

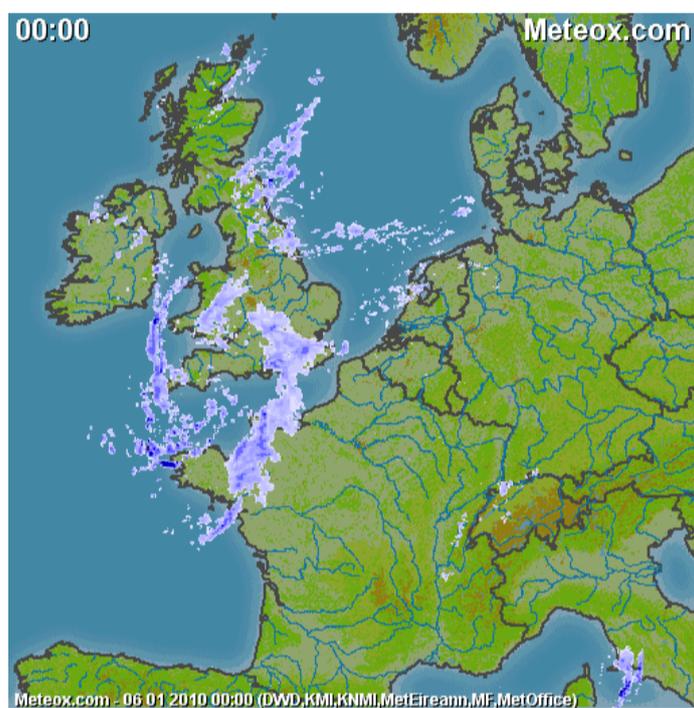
5th - 11th January 2010 – Snowfall & subsequent prolonged cold spell

It started snowing in Penzance during the evening of 5th, snow showers streaming down from Pembrokeshire. It continued in varying intensity until the early hours, and by 02:00 on the morning of 6th there was approximately 7-8cm of snow lying. After 02:00 the snow was more intermittent, in the form of snow pellets and kept turning to sleet. By dawn the cover was reduced to 4-5cm. The rainfall equivalent was 21.4mm.

There was much more snow accumulation inland just to the NW of Penzance. The photograph below was taken looking north from the St Buryan to Penzance road, 1 mile east of St. Buryan. The snow was still around 12cm deep in the field in the foreground



The radar image shows the persistent line of snow streaming south from Pembroke (a 'Pembroke dangler')



For the far SW of Cornwall, what was unusual about this snowfall was how long the ground cover persisted, despite the maximum temperature reaching as high as 4.8C on 8th. The overnight frosts, continuing snow showers, and mainly low dewpoints during 6th-9th, maintained a complete snow cover to the north & west of Penzance. It also gave rise to some exceptionally icy road conditions, especially morning & evening. The 10th saw further mainly light snow, with the temperature between 0 & +1.5C virtually all day. The snow settled to give a fresh thin cover in the morning, but there was a thaw in the afternoon.

The total rainfall equivalent for 5th-10th inclusive was 31.8mm, much more than areas just to the east. The frequently repeated snow, thaw, freeze cycle, over a period of 6 days, gave some atrocious road conditions. A rapid thaw finally set in during the evening of 11th, to be followed by a SE gale and Atlantic fronts on 12th.

On the morning of 10th, 5 days after the main snowfall, this was the scene at Newbridge (3 miles NW of Penzance).

