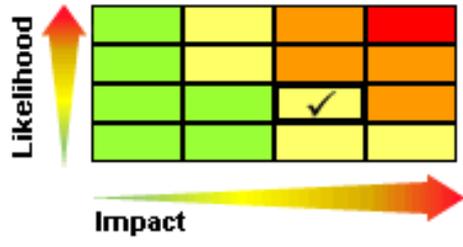
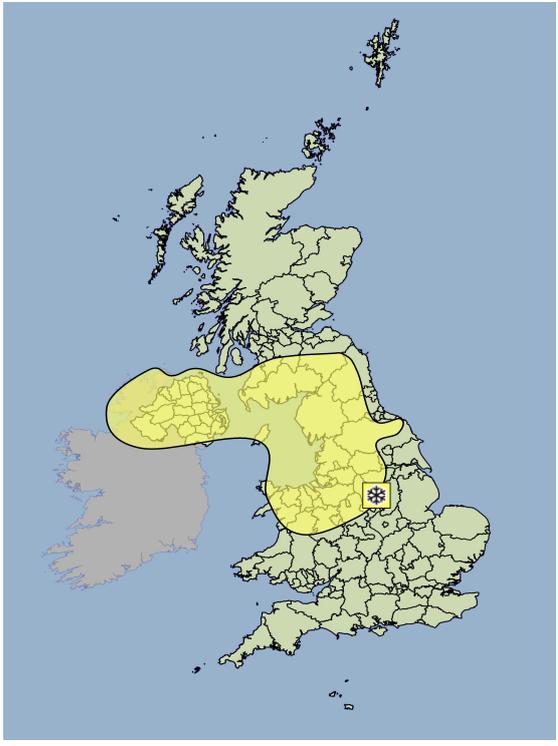


National Severe Weather Warning Service



Chief Forecasters Assessment

Following a slightly quieter interlude midweek, an active frontal system will push northwards during Thursday, increasingly coming into contact with the block of unusually cold air in place across northern Britain, the North Sea and Scandinavia. Since yesterday, indications are that the front will grind to a halt further south, potentially affecting a broad swathe of central Britain from some 24 to 36 hours.

During this period, a combination of strong winds and persistent snow looks like leading to some particularly wintry weather - especially for so late in the season. There remain some uncertainties at this stage in exactly where the worst of the snow will be, and in some low-lying areas the rain-snow balance is not yet clear-cut, which means that further refinements to the warning area are very likely.

The Met Office have issued a **Yellow Warning of Snow**

Valid from **21:00 on Thu, 21st Mar 2013** until **18:00 on Sat, 23rd Mar 2013**

An area of rain and sleet moving from the south, will turn increasingly to snow as it does so. Towards some east coastal areas, heavy rain and sleet will perhaps remain more likely, with a risk of localised flooding, mainly in the east of Northern Ireland. However some heavy and persistent snowfall is likely to develop across many other areas, with in excess of 10 cm of snow in some inland parts, and perhaps much more than this over hills. Taking into account the strong to gale force winds, some atrocious conditions with drifting and blizzards are expected for many upland areas in particular, and it is increasingly likely that this warning will eventually be upgraded to Amber for parts of this region.

This is an update of the warning issued on Tuesday, pulling the focus of the snow further south and west, in line with latest thoughts. The public should be aware of the likelihood of

a spell of difficult and disruptive wintry weather, with impacts on travel and, perhaps, on power supplies.

For more details please go to:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/warnings>

Issued by the Met Office at 12:13 on Tue, 19th Mar 2013

Updated by the Met Office at 11:30 on Wed, 20th Mar 2013

For enquiries regarding this warning please contact the Met Office Weather Desk

Phone: 0870 900 0100 Fax: 0870 900 5050 E-mail: enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk

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For the following areas

- East Midlands
 - Derbyshire
- North East England
 - Darlington
 - Durham
 - Gateshead
 - Newcastle upon Tyne
 - Northumberland
 - Redcar and Cleveland
- North West England
 - Blackburn with Darwen
 - Blackpool
 - Cheshire East
 - Cheshire West and Chester
 - Cumbria
 - Greater Manchester
 - Halton
 - Lancashire
 - Merseyside
 - Warrington
- Northern Ireland
 - County Antrim
 - County Armagh
 - County Down
 - County Fermanagh
 - County Londonderry
- County Tyrone
- SW Scotland, Lothian Borders
 - Dumfries and Galloway
 - Scottish Borders
- Strathclyde
 - East Ayrshire
 - South Ayrshire
 - South Lanarkshire
- Wales
 - Conwy
 - Denbighshire
 - Flintshire
 - Gwynedd
 - Isle of Anglesey
 - Powys
 - Wrexham
- West Midlands
 - Shropshire
 - Staffordshire
 - Stoke-on-Trent
 - Telford and Wrekin
- Yorkshire & Humber
 - North Yorkshire
 - South Yorkshire
 - West Yorkshire

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