

Guidance on what to include in the photo description:

Image examples in the International Cloud Atlas are accompanied by a text description. Please compose a description for your photo covering the points described below. Refer also to examples below and to the WMO International Cloud Atlas Volume 2 at library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/wmo_407_en-v2.pdf

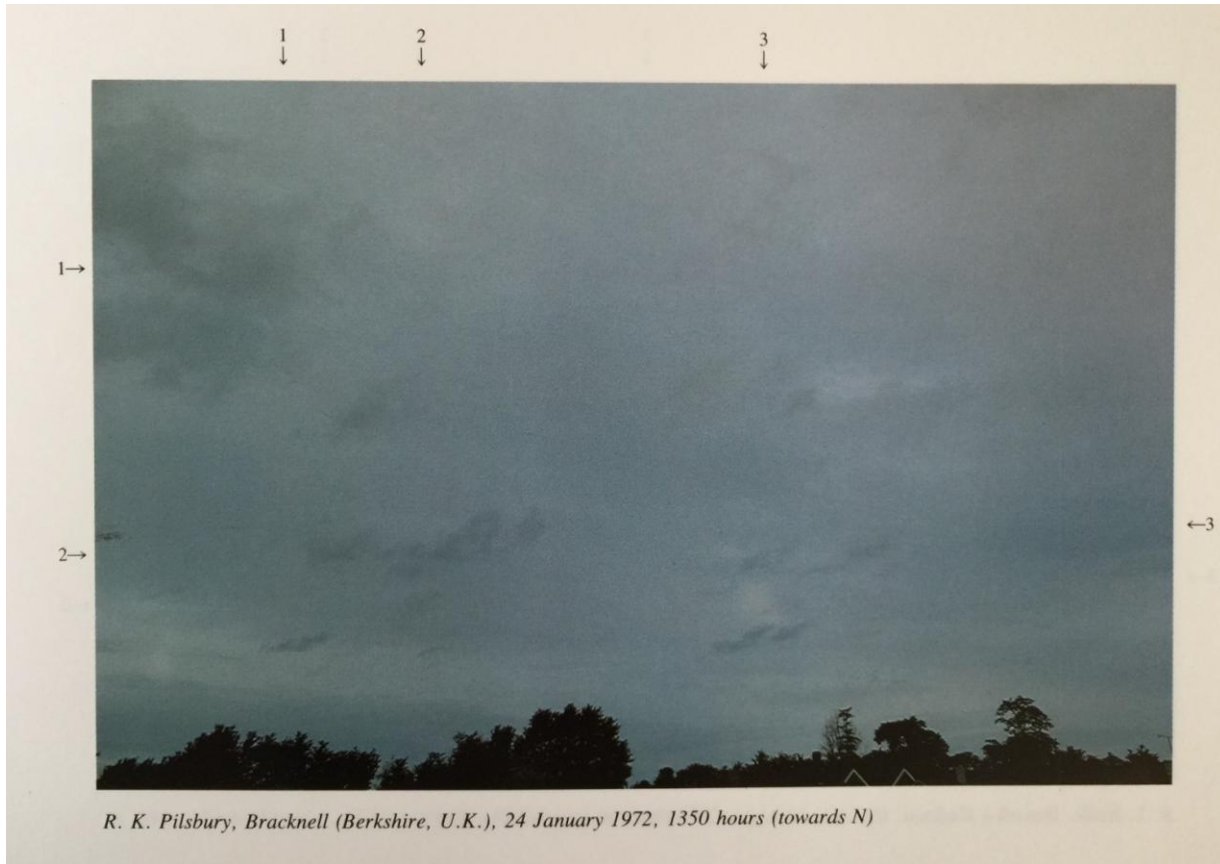
1. **Brief title**
2. **Classification of the cloud(s), and very brief (<10 words) description**, including for example the pattern of clouds, and weather type.
Examples: *Cumulus congestus praecipitatio, with haze* or *Rows of Cumulus and Cumulonimbus of strong vertical development*
3. **Description of the photograph and rationale for classification.**
Example: *The dense Stratocumulus layer is sufficiently opaque throughout to be identified as Stratocumulus opacus*
4. **Notes on formation/development/transition**
Example: *The drawn-out anvil of this maritime Cumulonimbus is shearing off the mother cloud which extends above it.*
5. **Consideration of climatic region and/or surface type and frequency of occurrence.**
Example: *The formation of multiple pulses within a long anvil such as at X occurs more often in the tropics and subtropics, in clouds evolving slowly over water in undisturbed conditions, than over land.*
6. **Notes on synoptic situation and how this relates to the elements observed in the photograph.**
Example: *The area was dominated by a light south-westerly airflow at low levels, while a weak closed circulation was located several hundred kilometres to the north. At upper levels an easterly flow prevailed which caused the anvil to be sheared to the right of the photograph.*
7. **Commonly used names and local variations**
Examples: pyrocumulus, fumulous, banner cloud, whale cloud.
8. **Synoptic coding of the sky** as depicted in the photograph **in the form C_L=, C_M=, C_H=.**

Further guidance:

- i) All in all, the photo description should be brief (guideline 50-150 words).
- ii) Reference should be made to all features that will be referenced in the photograph e.g. 'dark, horizontal base', 'fibrous tops', 'isolated fragments' etc.
- iii) Refer to WMO International Cloud Atlas Volume 2 for further examples:
library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/wmo_407_en-v2.pdf

Two examples from the current ICA

Nimbostratus with Stratus fractus

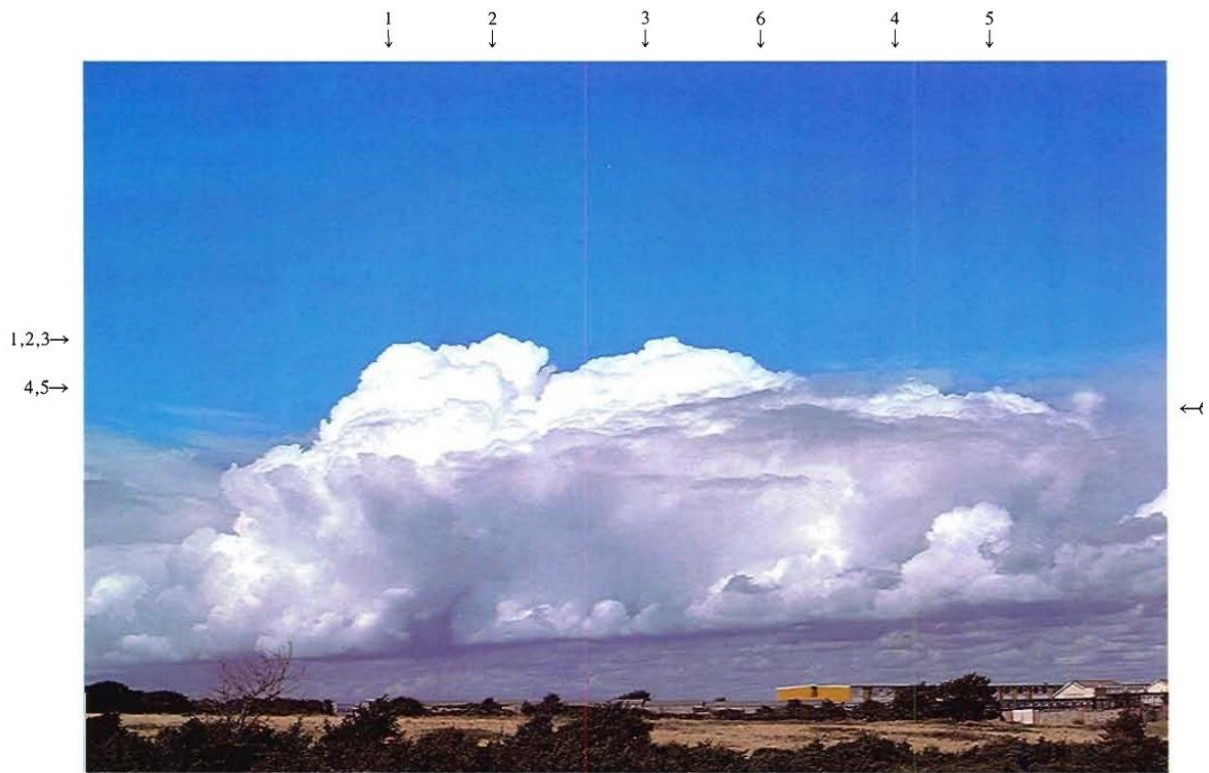


A layer of Nimbostratus covers the sky and completely hides the sun. Below this layer are a few patches of Stratus fractus at such locations as 1, 2 and 3. Rain is falling at the time of the picture.

A cold front had passed over the area earlier in the day, but a wave forming to the south-west had brought a return of middle cloud and rain for a time.

$$C_L = 7, C_M = 2, C_H = /$$

Cumulonimbus calvus



R. K. Pilsbury, Totland (Isle of Wight, U.K.), 18 September 1981, 1300 hours (towards NW)

A bank of Cumulonimbus calvus towers has become flattened at 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 after losing their rounded tops. The coding is therefore $C_L = 3$. A line of thin Altocumulus at 6 is also apparent. A number of Cumulus lie along the main cloud bank and the bases of many others are visible beyond the base of the principal clouds.

A cold-front system connected to a complex depression north and west of Scotland had crossed the area in the early hours of the morning. Large Cumulonimbi and showers built rapidly behind the fronts in the deep cold air. At the time of this picture, however, the Cumulonimbus development had become less active.

$$C_L = 3, C_M = 3, C_H = 0$$