



Exceptional weather events

Type of event:

Snowfall

Date:

January 1982

Snowfall, January 1982

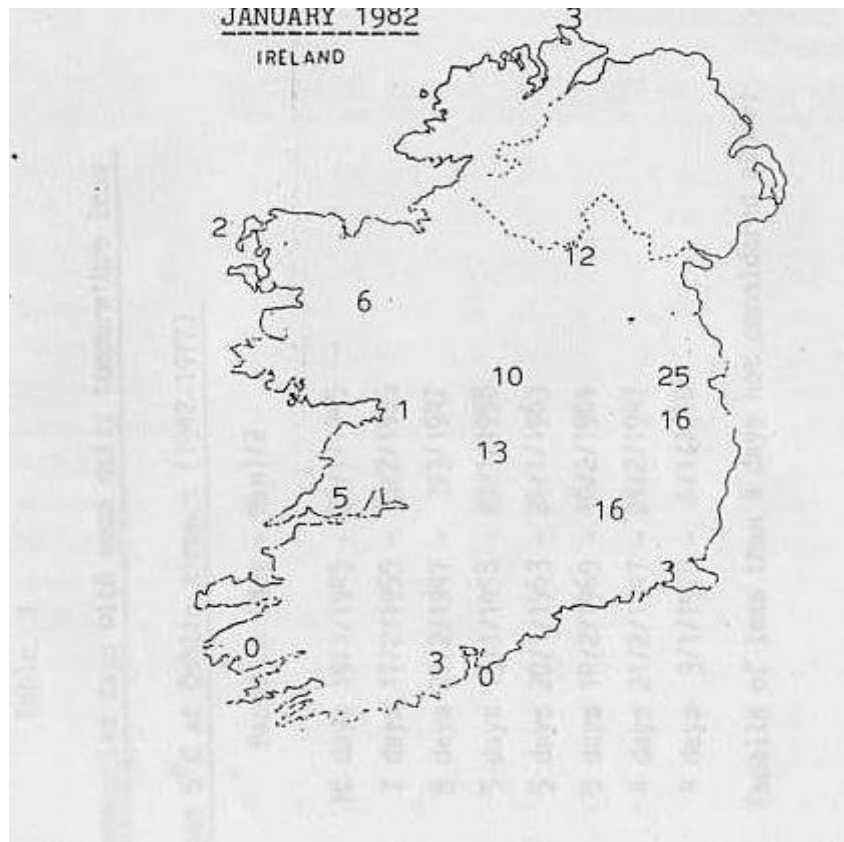
A prolonged snowfall on 8th and early 9th was widespread except for a few western and northern areas. Strong easterly winds, reaching gale force in some coastal areas, caused extensive and deep snowdrifts, particularly in the east. Due to the severe cold spell which followed, snow remained on the ground until about the 15th.

There were scattered light snow showers in the period 5th-7th, 10th-12th and on the 17th, 22nd and 26th. Conditions were most severe in the Dublin area, at the Phoenix Park there were 8 consecutive days with mean daily temperatures less than 0° C.



The exceptional snow of January 1982 (Photo: scene at Rathfarnham, county Dublin, by P.A. O'Dwyer)

Greatest Snow Depths (cm)



Estimate of weather conditions in the Dublin area during snowstorm 8th-13th
January 1982

8/1/82 00-24 hours GMT

Wind: Mainly east 20 knots increasing to 30 knots, gusts 35 knots

Weather: Persistent snow

Visibility: Generally poor

Temperature: +1°C to -1°C

9/1/82 00-24 hours GMT

Wind: Mainly east 20-25 knots, gusts 35 knots

Weather: Persistent snow at first - blowing snow or drifting snow affected the area during the day

Visibility: Poor at first - improving later

Temperature: -1°C to -2°C

10/1/82 00-24 hours GMT

Wind: Mainly east 10-15 knots

Weather: Cold, dry - sunny - snow lying

Visibility: Good

Temperature: 0°C to -3°C

11/1/82 00-24 hours GMT

Wind: East 10 knots becoming light variable

Weather: Cold, dry - sunny - snow lying

Visibility: Good

Temperature: -1°C rising to +3°C and falling again to -4°C

12/1/82 00-24 hours GMT

Wind: Light variable

Weather: Cold, dry - sunny - snow lying

Visibility: Good at first but becoming poor later in mist or haze

Temperature: Falling to around -7°C overnight, rising to around +3°C in the afternoon and falling to around -3°C in the evening.

13/1/82 00-07 hours GMT

Wind: Light variable

Weather: Patches of mist or freezing fog - snow lying

Visibility: Poor at times

Temperature: -2°C to -3°C

Note: Snow depths increased to 26 centimetres at Dublin Airport and 16 centimetres at Casement Aerodrome during the 8th and early on the 9th.

These measurements were made in places relatively free of drifts. Depths of over 1½ metres were observed where drifting occurred. There was no significant change in snow depths from 9th to the 12th.