Sunday 21 May 1950
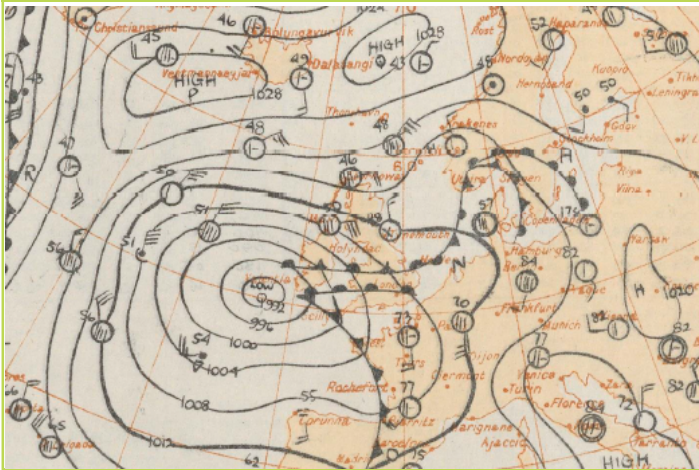## (Longest tornado track in the United Kingdom)

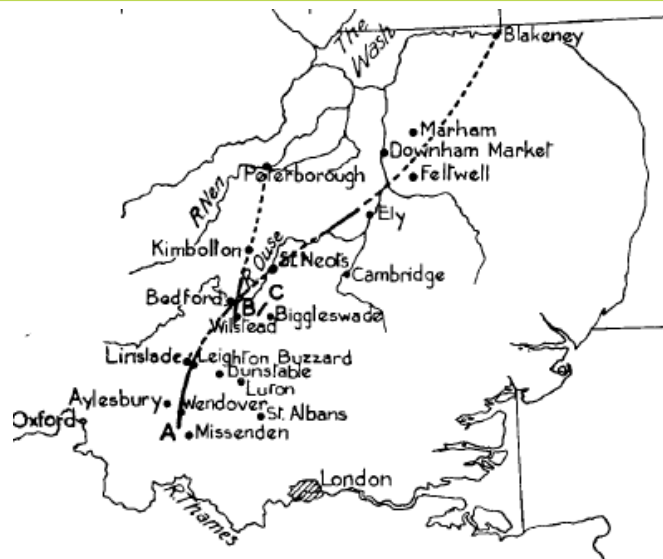## Weather chart for 1200 UTC on 21 May 1950

General summary

Thunderstorms across the Channel Islands around dawn quickly moved north during the morning into parts of southern and South East England by lunchtime and during the afternoon these became violent and heavy with hail and at least three tornadoes being spawned. Widespread flooding was reported and one tornado left a trail of damage stretching 65-miles, the longest track of a tornado ever recorded across the United Kingdom. Thunderstorms continued into the evening across many southern and eastern counties of England. Elsewhere, after a fine start, showers developed widely and some of these rumbled on into the evening. Winds were moderate easterly to begin the day but veered southerly during the afternoon. A warm and humid day across southern England but temperatures were about average elsewhere.

Significant weather event

Violent thunderstorms developed widely across southern England during the afternoon as warm humid air pushed up from France. Three tornadoes were observed with one leaving a trail of damage stretching 65 miles from Wendover (Buckinghamshire) to Ely (Cambridgeshire). At Huntingdon a house was struck by lightning and much flooding occurred. Near Kimbolton, to the west of Huntingdon, an eight-year old girl was drowned when a converted jeep was swept away. Mr. C.J. Kilby, rainfall observer at Hockliffe, who recorded 1.75 inches in 60 minutes, wrote "the first warning I had was the fusing of all electric lights in my house and village street. My house door was blown in and the floor covered with huge hailstones. Then there was absolute darkness."

Tornado trails over Southeast and East England on May 21st 1950.
A= main tornado, B = Wilstead - Goldington tornado, C = Caldecote tornado

Daily weather extremes

Highest Maximum Temperature
23.6 °C at Kew (Surrey)

Lowest Minimum Temperature
4.4 °C at Cape Wrath (Sutherland)

Most Rainfall
56.4 mm at Peterborough (Huntingdonshire)

Most Sunshine
9.7 hours at Lympne (Kent)