

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed November 18, 1930.

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BRITISH SNOWFALL

Occasionally the British Isles experience big snowstorms. One in southern England at Christmas, 1927, piled up a foot of snow over a wide area, with drifts up to 20 feet deep in some places, dislocating road and rail transport to an extent unknown for more than a generation.

Generally speaking, however, snow is much less frequent and abundant in the islands than most people suppose on this side of the Atlantic, where our impressions on the subject are drawn from the many snowy winter scenes that figure in British literature and pictures. Snow falls on 15 to 30 days each winter in Scotland and at high levels in England, but at low levels in the south and west the average is less than 10, falling to 5 in southern Ireland, where snow rarely lies on the ground, and 3 in the Scilly Isles, where it never lies. At most places snow is a possibility between early October and early May, but rare before November and after March. On Ben Nevis, the highest British mountain, snow falls in all months and totals 170 days a year on an average.

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