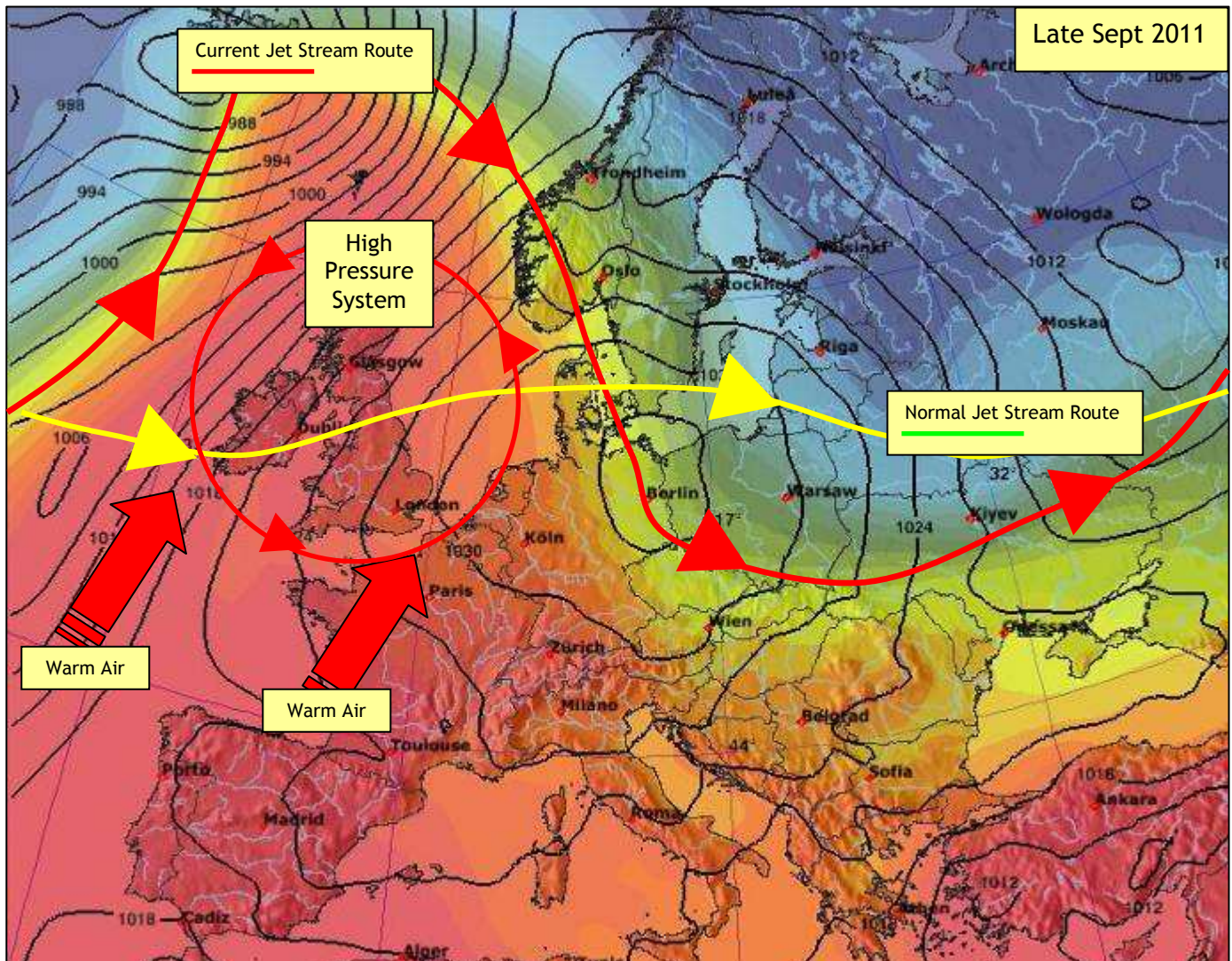




weathercheck

Autumn Blocking Event 2011



Blocking Event Explanation

When the Jet Stream is flowing normally (yellow line), it pushes weather systems from west to east across the U.K and continent in a matter of 2-3 days.

Currently the Jet Stream is flowing slowly and this causes large loops to occur in its pattern (red line), this has two consequences - Firstly it allows either warm, hot dry weather to develop underneath a peak, (as in this pattern) or cool, wetter weather to develop in a trough (as we had this summer). Secondly, the current weather system remains in place fixed for days, sometimes weeks, months at a time. This phenomenon is known as a **blocking event**.

Over the last four years, we have had warm temperature blocking events in October, but in 2008, 2009 and 2010, these occurred at the end of the month, rather than at the beginning.