

## ***SUMMARY OF HEAVY SNOWFALLS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 2002***

The year 2002, had virtually no heavy snowfalls, in fact only a total of three heavy snowfall days occurred during the entire year with no heavy snow occurring across Wales and/or the southern parts of the United Kingdom.

### ***Friday 25 January 2002***

Rain across Ireland (due to a warm front) spread eastwards across the United Kingdom turning to snow in many parts of Scotland and Northern England by the afternoon. Some of the snow was heavy and continuous, with some places across Scotland seeing falls between 10-15cm. This amount of snow caused severe disruption to several major routes. The worst affected area was Inverness, where high winds compounded the problem, with several drivers stuck in snowdrifts.

### ***Saturday 23 February 2002***

Troughs and an occluded front (associated with a polar low) caused the worst heavy snowfall of 2002 to many parts of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Northern England. There were widespread wintry showers across these areas, which at times merged to give a longer spell of snow in places, especially across Northern Scotland. During the day, these sleet and snow showers pushed southwards across other parts of the United Kingdom, but the snowfalls were not as significant as in Scotland and Northern England.

The heavy snow was also associated with high winds. The snow and the wind brought chaos across the roads across northern districts of the United Kingdom as blizzards caused treacherous conditions with many accidents. Snow drifts up to 6m in height, blocked many routes, especially across the higher routes of Scotland. Hundreds of homes also lost power supplies, while emergency services advised people to stay at home. The heavy snow caused a driver to be killed and his passenger to be injured when their car slid off the A19 in Peterlee, County Durham and hit a lamppost. In Scotland, police rescued 16 people, including a child, when they were trapped in their cars after snowplough crews were unable to reach them on the A9 Wick-to-Inverness road.

By 0400 GMT, 12cm of snow lay at Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, while at Wishaw, Strathclyde the snow depth at 0900 GMT was 7cm. Between 1000-1100 GMT, 5cm of snow fell at Aviemore, Inverness-shire with 19cm of snow lying there by the end of the evening. Other snow lying measurements that day included 17cm at Kyle, Sutherland, 8cm at Stornoway, Western Isles and 10cm at Saughall, Ayrshire. Middleton, Derbyshire had 14cm of snow lying by the end of the day (the largest snowfall there since February 1994). Snowdrifts of 1m were still visible at Middleton, Derbyshire by the end of February.

### ***Sunday 10 March 2002***

The final heavy snowfall day of 2002 saw heavy snow fall across the hills of Northern England and Scotland, due to a warm front which pushed in from Ireland during the early morning. An avalanche on Beinn Dearg, near Ullapool, Highland killed two men. At Ardtalnaig, Perthshire 11cm of snow fell but soon melted, while Carnbo, Kinross-shire recorded a snowfall of 13cm by the end of the morning. The heavy snow caused hazardous conditions across many parts of Scotland with the county of Tayside being the worst affected.