

Monday 13 February 1989

(Highest recorded low level wind speed in the United Kingdom)

Weather chart for 1200 UTC on 13 February 1989

General summary

Overnight the weather turned cloudy nearly everywhere and rain, often heavy, spread to most places before daybreak, although some eastern areas stayed dry all night. In the north there was sleet and snow for a while, especially over the Scottish mountains. During the morning the wet weather reached all areas with heavy rain in many places. Later in the morning in Northern Ireland the weather brightened up and this brighter weather with some sunshine, but showers as well, reached all parts by early evening. In the north there were heavy showers with hail and thunder with snow over the Scottish mountains. Temperatures were well above average again everywhere but most places had a very windy day with gales or severe gales even storm force winds, especially in Scotland.

Significant weather event

It was very windy, particularly in northern areas, with gusts reaching 92 knots at Butt of Lewis and 93 knots at Benbecula, in the Western Isles and 100 knots at Fair Isle. At Fraserburgh, Abrdeenshire, the mean wind speed increased very rapidly from 15 knots at 1730 GMT to 60 knots at 1900 GMT. As the wind direction veered from southwesterly to north-westerly, a record gust for a low-level station of 123 knots was measured with an hourly mean speed of 66 knots. The high winds disrupted traffic and brought down trees as far south as Leicestershire and North Wales, with buses and high-sided lorries blown over. In Dunfermline, Fife Region, nine people were injured when the roof of a hospital ward was blown off.

Hour beginning (GMT)		Benbecula NGR 7828555 Altitude 5 metres			Butt of Lewis NGR 15199665 Altitude 16 metres			Fair Isle MCR 421010712 Altitude 57 metres			Praserburgh NGB 39998675 Altitude 18 metres		
		degs	mph	aph	degs	mph	mph	degs	mph	mph	degs	mph	mph
		D	S	G	D	8	G	D	3	G	D	8	G
13 Feb	0000	230	18	37	230	18	32	260	23	38	210	13	22
	0100	210	17	30	230	18	28	250	20	40	210	13	23
	0200	190	22	35	210	20	28	240	25	40	200	12	24
	0300	190	24	38	200	23	38	230	24	38	210	15	29
	0400	190	30	50	200	28	50	210	28	40	210	13	25
	0500	190	33	52	200	38	58	200	28	42 .	180	09	21
	0600	190	32	52	200	44	67	200	30	. 45	180	18	33
	0700	200	32	41	230	43	59	190	31	46	180	23	43
	0800	240	24	39	210	37	53	180	35	51	190	25	45
	0900	240	25	53	240	32	47	170	39	56	180	27	46
	1000	250	29	51	230	35	53	180	40	58	180	27	45
	1100	240	30	54	240	33	50	180	40	66	180	23	43
	1200	250	33	56	230	32	47	190	38	54	180	18	43
	1300	270	37	58	240	31	46	200	35	50	190	14	27
	1400	290	52	85	270	25	37	200	30	46	220	16	36
	1500	320	69	107	300	29	65	200	24	38	210	16	35
	1600	320	65	106	330	71	106	190	20	31	220	20	33
	1700	330	56	88	330	65	104	220	18	29	260	25	46
	1800	330	52	78	330	62	94	260	15	27	280	42	75
	1900	330	44	62	330	55	83	280	18	48	300	69	99
	2000	330	39	58	330	45	71	330	46	104	310	78	142
	2100	320	36	54	330	39	61	330	51	115	310	61	89
	2200	340	27	45	320	35	65	330	42	94	310	69	91
	2300	320	37	58	320	38	81	330	39	89	310	63	85

Tables showing hourly wind direction, mean wind speed and maximum gust at Benbecula, Butt of Lewis, Fair Isle and Fraserburgh on 13th February 1989.

Daily weather extremes

Highest Maximum Temperature

13.6 °C at Exmouth (Devon)

Lowest Minimum Temperature -1.6 °C at Fylingdales (North Yorkshire)

Most Rainfall

30.9 mm at Aviemore (Highland)

Most Sunshine

5.6 hours at Cardiff, Bute Park (South Glamorgan)

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