



Weather chart for 1200 UTC on 26 February 1990

Daily weather extremes

Highest Maximum Temperature:
12.6 °C at Jersey Airport (Channel Islands)

Lowest Maximum Temperature:
3.2 °C at Salsburgh (North Lanarkshire)

Lowest Minimum Temperature:
-0.1 °C at Broadford (Isle of Skye)

Lowest Grass Minimum Temperature:
-1.0 °C at Kinloss (Moray)

Most Rainfall:
30.6 mm at Glenlee (Dumfries and Galloway)

Most Sunshine:
8.4 hours at Teignmouth (Devon)

General summary

Heavy rain cleared most parts of the British Isles before daybreak. The rain was followed by clearer weather, but with heavy and blustery showers. The showers were most frequent in the north and east and were often of hail with some thunder in places too. Apart from the far north of Scotland it was a windy night everywhere and gales or severe gales were very widespread.

During the day gales affected all areas and gusts in excess of 70 mph were very common. Northern England had some of the highest gusts. These included 98 mph at Leeds and 100 mph at St Abb's Head (Scottish Borders). Heavy, squally showers continued over the whole of the British Isles. The showers were wintry, falling as snow on the northern hills, and were frequently of hail and thunder too.

Temperatures in Scotland were close to normal. Elsewhere they were above average at the start of the day but dropped close to normal by lunchtime.

Significant weather event

The coincidence on the 26th and 27th of strong winds, low atmospheric pressure and 'spring' tides led to severe flooding and waves damage along several British coasts: Towyn, Clwyd suffered a major disaster when sea defences were overwhelmed. The worst affected area was the coastal stretch from Pensarn to Kinmel Bay, with its hundreds of houses and bungalows on low-lying land and thousands of caravans on holiday parks.

Around 5,000 people were forced from their homes and businesses during the flooding which also closed the London Euston to Holyhead railway line causing severe disruption to rail passengers.

Highest gust speeds

	Gust speed	
	(knots)	(mph)
St Abb's Head (Scottish Borders)	87	100
Hemsby (Norfolk)	86	99
Leeds Weather Centre (West Yorkshire)	85	98
High Bradfield (South Yorkshire)	82	94
Fylingdales (North Yorkshire)	80	92
Sheerness (Kent)	79	91
Belfast Harbour (Antrim)	78	90
Cranwell (Lincolnshire)	78	90
Squires Gate Airport (Lancashire)	76	87
Shoreham-by-Sea (West Sussex)	76	87

Daily weather statistics

	London	Edinburgh	Cardiff	Belfast
Maximum Temperature/°C:	10.9	6.2	10.0	5.4
Minimum Temperature/°C:	8.5	4.0	7.5	2.8
Rainfall Amount/mm:	2.4	5.6	2.4	8.3
Sunshine Amount/hours:	5.9	4.1	5.7	3.5