

Low pressure surrounded the UK on the 1st with a cold NW to N air flow across the region. This brought a spell of quite heavy snow during the early morning giving a 2cm cover by 0900. As the front passed the sky cleared, the wind turning SSW bringing milder air and a rapid thaw. All lying snow had vanished by noon as the air temperature reached 9.5C.

The 2nd was a brighter day with early sunshine though further fronts brought increasing cloud and intermittent rain during the late afternoon and evening. This became heavier overnight and into the 3rd by which time air temperatures had reached 11.3C. The 3rd saw further frontal systems crossing the country with at least 3 low pressures centres nearby. Though temperatures began mild under the influence of the WSW wind, they fell gradually as the wind veered NW with the passage of the cold front at 0356 on the 4th.

With a deepening low transferring rapidly from the SW Approaches into the North Sea during the 4th and a new high centre developing to the south of the UK winds became mainly north westerly. This brought further periods of snow to the North and the North Midlands. The 5th dawned with a brisk, unstable, cold NW air stream across the country with ground temperatures barely above freezing under generally clear skies. The day saw brief showers and sunny spells, though the passage of a cold front during the night of the 5th/6th brought a period of more general rain across the Midlands.

As this front made slow progress north eastwards on the 6th, milder Atlantic air flooded across the Midlands bringing spells of rain under dull skies, though the to the north of this front precipitation was of snow giving moderate to heavy accumulations over the Pennines and Scotland. The Midlands was well within the warm sector on the 7th, the day seeing good sunny spells and occasional rain with a mainly westerly air flow, temperatures peaking at 12.9C during the afternoon.

Low pressure remained to the north of the UK on the 8th and this moved slowly eastwards a more north to north easterly air flow to encroach on the region. The result was to replace the mild Atlantic air with colder Polar air, maximum temperatures just reaching 8.7C with a sprinkling of light rain. Pressure rose rapidly during the 8th with a high centre becoming established to the west of the UK. This gave much clearer skies and a sharp ground frost and slight air frost resulted overnight on the 8th/9th, the ensuing day producing 10.4 hours of sunshine under cloudless conditions and a light SE to E air flow.

After an early ground frost, the 10th saw a deepening Atlantic low to the west of Scotland, its occluded front crossing the area south eastwards during the day. The passage of this front resulted in a day of blustery winds and periods of rain mainly in the late afternoon and evening giving a total of 8.2mm. In its wake was a N to NW air stream and much cooler Arctic air.

This low pressure area moved into Scandinavia on the 11th with a predominantly northerly air flow across the country. This gave a cool day with periods of broken sunshine and scattered, light, showers. At the same time a further high pressure cell developed to the south west near sea area Sole, translating slowly eastwards. Pressure rose across the region, the 12th dawning with mainly clear skies and a slight ground frost. A warm front crossed the country southwards round the western flank of this high pressure bringing a period of rain during the afternoon and evening of the 12th, though it became a little warmer.

The high pressure remained the dominant synoptic feature over the 13th which dawned overcast with slight drizzle though temperatures remained fairly high at around 7C. Further fronts edged south eastwards bringing spells of light rain and drizzle with afternoon temperatures peaking at 9C. Both the 14th and 15th saw a continuation of this dull, anticyclonic weather with only occasional brightness and low radiation values, daytime maxima peaking between 9 and 9.5C, winds remaining predominantly NW.

The 16th dawned with a full cover of strato cumulus, the anticyclone still persisting to the west of the country, though by now declining slightly as low pressure tracked towards northern Scotland. Both the 16th and 17th were days of quiet weather with little or no sunshine though it was fairly mild with maximum temperatures of 11.2C and 11.3C respectively. The anticyclone remained near to the north of the country, its central pressure rising gradually to peak at 1044.1hPa on the 19th. The 18th was both warmer at 13.0C and sunnier with 5.1 hours of sunshine but it was the 19th which saw the most sunshine with 9.5 hours on a day of only very broken cloud and light WSW winds.