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Britain freezes under a blanket of snow
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Sleet and bitter frost to greet the new year

As Britain struggles to return to normal after heavy snow and freezing conditions, forecasters warn of strong winds and rain to come

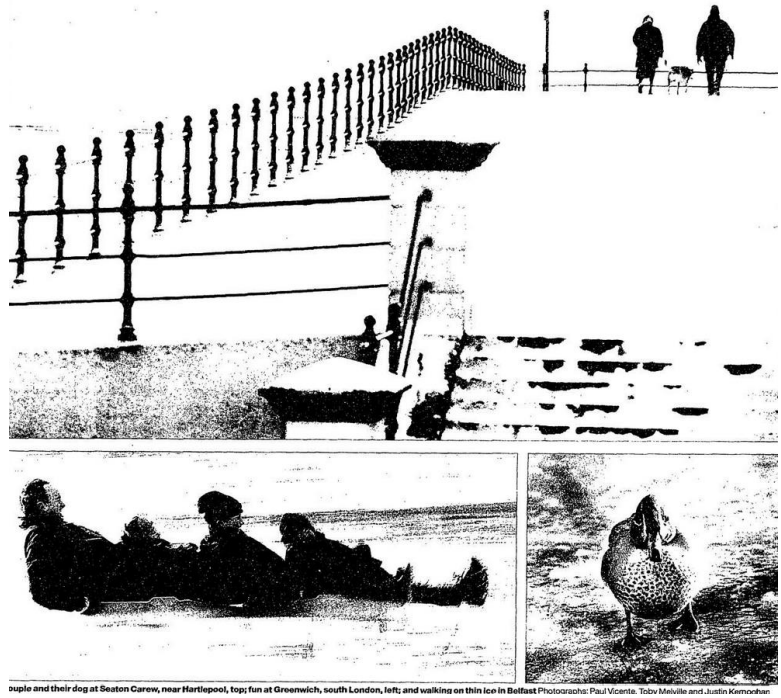
Britain will greet the new year with further sleet and bitter frost, a met office forecaster warned yesterday as the country struggled to return to normal after heavy snows.

He predicted the freeze would continue well into the weekend with few areas seeing temperatures above zero, and further snow showers in coastal areas.

"Sunday will see a slight change as it clouds over and gets very windy with rain coming in to the far south-west and turning to sleet," he added. "Following that it may turn a little less cold."

The news brought little cheer to Britons yesterday as fresh snow blanketed north-east and south-west England, East Anglia, northern Scotland and Northern Ireland. Other regions faced freezing fog, sleet and black ice on the roads.

Temperatures plunged as low as -13C (9F) on Thursday night in areas including Birmingham, Hereford and Glasgow, and were predicted to fall to -5C (23F) in the south, and -10C (14F) in the north-west last night. At Whitehaven, Cumbria, the harbour remained frozen.



ouple and their dog at Seaton Carew, near Hartlepool, top; fun at Greenwich, south London, left; and walking on thin ice in Belfast Photographs: Paul Vicente, Toby Melville and Justin Kernoghan

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