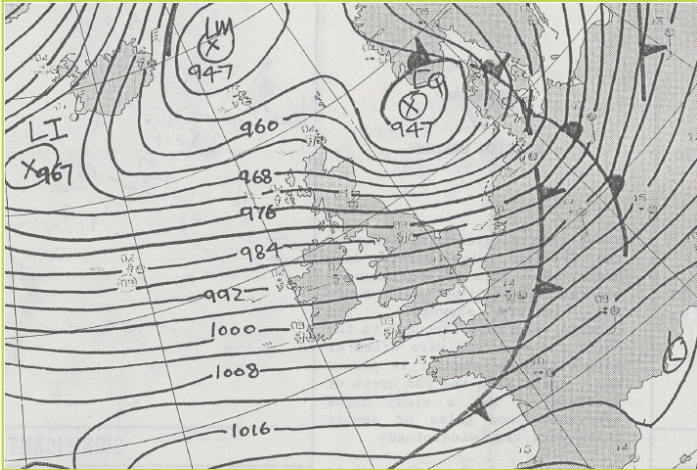


Weather chart for 1200 UTC on 26 February 1990



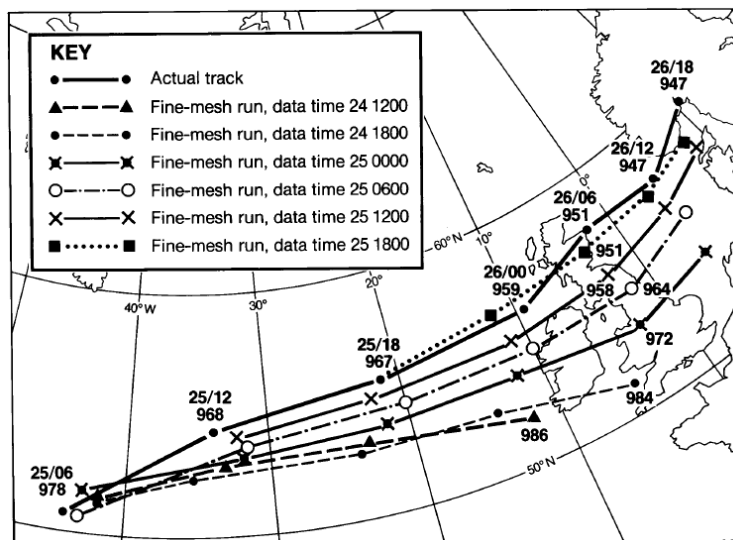
General summary

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. Heavy, squally showers continued over the whole of the British Isles. The showers were wintry, falling as snow on the northern hills, with 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 midday.

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.



Tracks of low of 26 February 1990. A comparison between its actual track and successive forecast tracks from the fine-mesh model.

Daily weather extremes

Highest Maximum Temperature

12.6 °C at Jersey Airport (Channel Islands)

Lowest Minimum Temperature

-0.1 °C at Broadford (Isle of Skye)

Most Rainfall

30.6 mm at Glenlee (Dumfries and Galloway)

Most Sunshine

8.4 hours at Teignmouth (Devon)