

SUMMARY OF HEAVY SNOWFALLS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 2007

The year 2007 saw a total of nine heavy snowfall days. Most of the heavy snowfalls occurred in the month of February.

Thursday 18 January 2007

Heavy snow brought travel problems and school closures to parts of Grampian, Tayside, Fife and central Scotland as a whole. Heavy snow showers forced eight schools to close in Perth and Kinross, twenty in the Falkirk area, thirty-seven in Fife and eleven in Stirlingshire. Police also reported a string of traffic accidents on the roads in Perthshire and one in Angus due to the wintry conditions. The snow reduced the M90 Perth-Edinburgh road to one lane and the road was later closed between Milnathort, Tayside and Kelty in Fife. The A9 Dundee-Perth road was also shut south of Perth, Perthshire when a lorry jack-knifed and another became snowbound. A snowplough also had to free a number of cars stuck in snow on the A809 Glasgow-Drymen road near Killearn, Stirlingshire while the northbound M90 in Fife was shut when two jack-knifed lorries blocked the carriageway, leading to delays of several hours. Snow forced traffic chiefs to close snow gates after two lorries jack-knifed on the A9 between Dalwhinnie and Blair Atholl in the Highlands. In the Strathclyde area, police reported that there had also been significant snowfall on the M74 south of Hamilton, Lanarkshire. The snow also forced flights in and out of Glasgow Airport to be cancelled. Up to 25cm of snow fell above 400m in central and southern Grampian.

Wednesday 24 January 2007

There was light to moderate snow across much of East Midlands, East Anglia, central southern and SE England before dawn. There was also some slight snow across the higher ground of northern and central Scotland. The snow across southern England caused slow-moving traffic to occur on the M1, M4, M40, M25, M23, A2, A3, A4, A406, A1 and A13. The northbound M23 was closed for a short period of time after the snow caused a traffic collision. The snow also caused disruption and closure of several underground lines on the London Tube network. Heathrow, Gatwick and Norwich Airports saw flight delays during the morning due to the wintry conditions. The deepest fall of snow that morning was 4cm in parts of Oxfordshire. During the afternoon and evening further snow showers continued across SE England, particularly across eastern Kent, London and East Sussex. By the late evening, snow depths of up to 13cm across the North Downs of Kent were reported.

Thursday 8 February 2007 – Friday 9 February 2007

Snowfalls of 2-5cm occurred generally across many districts of England and Wales, while 15-20cm of snow occurred across the Chiltern Hills in Buckinghamshire and the Brecon Beacons in South Wales. Parts of London saw up to 10cm of snow that caused significant disruption to traffic. The snowfall across London was the worst snowfall in seven years, while the snow forced 2,000 schools to close across many counties of England and Wales. Blizzard conditions were also reported over the high ground in South Wales as the snow was whipped up by strong winds. The snow fell as far north as East Anglia and parts of Lincolnshire, although further north there were also snow showers over E and N Scotland. Police in Essex dealt with more than 340 complaints from motorists who found roads blocked by giant snowballs made by gangs of schoolchildren or were ambushed by children throwing snowballs at passing cars. Airports were among the worst hit services due to the snow. Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Norwich, Stansted and Luton Airports all temporarily closed their runways, leading to long delays. Gatwick and Heathrow Airports also cancelled some flight departures. Around 200 flights were thought to have been affected in total due to the snow across England and Wales. On the railways, Virgin Trains, First Great Western, Midland Mainline, South West Trains and Southern Railway services were all disrupted due to the wintry conditions. The snow also proved costly for one teenager called John Knowles. Mr Knowles, 18 was fined £80 for building a snowman in a park in Cambridge, Cambridgeshire with 1.2m snow penis. In Carmarthen, Dyfed more than 500 drivers were trapped by the snow for up to five hours on a gridlocked A48.

During the 9th, rain pushing north across South Wales and the South Midlands turned to snow, leading to traffic disruption. The city of Birmingham came to a standstill, while Birmingham International Airport's runway was forced to close for three hours due to the wintry weather. In Hereford and Worcestershire

about 250 cars were abandoned in snowdrifts between Hereford and Worcester on the A4103, while in Shropshire, Arriva Midlands suspended bus services in Shrewsbury and Telford. During the evening, heavy snow fell across parts of NE England. By the evening, snow up to 22cm was observed across parts of mid Wales.

Monday 26 February 2007

Heavy snow fell across the Highlands of Scotland particularly across the higher ground. The police warned drivers not to travel on the snow-covered roads of the A85, A84, A82 and A827.

Sunday 18 March 2007 – Monday 19 March 2007

Wintry showers affected many areas of the UK, particularly in Scotland. Snow caused problems on the roads in Grampian, with car accidents on the Oyne to Inch road, the A947 Newmachar to Oldmeldrum road, the B9016 Buckie to Keith road and the A947 Banff to Aberdeen road. By the end of the 19th, twenty-six schools were closed or partially closed across Aberdeenshire.

Sunday 18 November 2007 – Monday 19 November 2007

Heavy snow fell across the Pennines during the morning of the 18th. Heavy snow also affected parts of the Midlands with some parts of Shropshire and Hereford and Worcestershire seeing snow depths on the morning of the 19th in excess of 13cm. The snow caused 4,000 homes to lose their electricity across parts of the Midlands. Eight people were taken to hospital due to a motorway car crash early on the 19th on the M42 near Tamworth, Staffordshire. On the evening of the 18th, Alvechurch, Worcestershire recorded a snow depth of 23cm.