

Storm Betty, 18 to 19 August 2023

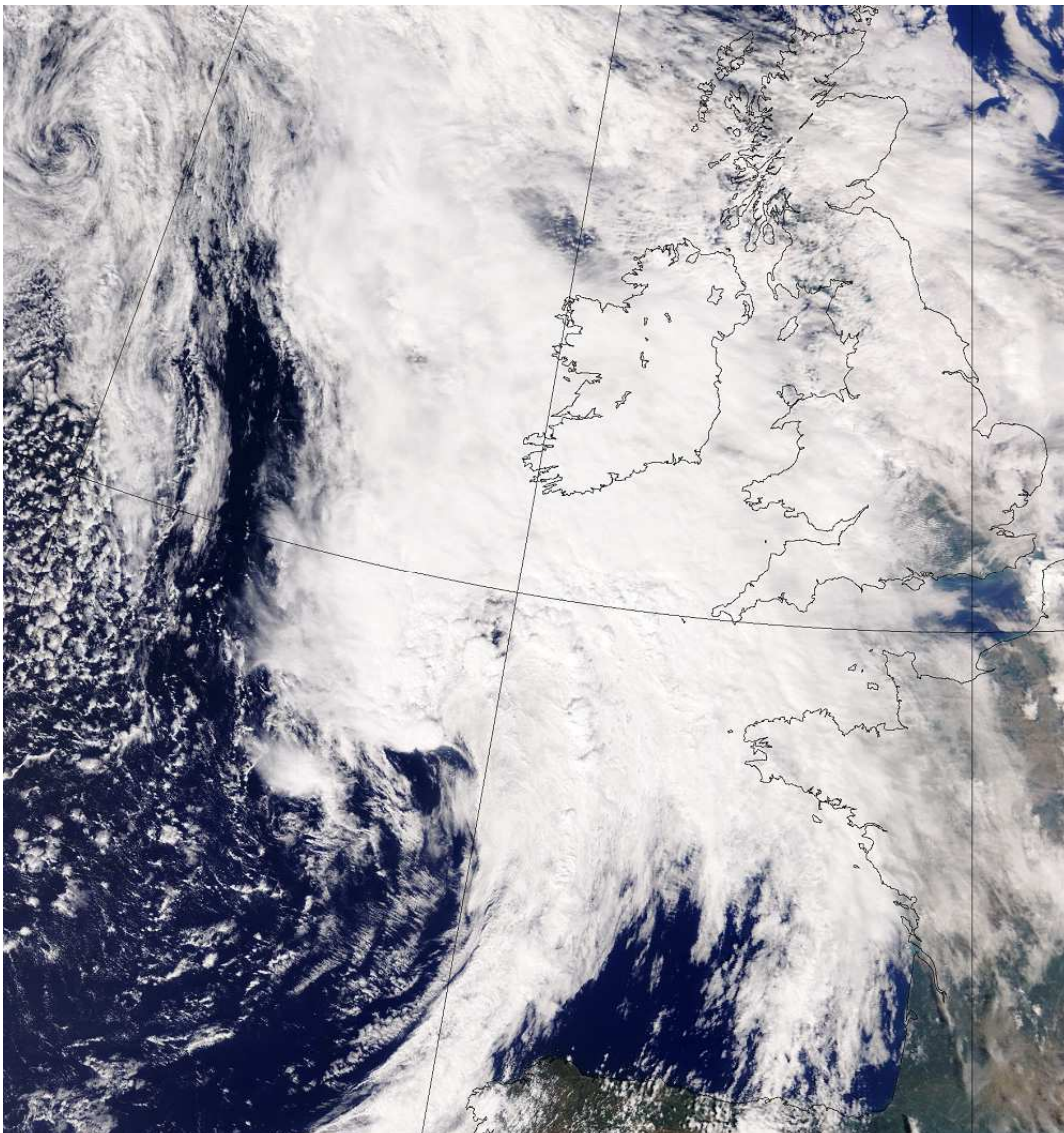
Storm Betty brought strong winds and heavy rain to western parts of the UK overnight 18 to 19 August 2023, with the strongest winds around Irish Sea coasts. This was the second time two named storms (Antoni and Betty) have occurred in August since storm naming was introduced in autumn 2015; the other occasion was storms Ellen and Francis in late August 2020. Winds gusted at over 50Kt (58mph) in some exposed western locations. This storm - like Antoni a fortnight earlier – was not especially severe for the time of year but it did bring some particularly wet weather to Northern Ireland.

Impacts

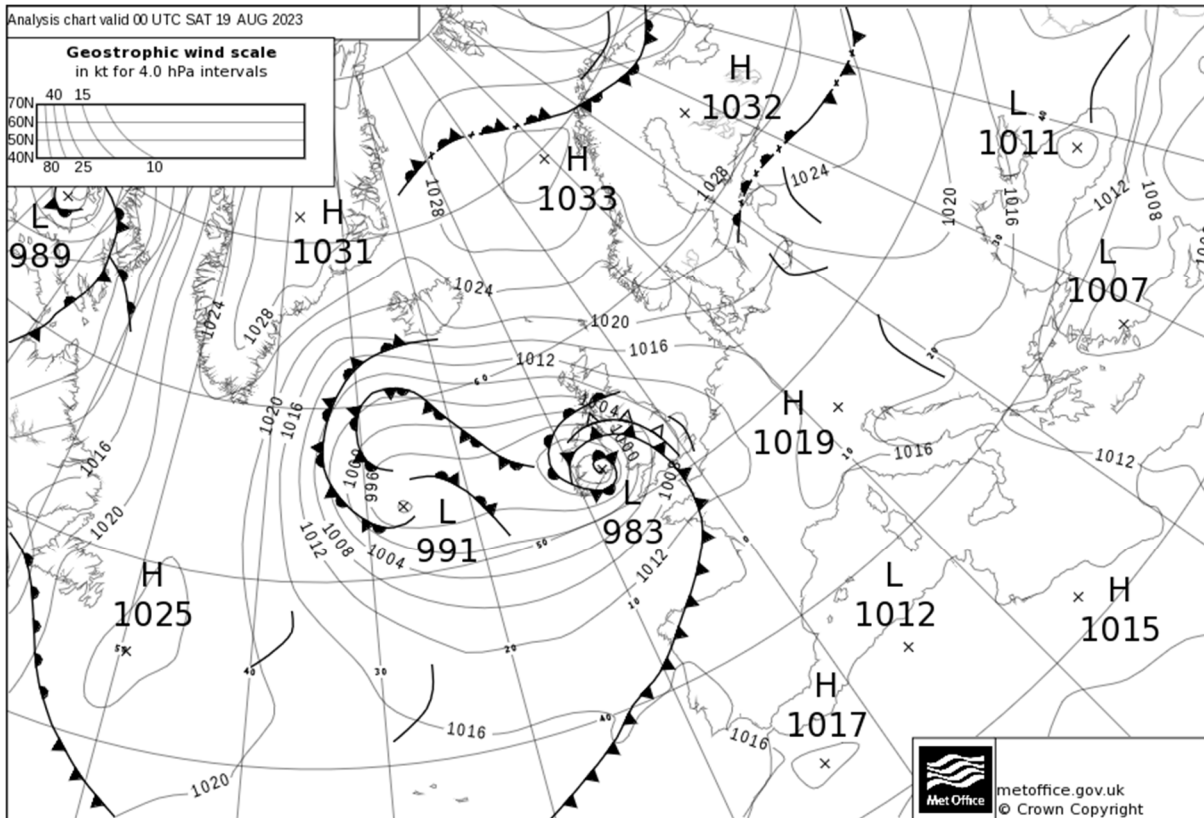
Impacts in the UK were fairly limited, but across Ireland over 70,000 homes and businesses experienced power cuts as winds damaged the electricity network, and some trees were felled.

Weather data

The satellite image at 1345UTC 18 August 2023 shows storm Betty developing to the south of Ireland and tracking north-east toward the Irish Sea, with a prominent cold front stretching south toward Spain. Image copyright Met Office / NOAA / NASA.

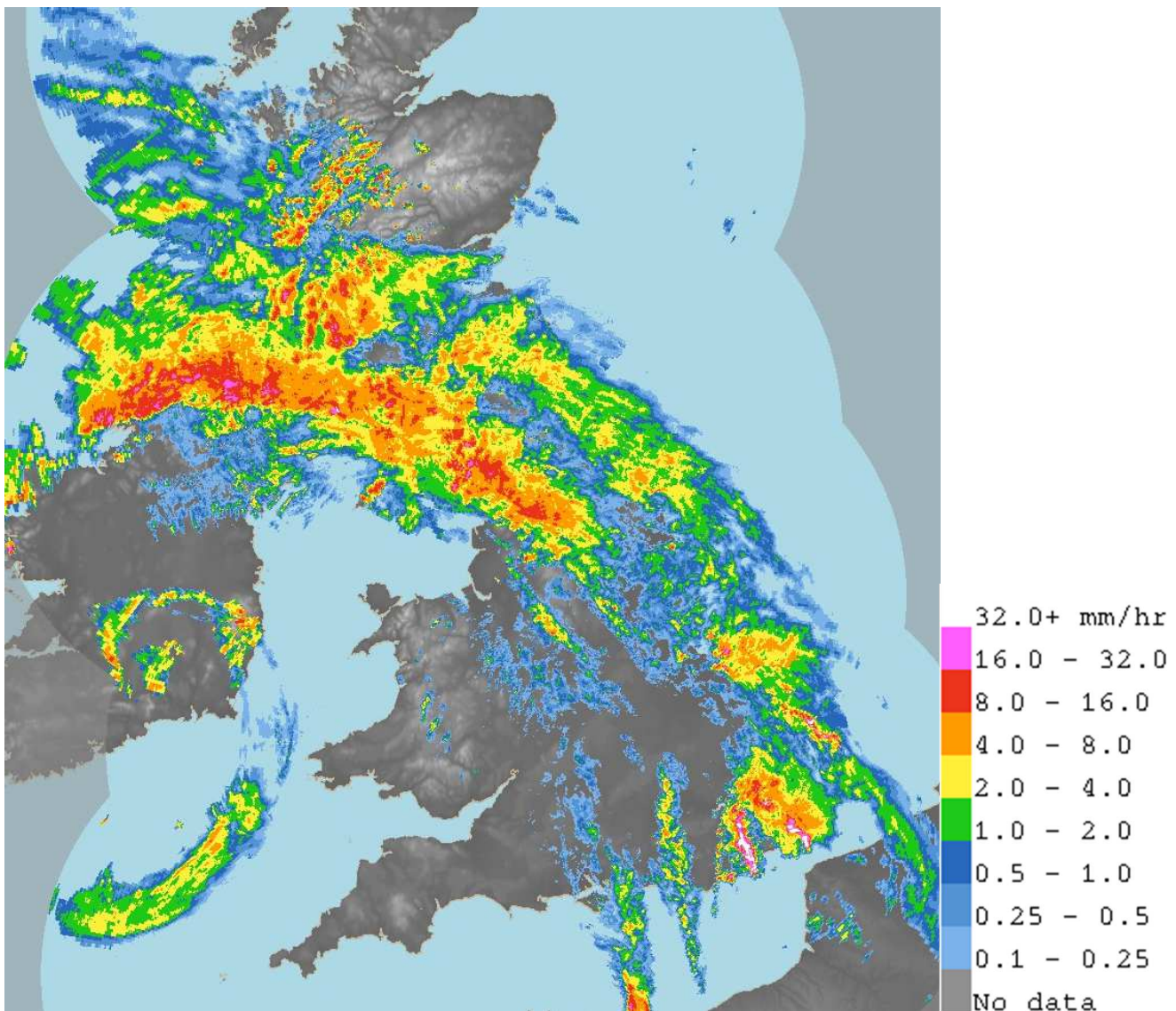


The analysis chart at 0000UTC 19 August 2023 shows the centre of storm Betty over the Irish Sea.

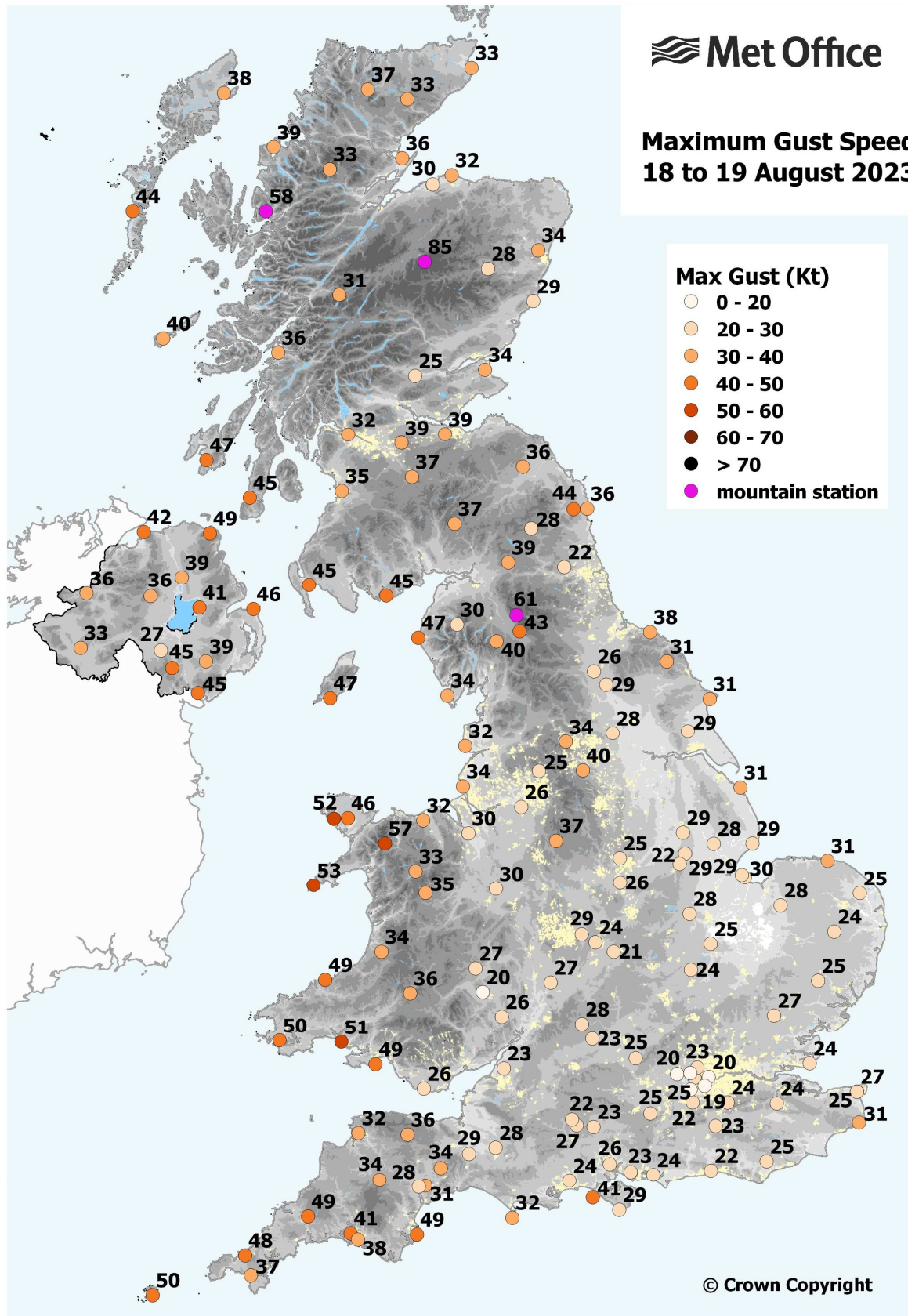


The rain-radar image at 0000UTC 18 August 2023 shows a swathe of heavy rain across Northern Ireland, southern Scotland and north-west England associated with weather fronts from Storm Betty, with intense downpours also affecting East Sussex and Kent, and the storm centre over south-east Ireland.

It was particularly wet across Northern Ireland with 30 to 40mm falling widely across the Province on 18 August 2023 and as much as 83.0mm at Trassey Slievenaman, County Down, most of this rain falling in only a few hours as the fronts pushed northwards. The Northern Ireland average daily total for 18 August 2023 was 34.0mm, making this Northern Ireland's wettest August day since 16 August 2008.



The map below shows maximum gust speeds from storm Betty on 18 to 19 August 2023. Wind gusts were highest in exposed coastal locations of south-west England, west Wales, south-west Scotland and Northern Ireland, with several stations in west Wales recording gusts of over 50Kt (58mph). Capel Curig (Conwy) recorded a gust of 57Kt (66mph).



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Last updated 05/10/2023