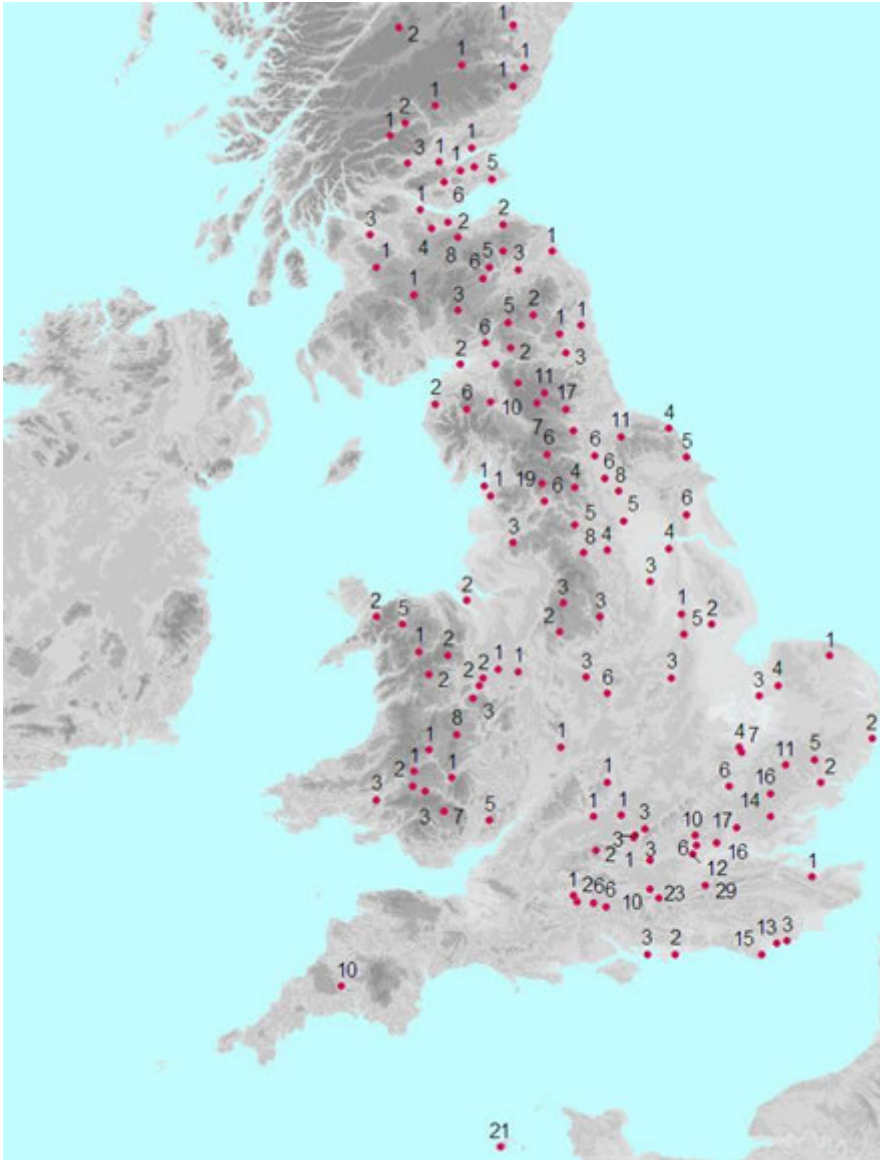


Early February 2009 snowfalls

February 2 - Heavy snowfalls in eastern England, with significant travel disruption in London and the south-east.

There were heavy snowfalls in many parts of eastern England overnight 1st/2nd, with widespread travel disruption. London and parts of Essex, Kent, Surrey and Hampshire were particularly badly affected, but there was also disruption in parts of northern and eastern England. Runways were closed at Heathrow, all London buses were stopped and vehicles were abandoned in the Yorkshire Wolds.

A selection of depths at at 0900 GMT on 2 February is shown in the following map.



Stations reporting snow depths of 16 cm or more

Snow depth (cm)	Station	County
29	Mickleham	Surrey
23	Alice Holt Lodge	Hampshire
21	Guernsey Airport	Channel Islands
20	Cupar, Elmwood Agricultural College	Fife
19	Malham Tarn	North Yorkshire

17	Copley	Durham
17	High Beach	Hertfordshire
16	Andrewsfield	Essex
16	Hampstead	Greater London

Amongst the depths recorded at unofficial stations were 31 cm at Epsom (Surrey), 26 cm at Old Woking (Surrey), 13 cm at Blackheath (SE London) and 9 cm at Wokingham (Berks) (source uk.sci.weather newsgroup). In Wallington (Surrey), level depths of 24-27 cm were measured in various locations.

Photograph taken in Sutton, Surrey (reproduced by permission of Roger White).



Previous snowfall

The last time widespread snowfalls affected the UK was in February 1991. From the 8th to the 14th, there was over 20 cm of lying snow over the eastern half of England and Scotland. A depth of 51 cm was reported from Bingley, West Yorkshire at 0900 on the 9th. In London, snow depths on the 9th were 18 cm at St James's Park, 21 cm at Greenwich and 25 cm at Hampstead.

Among the other heavy falls in the London area, going back to the severe 1962/3 winter, were the following.

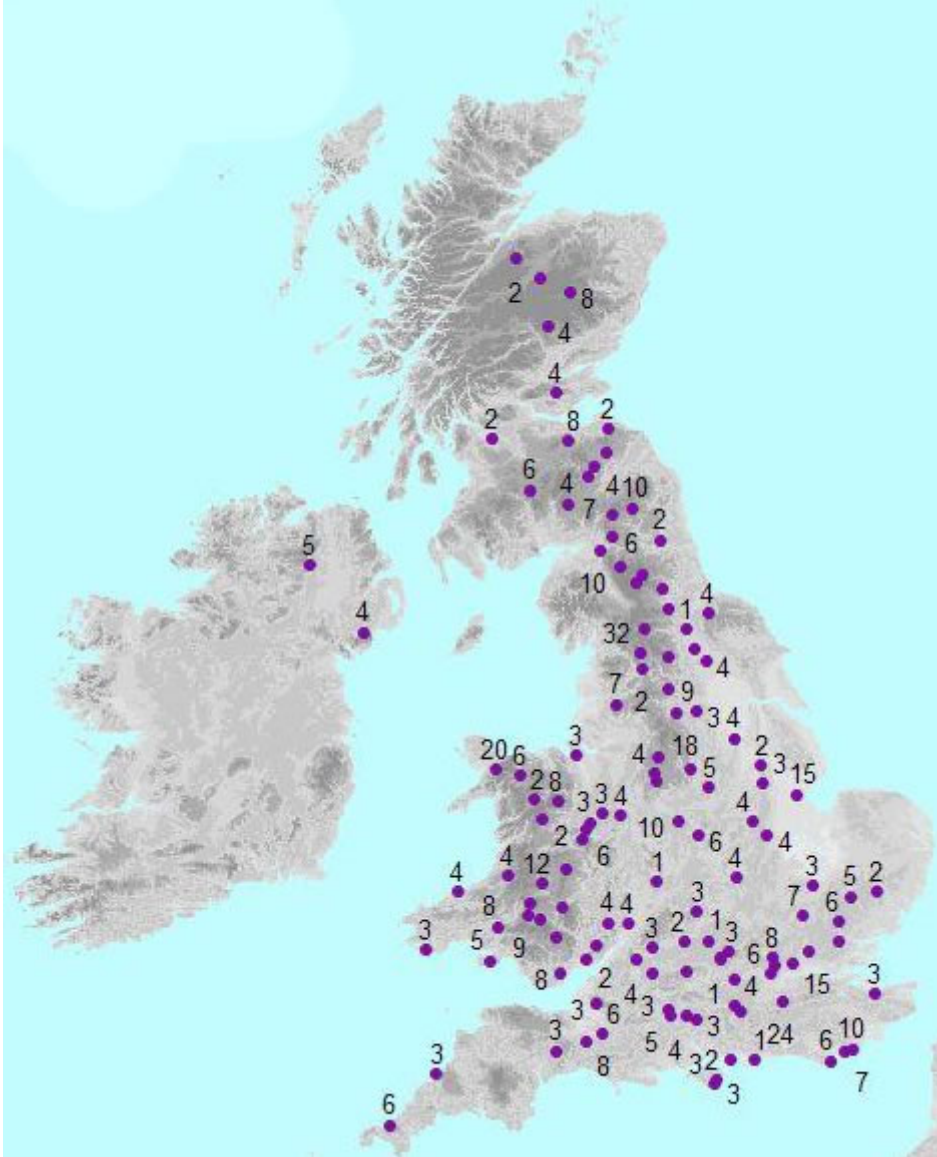
Heavy falls in the London area since Winter 1962/3

Dates	Depths and areas affected
12-14 January 1987	Mainly Kent, Essex, Surrey and east London. On the 13th, up to 65 cm over north Kent, 55 cm at Southend, 45 cm at Orpington (Kent)
8-10 January 1982	12-15 cm in Greater London with 30 cm at Hampstead
8-11 December 1981	Up to 10 cm in central London and 15-20 cm in suburbs, with 26 cm at Heathrow on the 11th
26-30 December 1962	By the 30th, 30 cm widely over Greater London; 40-60 cm on higher ground from Hampshire to Kent

February 3 - The focus of the fresh snowfalls moved to northern and western England and Wales

Parts of the UK, particularly England and Wales, struggled with a second day of disruption with further delays on roads and cancelled trains and flights, and more than 6,000 school closures.

A selection of depths (cm) at 0900 GMT on 3 February are shown on the following map.



The depths of 16 cm or more reported were:

Stations reporting snow depths of 16 cm or more

Snow depth (cm)	Station	County
32	Malham Tarn	North Yorkshire
30	Westgate	Northumberland
25	Copley	Durham
24	Mickleham	Surrey
20	Alston	Cumbria
20	Dinorwic	Gwynedd
19	Alice Holt Lodge	Hampshire
18	Emley Moor	West Yorkshire
18	Llangunllo	Powys
18	Washington	Durham

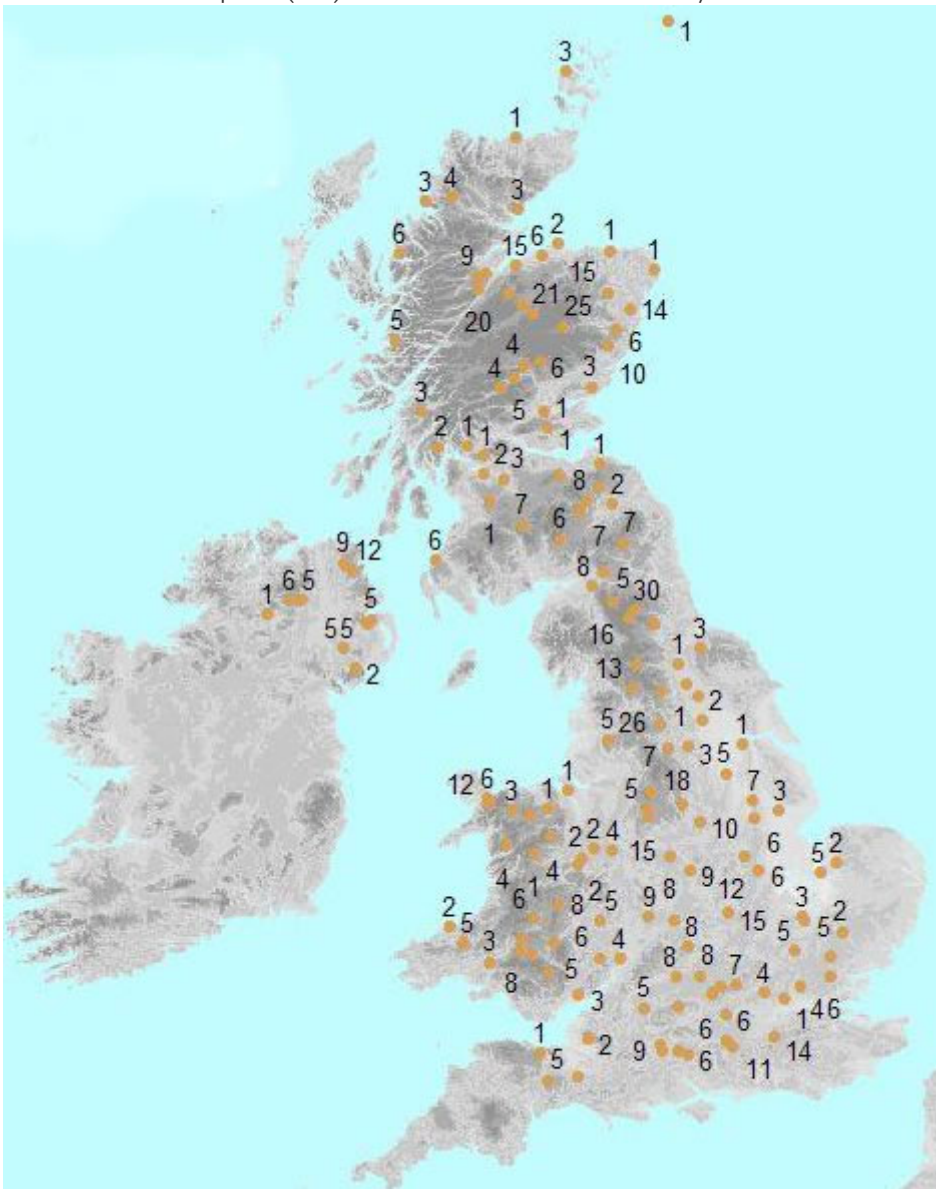
17	Hunt Hall Farm	Durham
17	Pateley Bridge	North Yorkshire
16	High Beach	Hertfordshire

In addition, a depth of 17 cm was reported on the uk.sci.weather newsgroup from Tideswell (Derbyshire, altitude 303 m).

February 5 - Fresh snowfalls in parts of south-west England, the Midlands, Wales and Scotland, again caused travel disruption

There were further heavy snow falls from north Devon northwards through the Midlands and Wales and in the Scottish Highlands overnight, with widespread road, rail and air travel disruption. Two walkers died in the Lake District. The continued snow led to worries about shortages of salt and grit used for winter road maintenance.

A selection of depths (cm) at 0900 GMT on 5 February are shown on the following map.



The depths of 16 cm or more reported were:

Stations reporting snow depths of 16 cm or more

Snow depth (cm)	Station	County
60	Cairngorm Chairlift	Highland
30	Westgate	Northumberland
30	Tredegar	Gwent

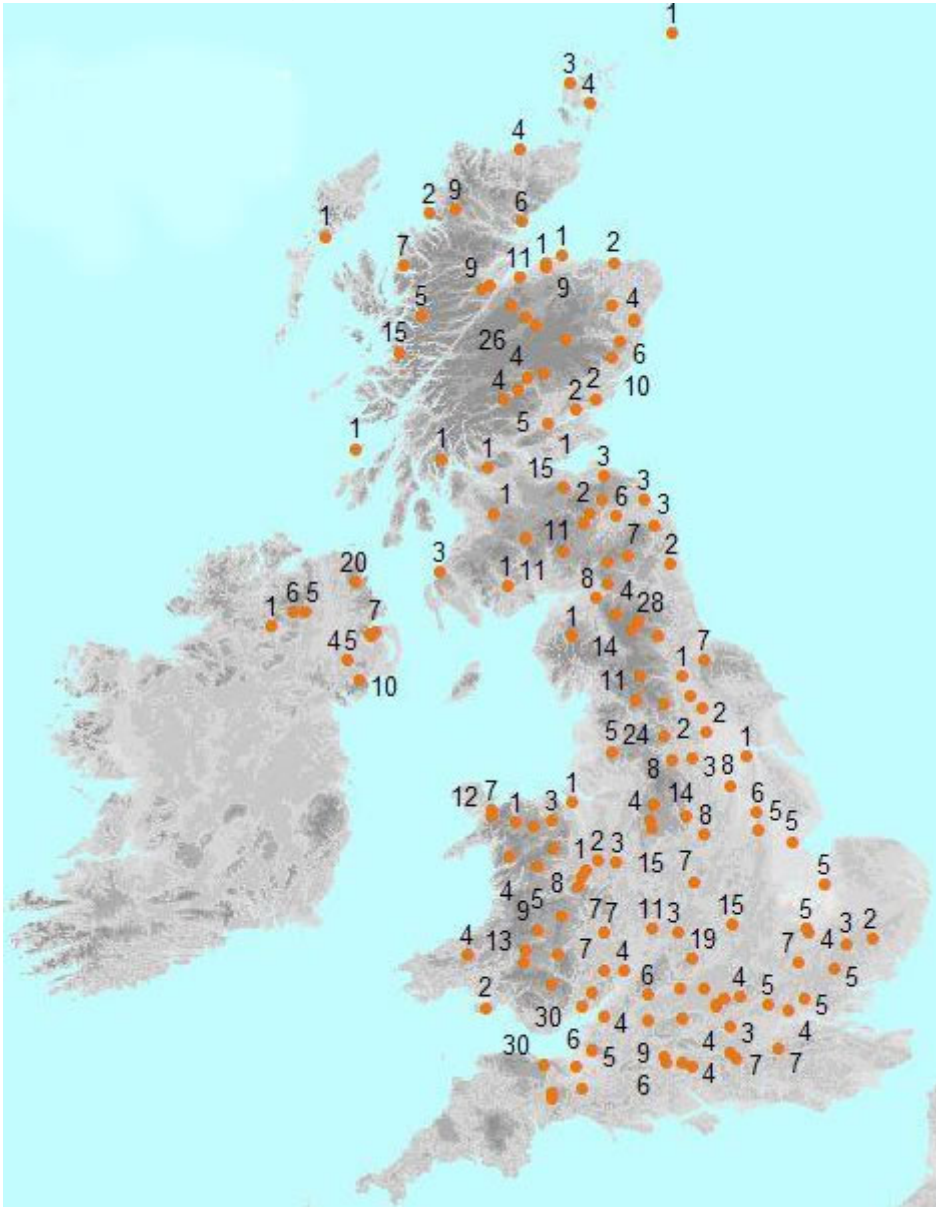
28	Strathdearn	Strathdearn
26	Malham Tarn	North Yorkshire
25	Balmoral	Aberdeenshire
22	Copley	Durham
21	Aviemore	Highland
20	Drumnadrochit	Highland
18	Emley Moor	West Yorkshire
16	Upper Lambourn	Berkshire
16	Hunt Hall Farm	Durham
16	Libanus	Powys
16	Pateley Bridge	North Yorkshire
16	Alwen	Clwyd

Amongst the depths recorded at unofficial stations were 13 cm at Whipsnade (Bedfordshire), 11 cm at Didcot (Oxfordshire), 11 cm at Charlbury (Oxfordshire) and 10 cm at Tideswell (Derbyshire) (source uk.sci.weather newsgroup).

February 6 - The focus of the overnight snowfalls was again parts of SW England, the south Midlands and south Wales

Heavy overnight snow brought travel disruption, particularly to Devon and Somerset. Many schools were closed and 12,000 Devon homes were without electricity. The second Severn crossing was closed because of ice falling from overhead signs.

A selection of depths (cm) at 0900 GMT on 6 February are shown on the following map.



The depths of 16 cm or more reported were:

Stations reporting snow depths of 16 cm or more

Snow depth (cm)	Station	County
60	Cairngorm Chairlift	Strathdearn
30	Nettlecombe	Somerset
30	Tredegar	Gwent
28	Westgate	Northumberland
26	Strathdearn	Strathdearn
24	Malham Tarn	North Yorkshire
21	Copley	Durham
21	Dunkeswell	Devon
20	Upper Lambourn	Berkshire
20	Dungonnell	Antrim
19	Velindre	Powys
19	South Newington	Oxfordshire
17	Balmoral	Aberdeenshire
16	Pateley Bridge	North Yorkshire

Amongst the depths recorded at unofficial stations were 19 cm at Haytor, Devon (altitude 313 m), 19 cm at Whipsnade (Beds), 17 cm at Charlbury (Oxon), and 12 cm at Stogursey (Somerset) (source uk.sci.weather newsgroup).

Various Met Office staff reported undrifted depths of 30-45 cm across Aberdeenshire between the 6th and 12th, mainly within a 20-mile radius from Aberdeen city centre. Snow lay with a full cover for two weeks and only totally thawed at low levels on Friday 20th. Snow depths of 3 cm or more were recorded at Aberdeen airport until 16 February.

Last updated: 26 October 2012

