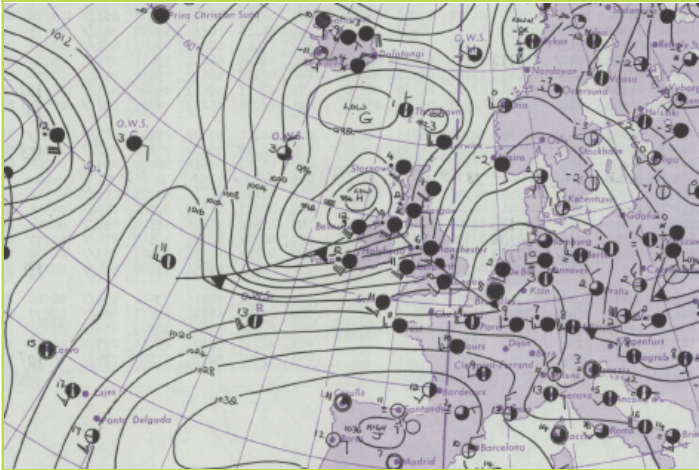


Weather chart for 1200 UTC on 2 January 1976



General summary

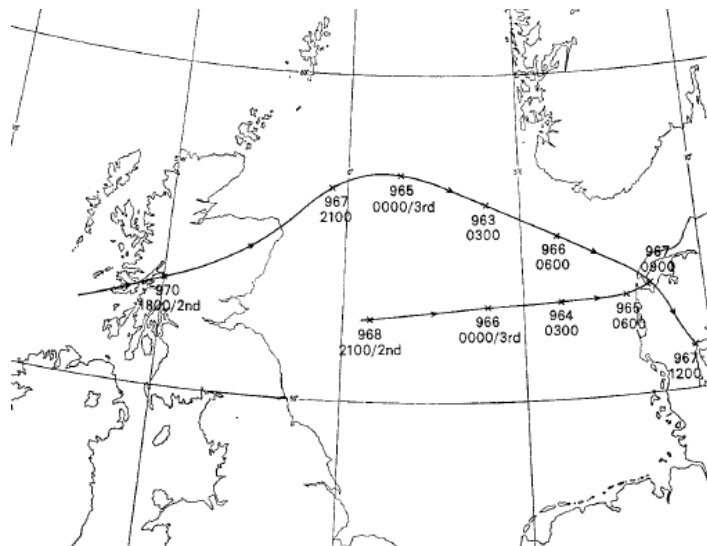
Outbreaks of rain or sleet spreading eastwards through the morning, turning heavier and more persistent and falling as snow over the high ground of the Pennines and Southern Uplands. The afternoon continued to see much of the country having a mixture of rain or sleet with snow, heavy and persistent at times, over the higher ground of Scotland and northern England where here too there was a good deal of low cloud. Similar conditions continued into the evening before somewhat drier weather pushed across South West England later in the day. There were widespread gales or severe gales across much of the country. Despite all the cloud and rain, temperatures were about average for early January generally and very mild across England and Wales. However, it was cold or very cold across parts of Scotland.

Significant weather event

The gale on the evening of the 2nd was one of the most severe to affect the British Isles during the twentieth century. At least 23 people died, public services were widely disrupted, and the total national damage was estimated to be between £50 million and £100 million. Many stations reported gusts above 70 knots and a number of new records were established. Both the gust and hourly mean speeds over the south and east Midlands reached a level likely to be exceeded on average only once in 40 years.

Highest gust speeds:

Lowther Hill 116 knots (134 mph)
 High Bradfield 92 knots (106 mph)
 Wittering 91 knots (105 mph)
 Coltishall 85 knots (98 mph)



Map showing the track and central pressure of the main depression crossing Scotland, with a secondary depression forming over the North Sea.

Daily weather extremes

Highest Maximum Temperature

14.2 °C at Exeter Airport (Devon)

Lowest Minimum Temperature

-13.0 °C at Braemar (Aberdeenshire)

Most Rainfall

51.6 mm at Glenfinnan (Highland)

Most Sunshine

0.5 hours at St Mary's (Isles of Scilly)