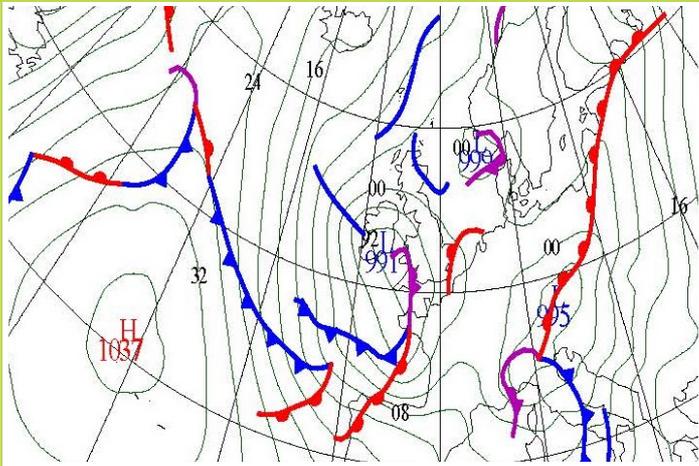


Weather chart for 0000 UTC on 30 October 2008



General summary

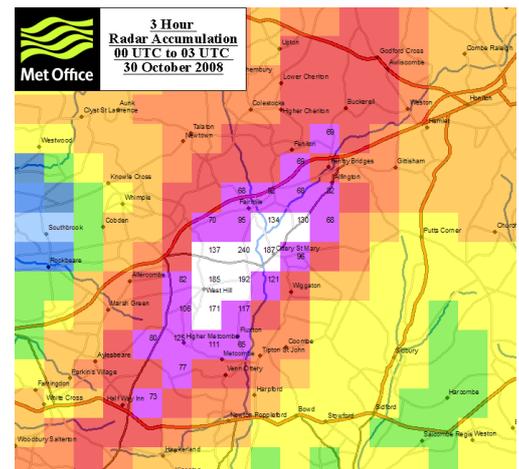
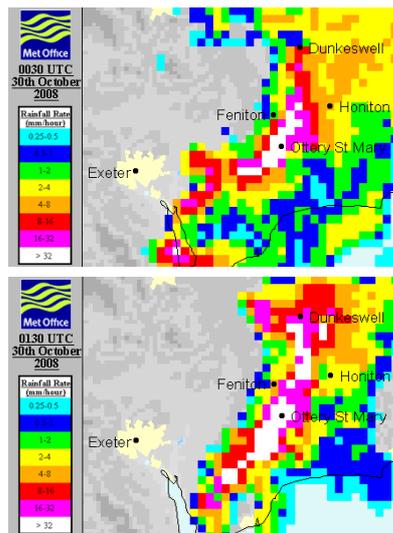
An area of low pressure passed over South West England at around midnight on 30 October 2008. The frontal system associated with the low pressure system brought heavy rain and hill snow to Wales and South West England accompanied by blustery winds, local hail and thunder. A severe hailstorm affected the Ottery St Mary area of East Devon for an hour or two, resulting in flash flooding and a deep covering of ice.

Across the rest of the UK the weather was more benign with a few showers across eastern areas and slight frost in the north. During the morning and afternoon the wet weather in South West England gradually moved away south, while the rest of the UK had a generally bright, breezy and showery day.

Significant weather event

Thunderstorms particularly affected the area around Feniton and Ottery St Mary where 187mm of rain was recorded at Kings School, Ottery St Mary in the 27 hours between 0900 on 29 October and 1200 on 30 October. Hourly accumulation data from the Cobbacombe 1km radar indicated a 2hr total of around 135mm per hour and a 3hr total of around 160mm. These both indicate the level of precipitation was a one in over two hundred year event.

Many properties in Ottery St Mary and Feniton were flooded and the main A30 road was closed. Hail accumulations in Ottery St Mary reached above car wheels and the ice caused many vehicles to slide down hills, resulting in collisions and further damage.



Left: Radar images taken at 0030 and 0130 on 30 October 2008 showing precipitation of more than 32mm/hr over Ottery St Mary. Right: 3hr radar accumulation 0000 to 0300 on 30 October showing totals around the area of Ottery St Mary and Feniton.

Weather extremes over the period 29 - 30 October 2008

Highest Maximum Temperature (29 October)

11.9°C at High Beach (Essex)

Lowest Minimum Temperature (29 October)

-6.6°C at Topcliffe (North Yorkshire)

Most Rainfall (29 October)

187.8 mm at Ottery St Mary, Kings School (Devon)

Most Sunshine (29 & 30 October)

8.4 hours at Wattisham (Suffolk) on 29th

8.4 hours at Bute: Rothesay (Buteshire) on 30th