

in the West, but also some sunny spells in the East. Max 10C (50F), min -4C (25F)

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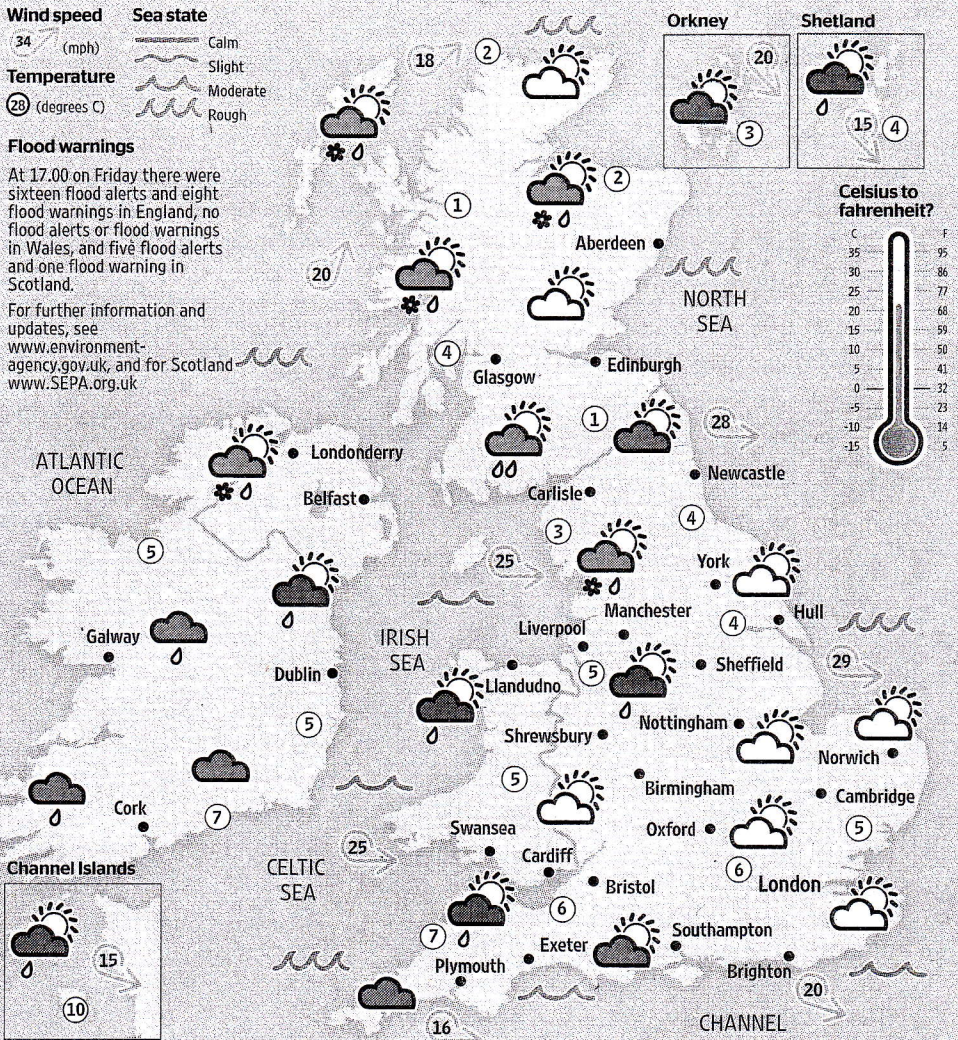
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General situation: A cold and frosty yet dry start to the day with long sunny spells, but a few showers, perhaps wintry, in the North and West.
E Eng, Midlands, E Anglia, London, SE Eng, Cen S Eng: Early mist patches, but mainly dry with sunny spells and some patchy cloud. Winds moderate southwesterly. Maximum 7C (45F), minimum 2C (36F).
Channel Is, SW Eng, Wales, NW Eng, IoM, Cen N Eng: Some early brightness, but clouding over later with a few

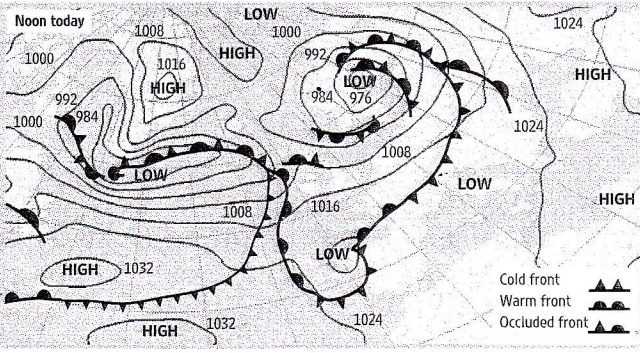
showers, especially along western coasts. Winds moderate west to southwesterly. Maximum 10C (50F), minimum 2C (36F).
Lake District, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Cen Highland, NW Scotland, N Isles: Little, if any, brightness, but mostly cloudy with showers, some turning wintry over the Scottish hills. Winds will be light to moderate and mainly westerly. Maximum 5C (41F), minimum -4C (25F).
NE Scotland, Moray Firth, Aberdeen,

Edinburgh & Dundee, Borders, NE Eng: A cold and frosty start with sunny spells and patchy cloud, but the chance of an isolated wintry shower in the far North. Light to moderate west to northwesterly winds. Maximum 4C (39F), minimum -2C (28F).
N Ireland, Republic of Ireland: Early showers, merging into longer spells of rain later, perhaps wintry in the North. Moderate to fresh southwesterly winds. Maximum 8C (46F), minimum 1C (34F).

Tides

Tidal predictions. All times GMT. Heights in metres

Today	HL	HL	HL	
Aberdeen	00.52	4.0	13.08	4.2
Avonmouth	06.42	12.4	19.05	12.3
Belfast	10.54	3.6	23.13	3.3
Cardiff	06.31	11.7	18.53	11.6
Devonport	05.17	5.3	17.39	5.2
Dover	10.38	6.3	23.00	6.4
Dublin	11.20	4.0	23.35	3.8
Falmouth	04.52	4.9	17.09	4.8
Greenock	12.05	3.6	00.33	3.3
Harwich	11.22	3.8	23.42	3.9
Holyhead	10.01	5.4	22.18	5.3
Hull	05.45	7.0	18.03	7.2
Leith	02.10	5.1	14.27	5.3
Liverpool	10.53	8.9	23.12	8.8
London Bridge	01.19	6.6	13.35	6.5
Lowestoft	09.03	2.4	21.20	2.5
Millford Haven	05.47	6.6	18.07	6.5
Morecambe	10.58	8.9	23.15	8.8
Newhaven	10.41	6.4	23.06	6.4
Newquay	04.39	6.6	16.58	6.6
Oban	05.15	3.8	17.42	3.9
Penzance	04.14	5.2	16.30	5.2
Portsmouth	10.52	4.6	23.16	4.5
Shoreham	10.45	5.9	23.10	5.9
Southampton	10.51	4.5	23.20	4.4
Swansea	09.56	8.9	18.18	8.9
Tees	03.11	5.0	15.26	5.2



Synoptic situation

Mainly settled conditions with sunny spells are expected across much of Britain, as the low pressure, which brought Thursday's gales, moves away slowly over Scandinavia. Another centre of the same complex area of low pressure is centred to the south of Greenland and is pushing a set of fronts towards Ireland later tonight, bringing spells of rain.

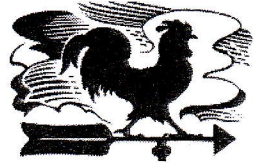
Highs and lows

24hr to 5pm yesterday
 Warmest: St Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, 9.9C
 Coldest: Cairngorm, -7.7C
 Wettest: Tynardm, Perthshire, 55.0mm
 Sunniest: Aberdeen, 1.5hr^h
Sun and Moon
 For Greenwich
 Sun rises: 07.54
 Sun sets: 15.52
 Moon rises: 15.51
 Moon sets: 07.44
 Full moon: December 10

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	15.56-08.07
Belfast	16.28-08.06
Birmingham	16.24-07.37
Cardiff	16.34-07.38
Exeter	16.39-07.35
Glasgow	16.14-08.07
Liverpool	16.21-07.45
London	16.22-07.26
Manchester	16.20-07.44
Newcastle	16.09-07.51
Norwich	16.09-07.28
Penzance	16.50-07.41
Sheffield	16.17-07.41

Weather Eye
Paul Simons



The weather across the UK this month is giving us a wild ride. The full fury of the Atlantic battered Scotland on Thursday with the worst storm to hit the UK since December 1998. Thousands of schools across Scotland were closed and 60,000 homes left without power. Winds gusted to 265km/h (165mph) over Cairngorm, in the Highlands, the second-highest wind gust recorded in the UK. The storm also hit Northern Ireland and northern England with winds reaching over 118km/h (73mph), force 12 on the Beaufort scale. Hill snow and heavy rain fell with blizzard conditions in some places.

A particularly violent feature of the storm was a sting jet — a ferocious wind that falls from a great height. A research plane flown by the Met Office and University of Reading revealed very cold air from the top of the storm clouds crashed to the ground, blasted through Glasgow and the surrounding region before hitting Aberdeenshire later on. John Methven who was on board the flight also reported seeing the tops of thunderclouds sheared off by the fierce spirals of wind around the storm. "It was amazing in the centre, it was like the wall of cloud you see in a tropical cyclone where the most intense rains fall, although this was a completely different type of storm."

After the heavy rains and snow passed through, another shock followed as Arctic air sent temperatures plummeting with widespread ice and frost. This weekend looks to be remaining bitterly cold, and there is more trouble ahead next week as another deep depression swings past the UK. This re-awakening of the Atlantic has been good news for ski resorts in Scotland and Europe. After the desert-like conditions this warm autumn, the big weather fronts from the Atlantic are sweeping deep into Europe and dropping hefty snowfalls on the Alps. Close to 1m (3ft) of snow has fallen in some parts of the French, Swiss and Austrian Alps. And with more snow expected this weekend, it is making a great start to the ski season.

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