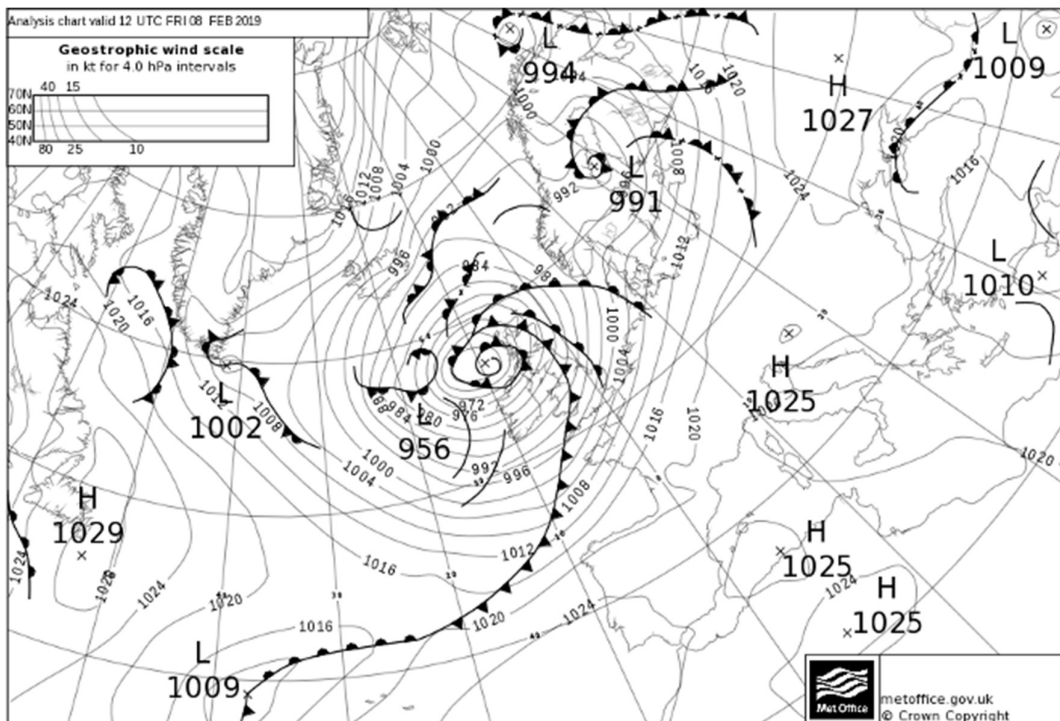# Storm Erik

Storm Erik was the fifth named storm of the 2018/2019 winter. This was a deep Atlantic low pressure system bringing strong winds across the UK. Storm Erik was a fairly typical winter storm - notable but not exceptional for the time of year.
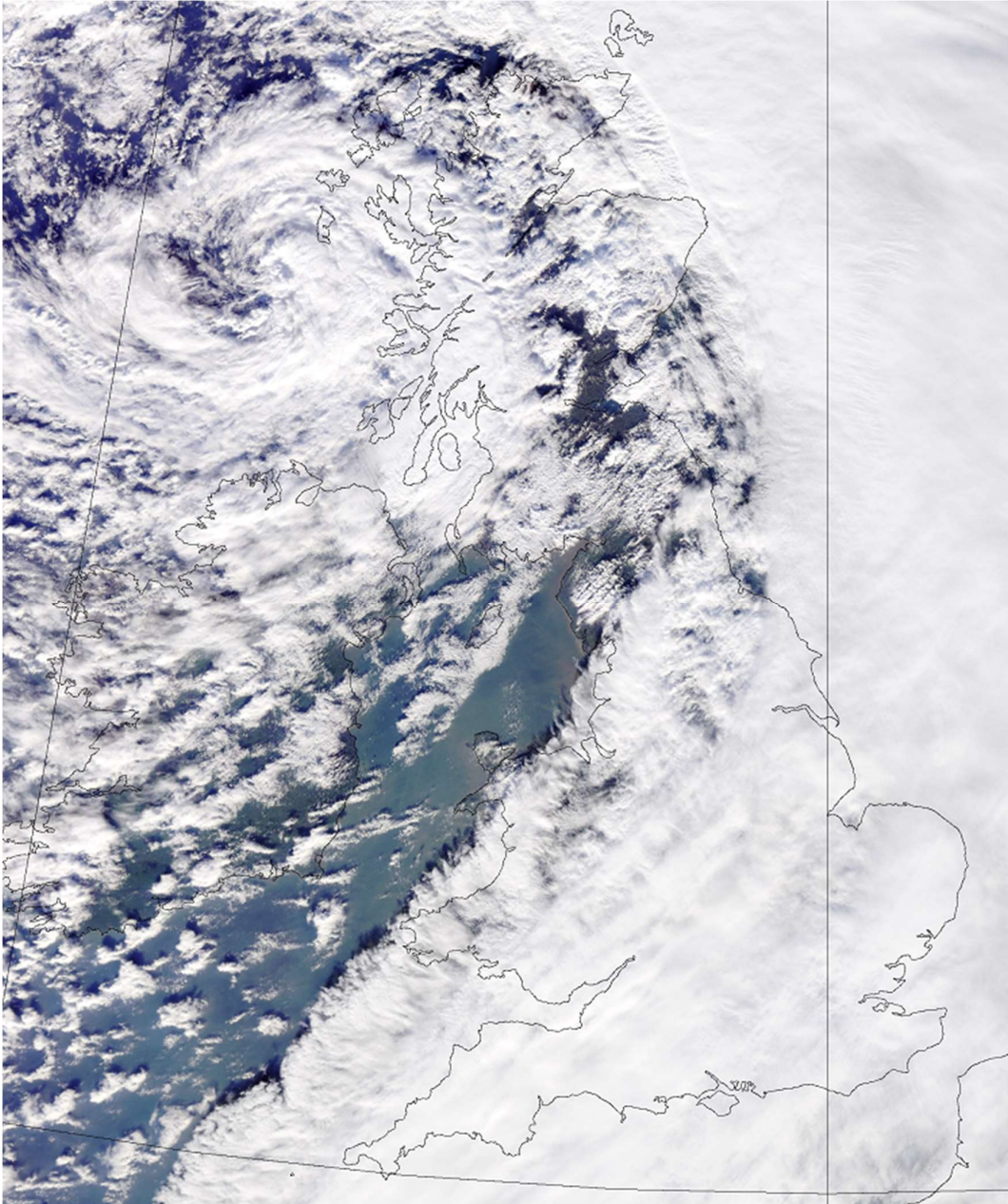
Impacts

A kitesurfer died in high winds off the north Devon coast and two people were killed in their vehicles by falling trees in Devon and Wales. A tree also smashed through the roof of a double-decker bus in Poole, Dorset but no one was hurt. Planes struggled to land at airports due to strong winds, and in Morecambe, Lancashire a hotel was closed after a section of roof was blown off. The storm caused widespread delays and disruption to transport.
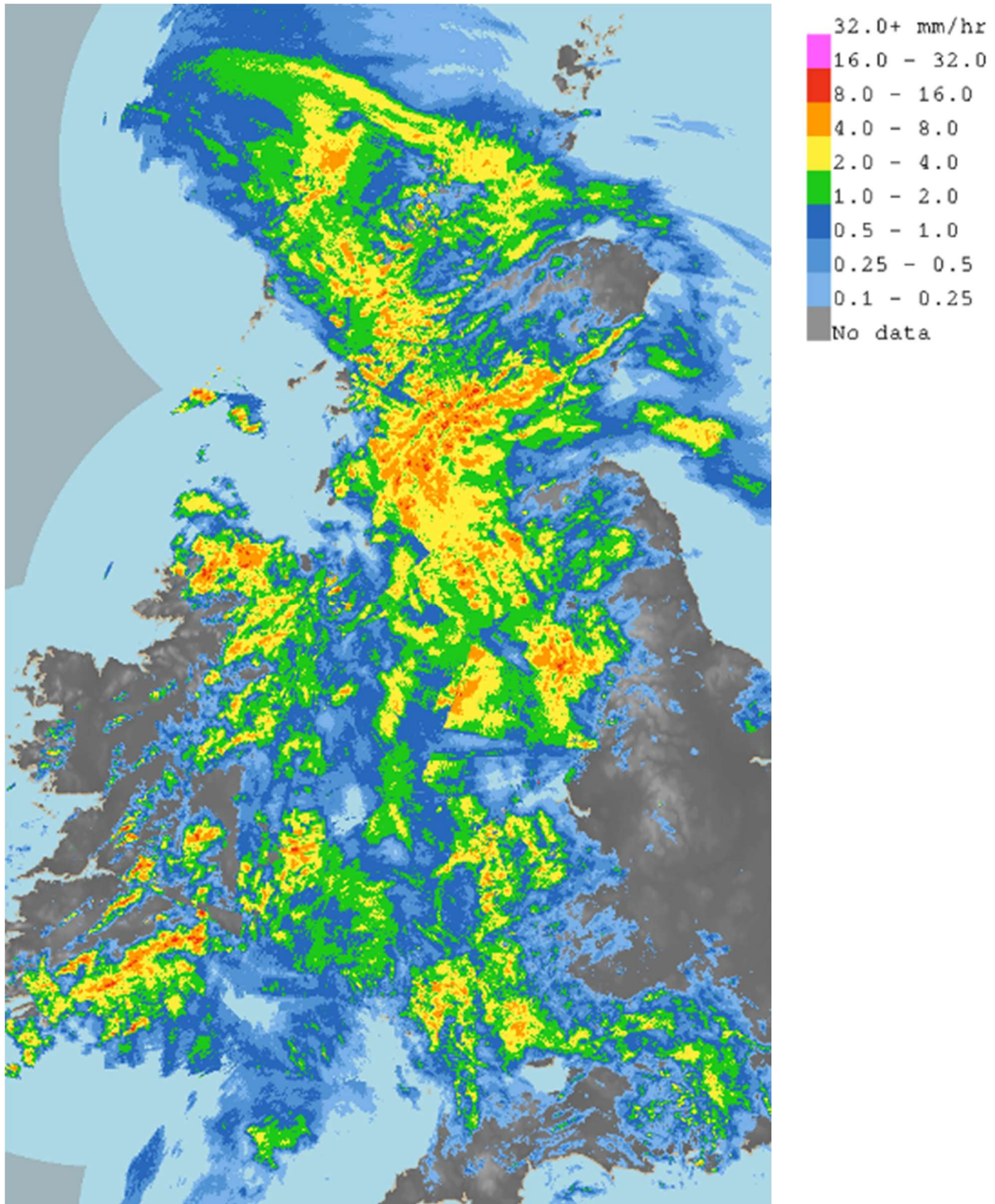
Weather data

The analysis chart at 1200 UTC on Friday 8 February 2019 shows Storm Erik to the west of Scotland with a cold front stretching across the UK from Aberdeenshire to Cornwall.
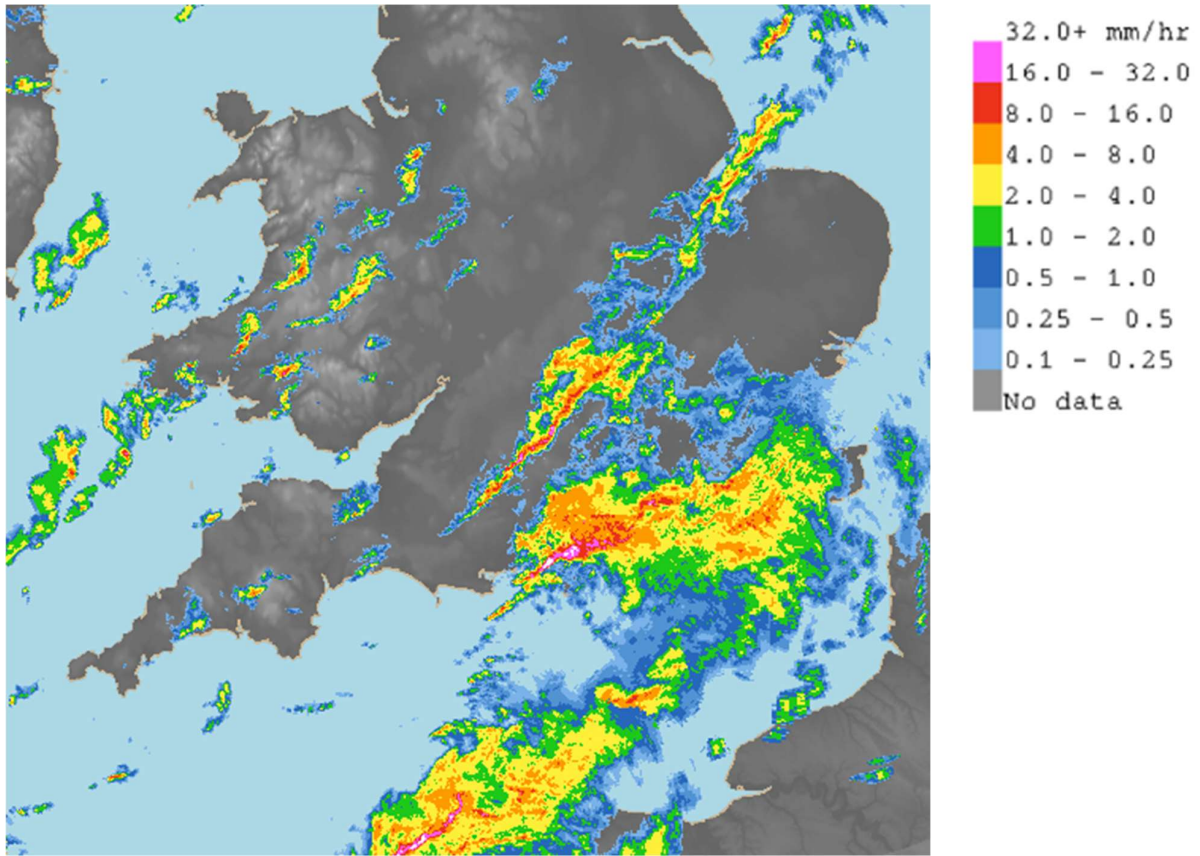
The satellite image at 1144UTC on 8 February 2019 shows the centre of Storm Erik to the west of Scotland and associated fronts swathed across the UK. Clear skies follow the passage of the cold front. Image copyright Met Office / NASA / NOAA.
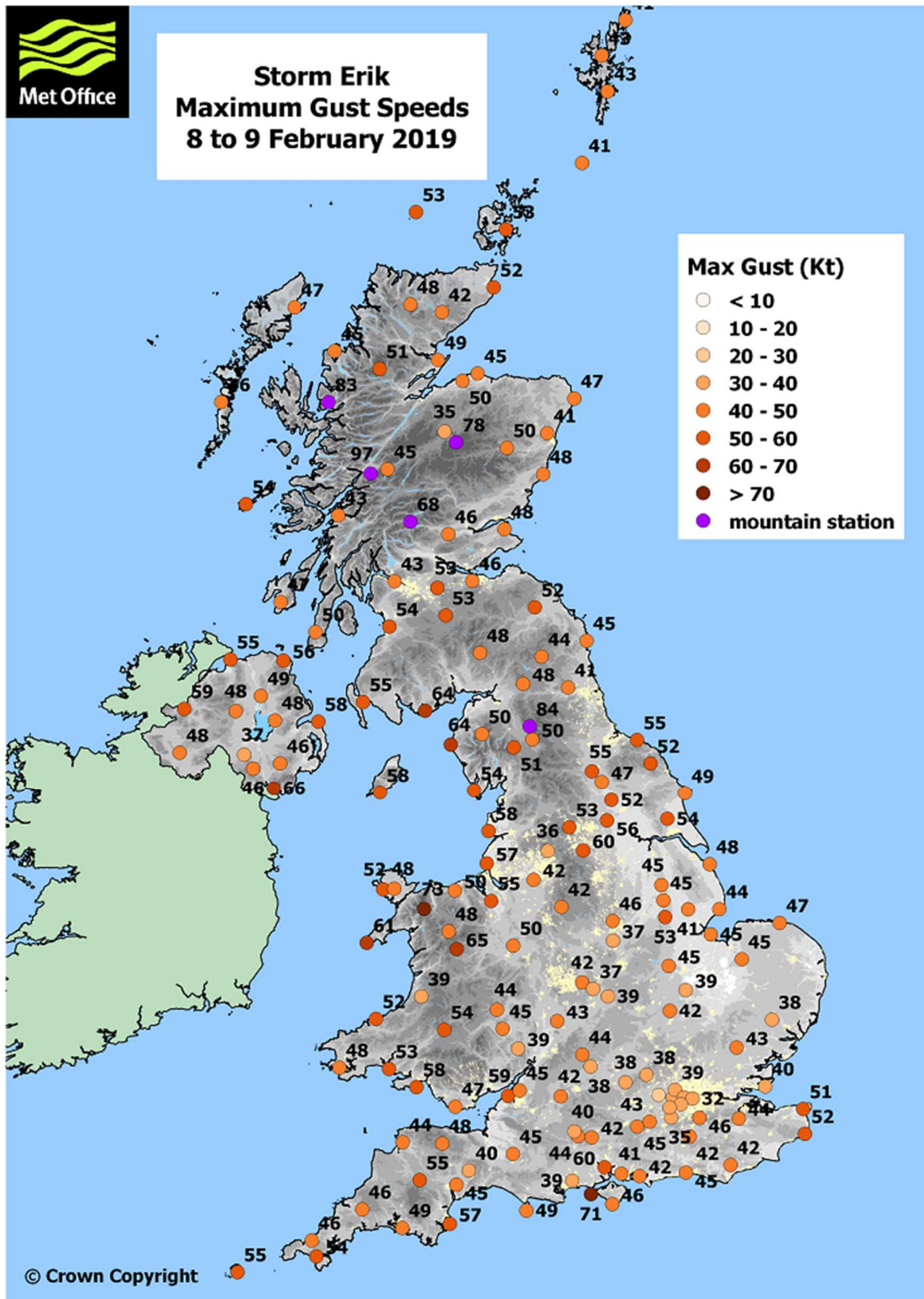
The chart below shows rain-rates at 0600 UTC on Friday 8 February 2019, with persistent heavy rain across western upland areas of the UK.

Legend:
- 32.0+ mm/hr
- 16.0 - 32.0
- 8.0 - 16.0
- 4.0 - 8.0
- 2.0 - 4.0
- 1.0 - 2.0
- 0.5 - 1.0
- 0.25 - 0.5
- 0.1 - 0.25
- No data

The chart below shows rain-rates at 1400 UTC on Friday 8 February 2019, with some torrential downpours as the cold front associated with Storm Erik cleared south-east England.

32.0+ mm/hr
16.0 - 32.0
8.0 - 16.0
4.0 - 8.0
2.0 - 4.0
1.0 - 2.0
0.5 - 1.0
0.25 - 0.5
0.1 - 0.25
No data

The map below shows maximum gust speeds recorded across the UK on 8 to 9 February 2019. Much of the UK recorded gusts of over 50Kt (58mph) with some exposed coastal locations exceeding 60Kt (69mph). The highest gust at a low-level station was 73Kt (84mph) at Capel Curig (Conwy). Other gusts included 66Kt (76mph) at Killowen (County Down), 65Kt (75mph) at Lake Vrynwy (Powys), 64Kt (74mph) at St Bees Head (Cumbria) and 60Kt (69mph) at Emley Moor (West Yorkshire).

Storm Erik
Maximum Gust Speeds
8 to 9 February 2019

Max Gust (Kt)
- < 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 30
- 30 - 40
- 40 - 50
- 50 - 60
- 60 - 70
- > 70
- mountain station

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Met Office