which meant that these fronts brought exceptionally prolonged and heavy rainfall as the air was forced to rise across high ground creating a 'warm conveyor' and extreme orographic enhancement to the rainfall.

Many parts of north-western Britain had already recorded more than twice the average monthly rainfall during November. The already saturated ground further exacerbated the effects of the heavy rain associated with Storm Desmond.

Significant weather event

Several thousand homes and businesses were flooded with Carlisle being the worst hit. There were two fatalities; tens of thousands of homes lost power; rail lines were cut and bridges were washed away including Pooley Bridge, Ullswater built in 1794. In the Yorkshire Dales, Malham Cove waterfall flowed briefly for the first time in living memory.

The flooding resulted from some exceptionally high rainfall totals across the Cumbrian fells, exceeding 300mm and breaking existing UK rainfall records. 341.4mm of rain fell at Honister Pass, Cumbria, in 24-hours to 1800 GMT on 5 December 2015, a new UK rainfall record, while at Thirlmere 405.0mm also set a new record for two consecutive rain-days (0900 - 0900 GMT).



Graph showing hourly accumulated rainfall totals at Thirlmere, Honister Pass, Dale Head and Brothers Water 1900 4 December - 0800 6 December 2015.

Weather extremes 4 - 6 December 2015

Highest Maximum Temperature

38.7 °C at Cambridge Botanic Garden (Cambridgeshire)

Lowest Minimum Temperature

10.5 °C at Ravensworth (North Yorkshire)

Most Rainfall

11.6 mm at Charsfield (Suffolk)

Most Sunshine

14.1 hours at St. Harmon No 2 (Powys)