Storm Amy, 3 to 4 October 2025

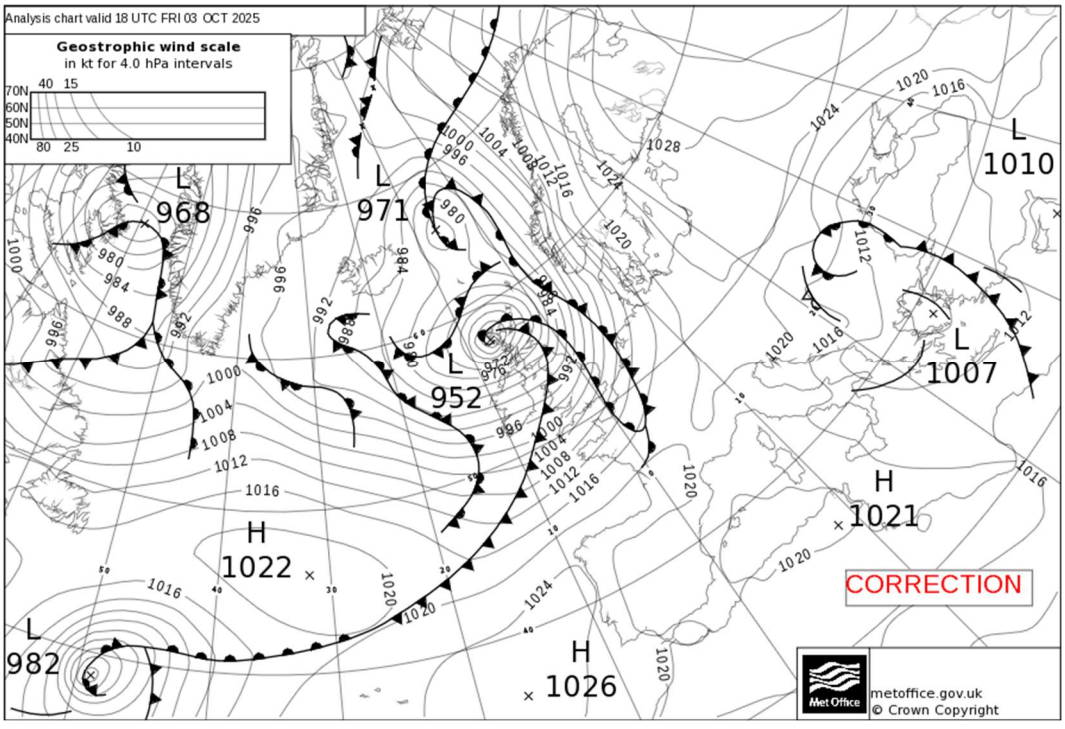
Storm Amy, the first storm of the 2025/2026 season, hit north-western parts of the UK in early October. The strongest winds were across north-western parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland, with gusts of over 70Kt (81mph) in exposed locations and the highest recorded gusts over 80Kt (92mph). For Scotland and Northern Ireland, this was an unusually severe, although not unprecedented, storm for the month of October. The strong winds were combined with heavy rain with 50 to 75mm or more falling widely across northern areas on the 3rd. 100 to 150mm or more of rain fell across western and northern upland areas of the UK in the first four days of the month.

Impacts

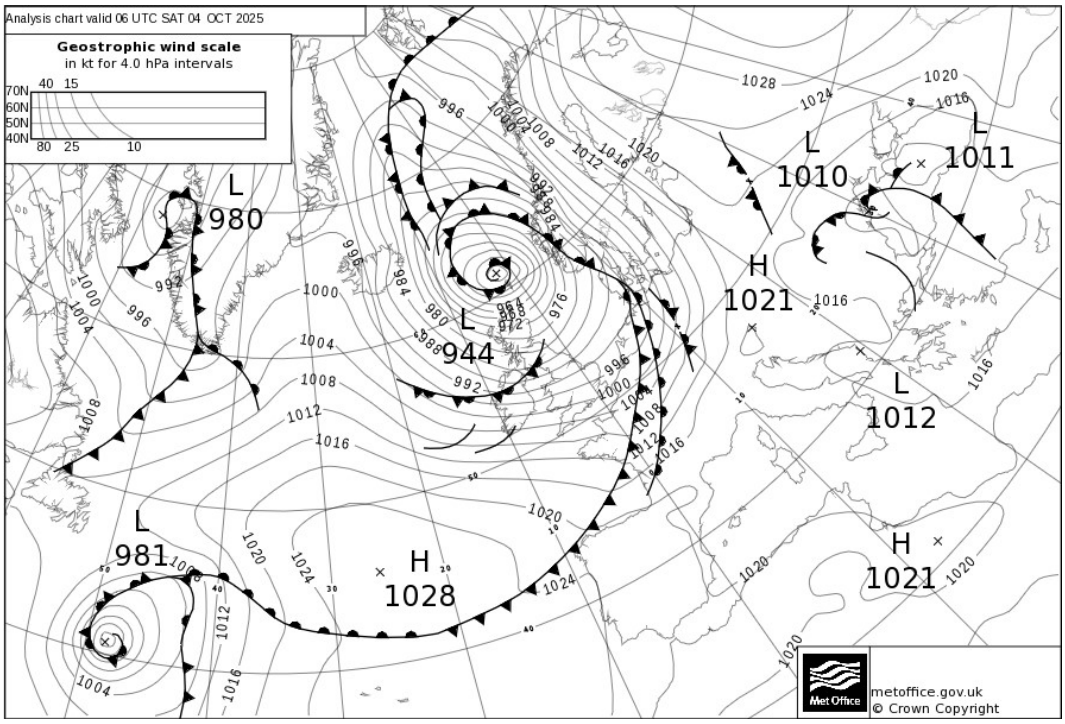
Storm Amy brought disruption to Scotland and Northern Ireland. Fallen trees, flooding and debris resulted in transport disruption across Scotland with several rail lines closed including all services out of Glasgow. Scotland's west coast ferry services and ferry crossings to Northern Ireland were also disrupted or cancelled, while the Forth Road Bridge was closed to all vehicles. Several flights were also cancelled, and Northern Ireland's rail services were suspended. Over 40,000 properties in Scotland and 50,000 in Northern Ireland were reported to be without power, with work to restore supplies in some areas lasting several days. A derelict building collapsed in Glasgow city centre, several yachts were blown ashore near Strachur in Argyll and a large shop front sign was blown off in Inverness. All eight of London's Royal Parks were closed as a precautionary measure.

Weather data

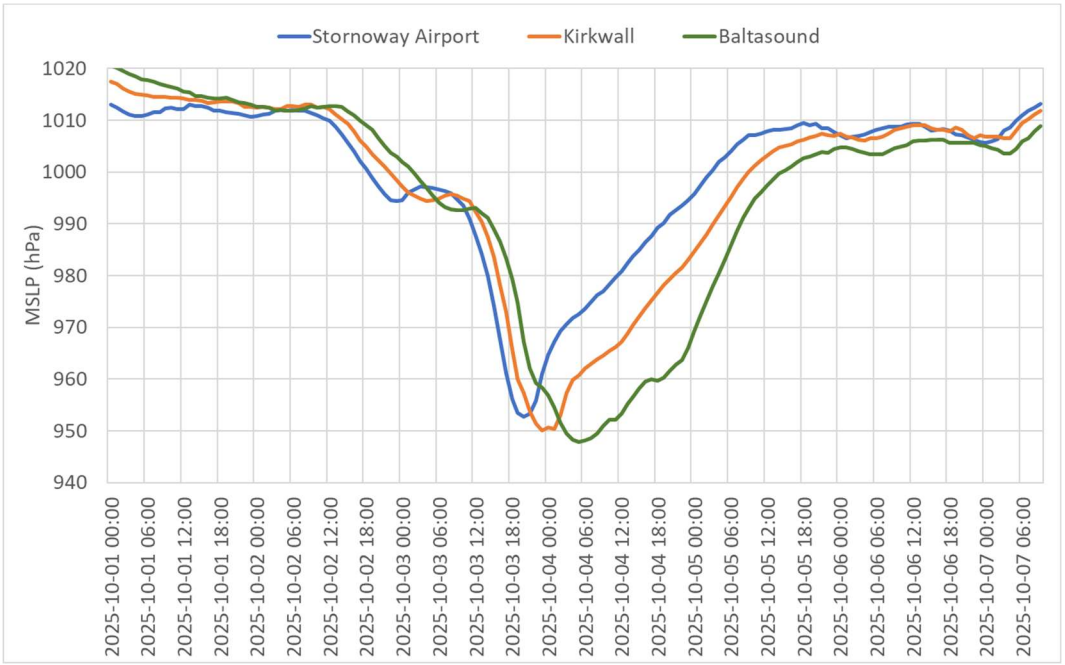
The analysis chart at 1800 UTC 3 October 2025 shows storm Amy to the north-west of Scotland with associated fronts stretching across the UK.



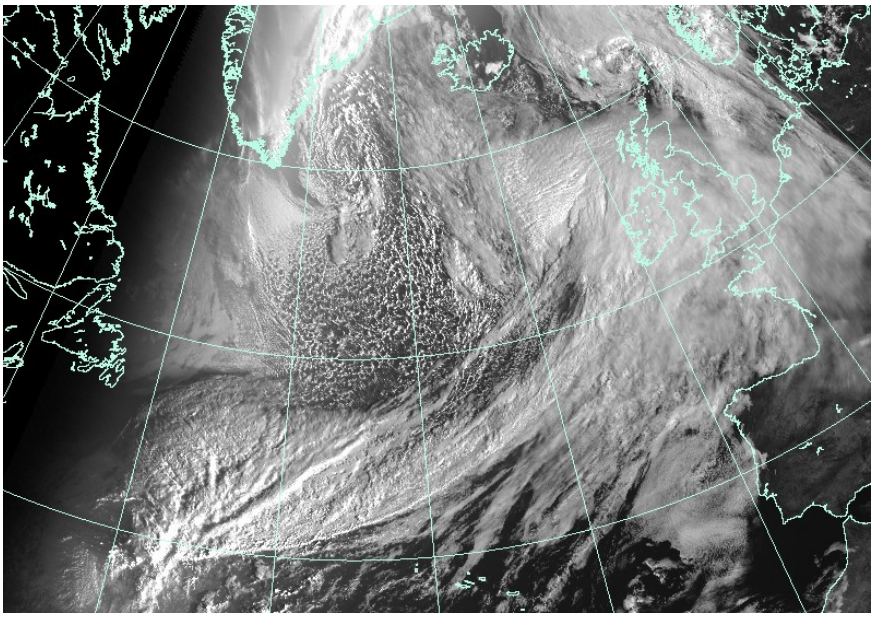
The analysis chart at 0600 UTC 4 October 2025 shows the centre of storm Amy near Shetland with the central pressure having fallen further to 944hPa.



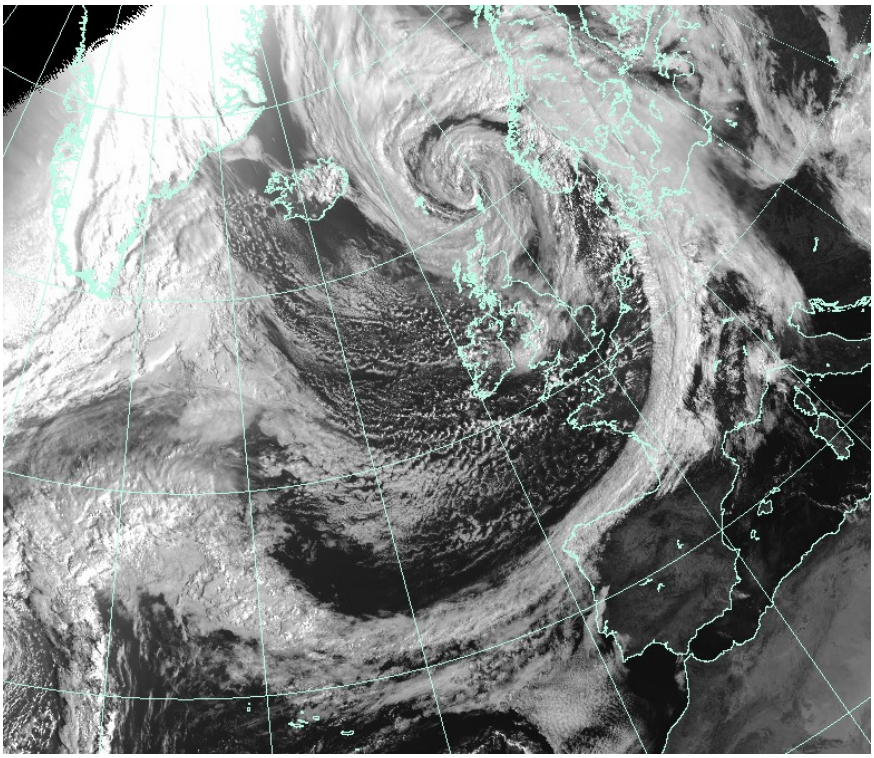
The chart below shows hourly mean sea level pressure at Stornoway Airport (Western Isles), Kirkwall (Orkney) and Baltasound (Shetland) during the passage of storm Amy. All three stations were close to the low pressure centre as it tracked north-east. Baltasound, near the most northerly point of Shetland, recorded a pressure of 947.9 hPa at 0500 UTC on 4th, setting a new October record for the UK.



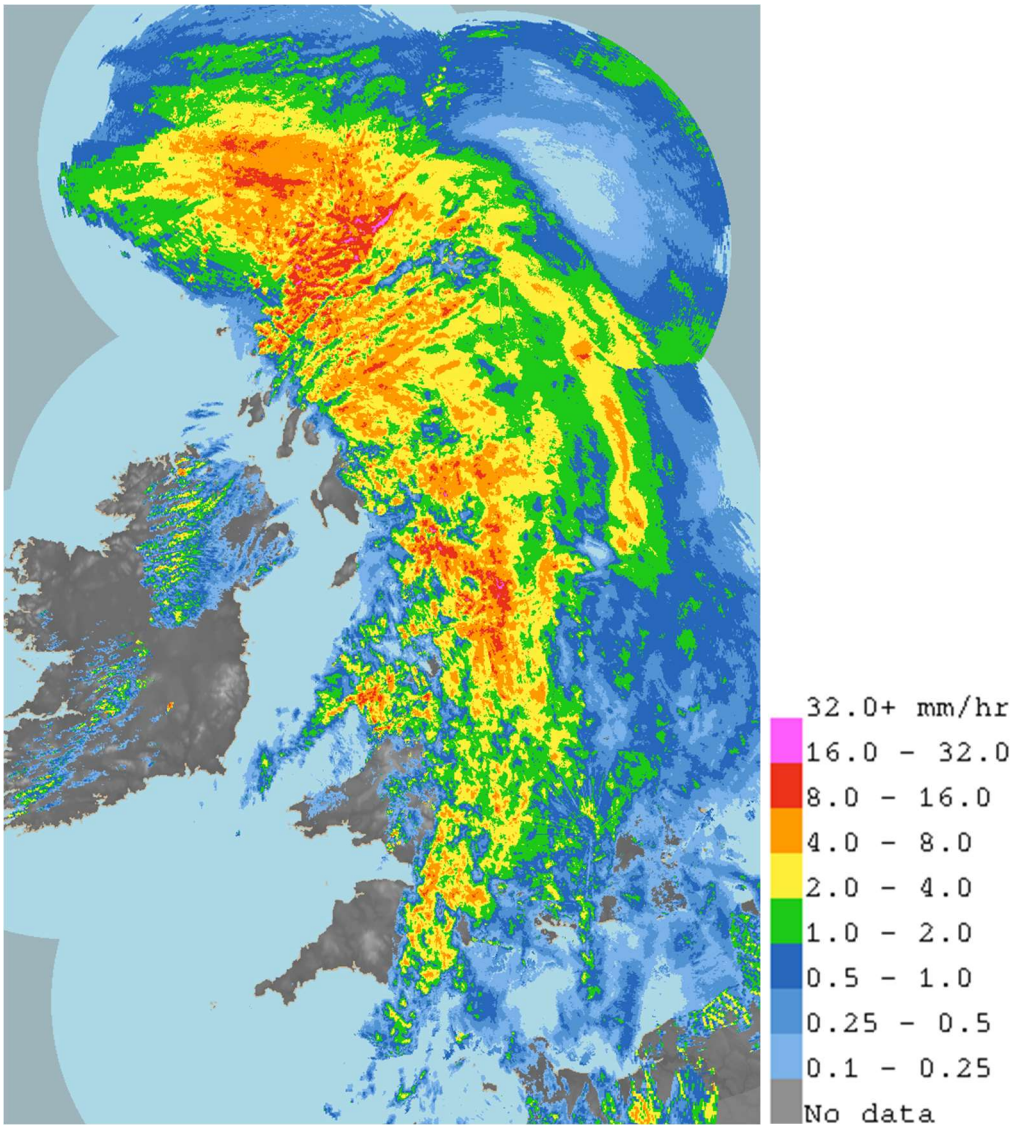
The visible satellite image of the North Atlantic at 0920 UTC on 3 October 2025 shows storm Amy hitting the UK, with the whole of the country swathed in cloud from the associated fronts. Image copyright Met Office / NOAA / NASA.



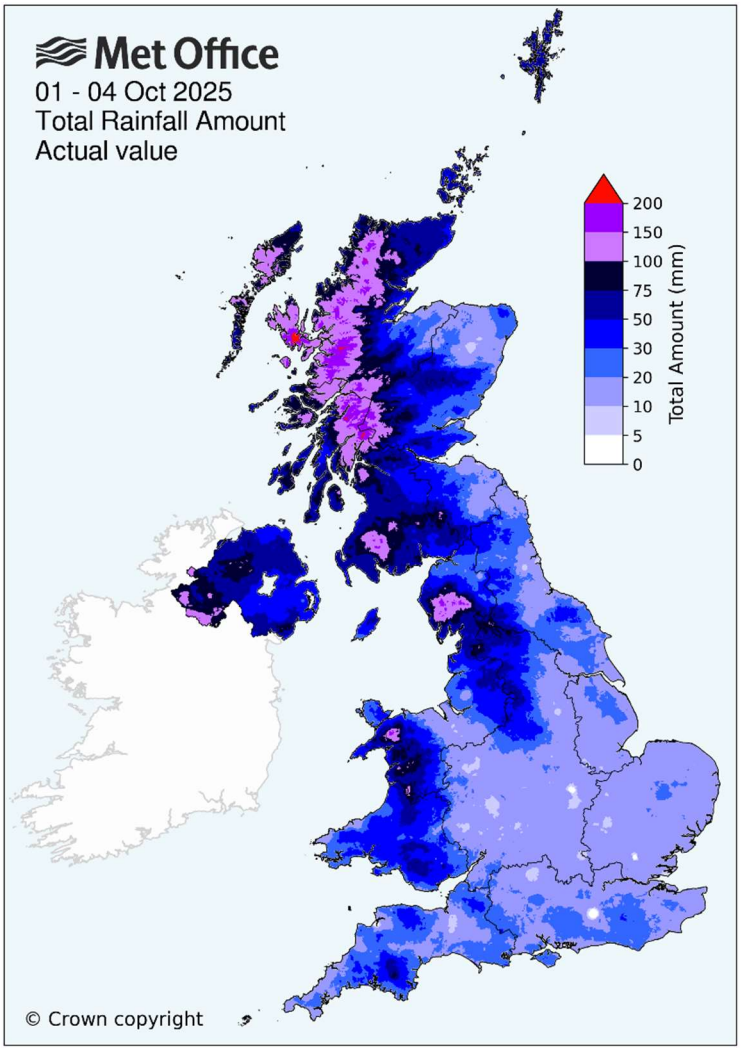
The visible satellite image at 1000 UTC on 4 October 2025 shows the centre of storm Amy just north of Shetland within a wrap-around occluded front. The prominent cold front associated with the storm, having cleared the far south-east, is stretched across northern France and extends across the Bay of Biscay into the Atlantic. Image copyright Met Office / NOAA / NASA.



The rain-radar image at 1400 UTC on 10 October 2025 shows heavy rain across the UK from storm Amy, particularly focussed on upland areas in the north and west.

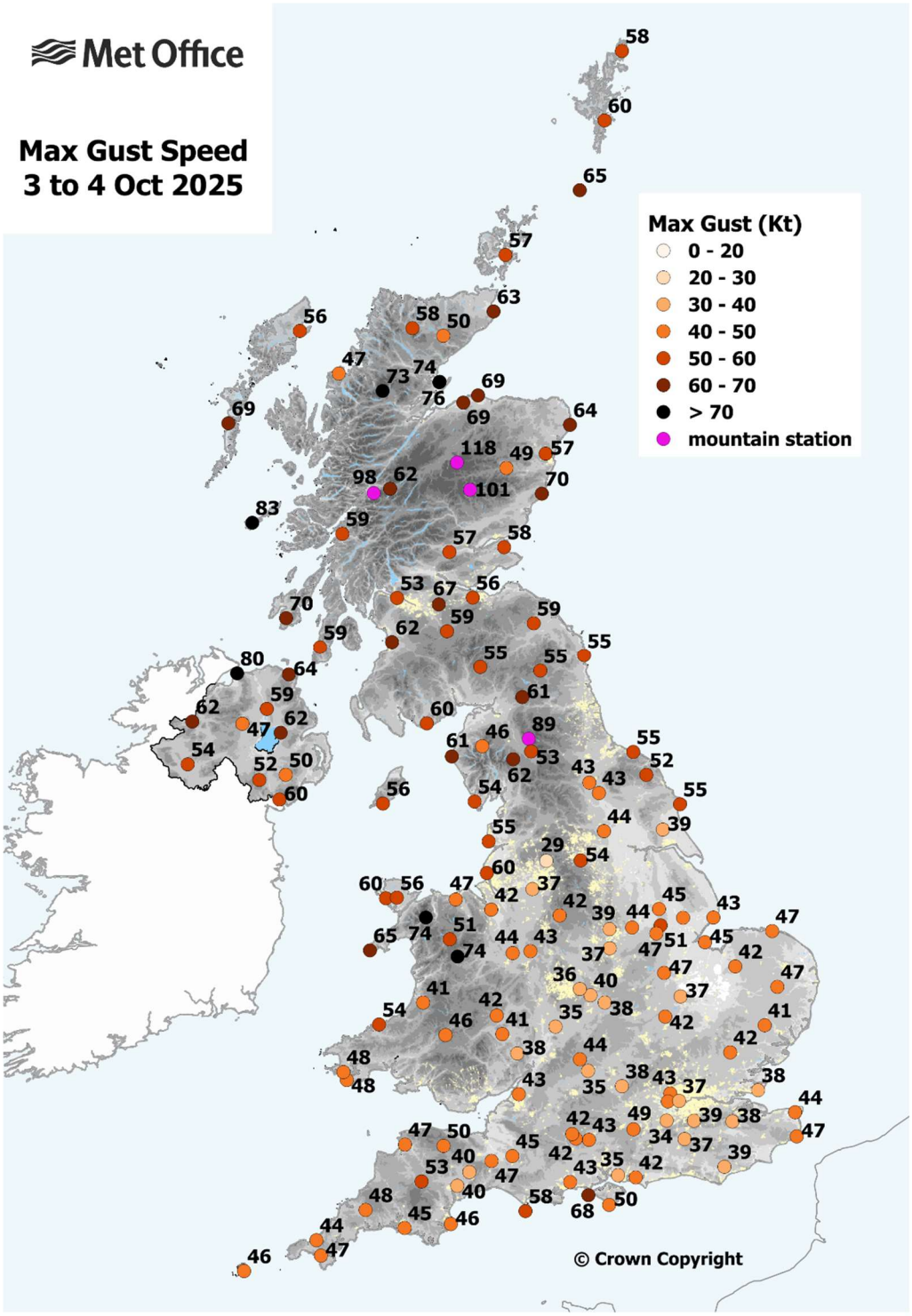


The map below shows rainfall totals across the UK from 1 to 4 October 2025, illustrating the wet start to the month, particularly across north-western areas. Much of this rain came from storm Amy with 100 to 150mm falling widely across the West Highlands, parts of the Southern Uplands, Lake District fells, Eryri (Snowdonia) and the west of Northern Ireland over this period. Alltdearg House, Isle of Skye (adjacent to the Cuillin Hills and one of the UK's wettest locations on average) recorded 240.6mm from 1st to 4th, over half the October 1991-2020 long term average at this station.

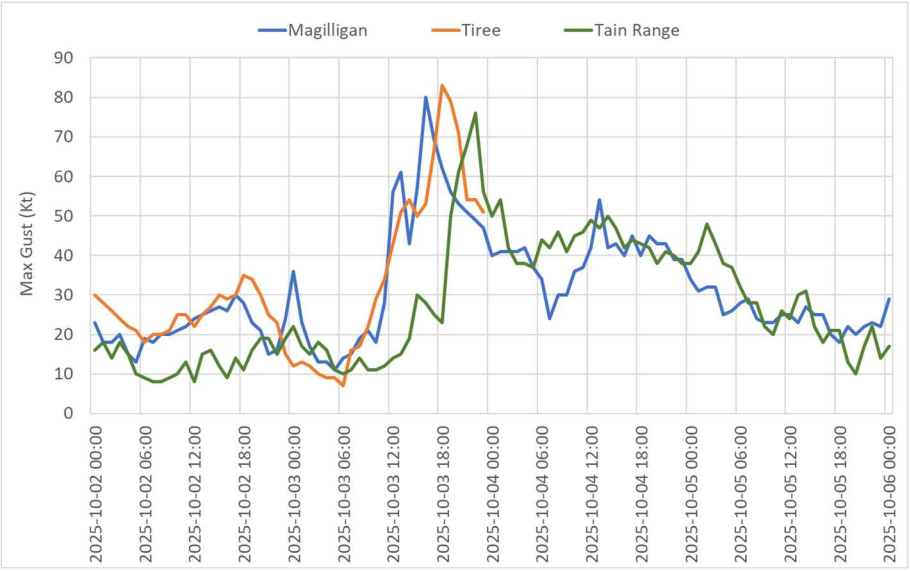


The map below shows maximum gust speeds from 3 to 4 October 2025 from storm Amy. The strongest winds were to the immediate south of the low pressure centre as it passed through, with gusts of 83Kt (96mph) at Tiree (Argyll), 80Kt (92mph) at Magilligan, County Londonderry, 76Kt (87mph) at Tain Range (Ross & Cromarty), 73Kt (84mph) at Loch Glascarnoch (Ross & Cromarty), and 70Kt (81mph) at Islay Port Ellen (Argyll) and Inverbervie (Kincardineshire). Gusts also exceeded 70Kt (81mph) in parts of Wales with 74Kt (85mph) at Capel Curig (Conwy) and Lake Vyrnwy (Powys).

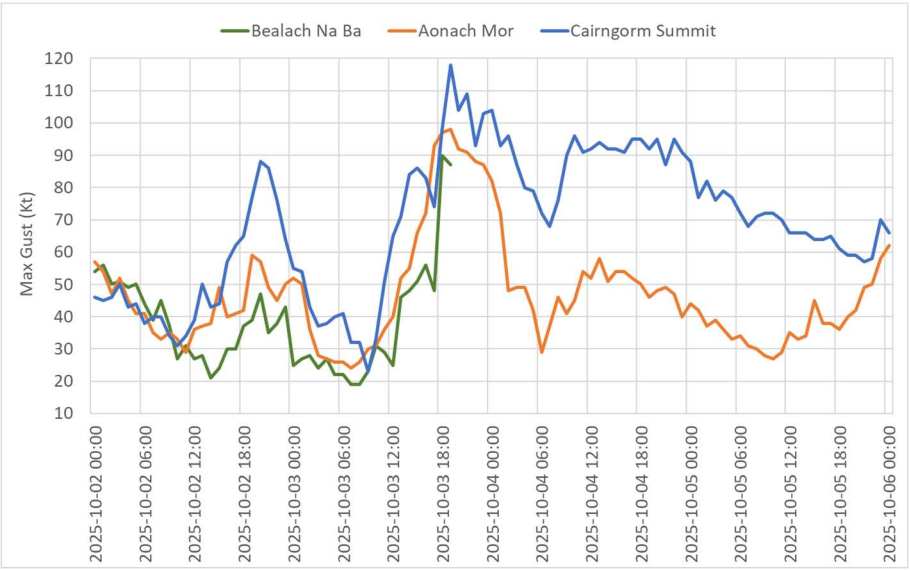
The 80Kt gust at Magilligan set a new highest maximum gust speed record for Northern Ireland for the month of October - although it fell well short of the record for any month for the Province – 108Kt (124mph) at Kilkeel (County Down) on 12 January 1974.



The chart below shows hourly maximum gust speeds at Magilligan (County Londonderry), Tiree (Argyll) and Tain Range (Ross & Cromarty) as storm Amy tracked through. The weather station at Tiree (the most westerly island of the Inner Hebrides) recorded a gust of 83Kt (96mph) before a data outage occurred. This station was located in the path of the strongest winds from the storm.



The chart below shows hourly maximum gust speeds at three mountain stations in Scotland. Gusts reached 90Kt (104mph) at Bealach na Ba, Ross & Cromarty (773masl) – prior to a data outage, 98Kt (113mph) at Aonach Mor, Inverness-shire (1130masl) and 118Kt (136mph) at Cairngorm Summit, Inverness-shire (1237masl). The Cairngorm Plateau is frequently described as ‘wind scoured’; the chart shows the sustained nature of the strongest winds at this station, including a 12 hour period on 4th where gusts of over 90Kt were recorded for each hour. The 118Kt observation was the UK’s highest recorded gust speed since 122Kt (140mph) from storm Jocelyn on 24 January 2024.

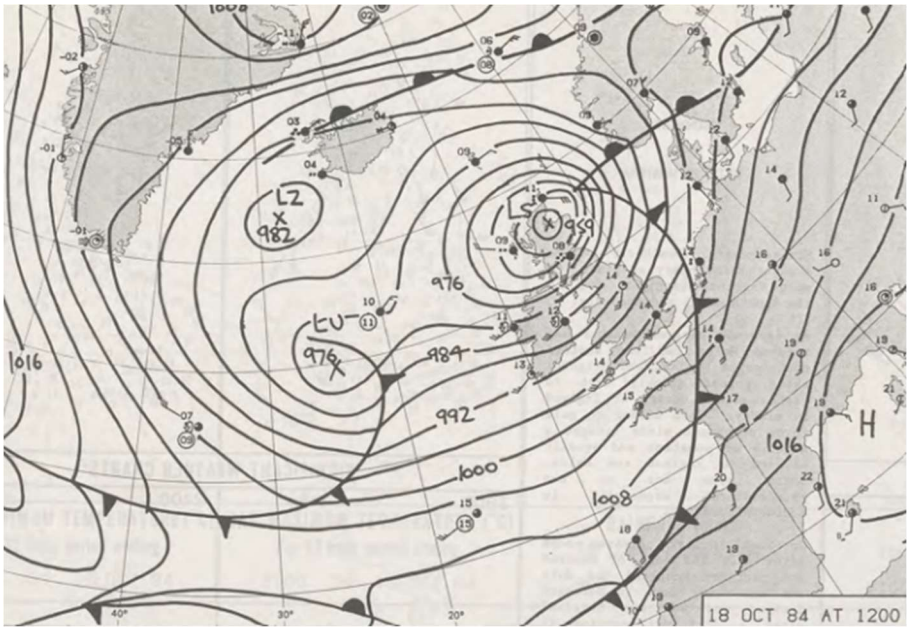


Storm Amy was not unusual compared to major Atlantic storms in the winter months - storm Eowyn, for example, on 24 January 2025, was much more severe. However, October storms tend to be slightly less severe than those in December, January or February. For Scotland and Northern Ireland, Amy was an unusually severe storm for the month of October, although not unprecedented. Twelve stations with 30+ year records set their highest October maximum gust speed on record. These are listed in the table below.

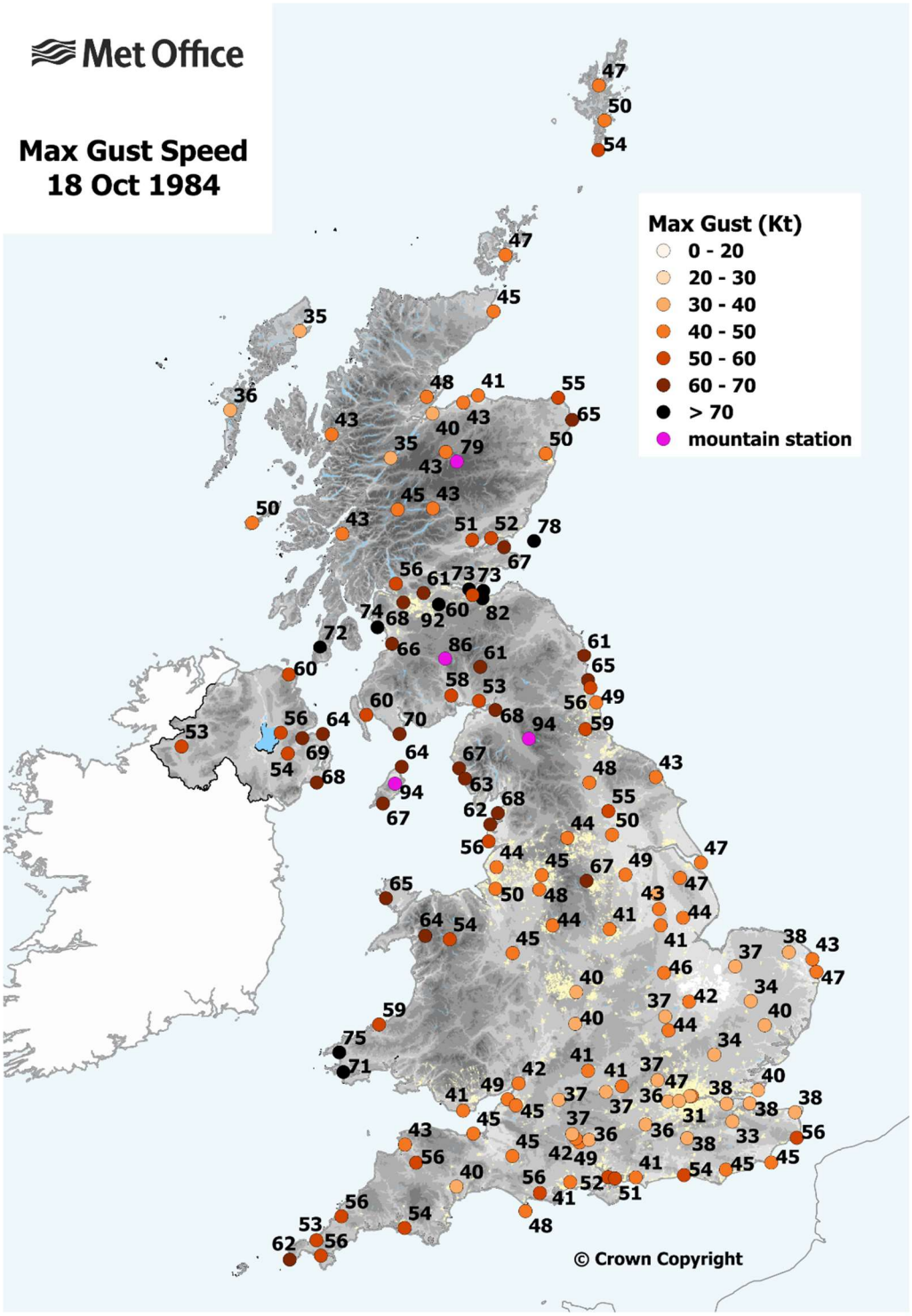
Station	Max gust (Kt)	Previous record (Kt)	Previous date	Record length (years)
Lossiemouth, Moray	69	68	6 Oct 1976	49
Tiree, Argyll	83	68	20 Oct 2024	48
Aldergrove, County Antrim	62	54	6 Oct 1976	45
Kinloss, Moray	69	65	30 Oct 1986	37
Loch Glascarnoch, Ross & Cromarty	73	65	31 Oct 2020	35
Tain Range, Ross & Cromarty	76	64	25 Oct 1995	31
Strathallan Airfield, Perthshire	57	49	29 Oct 2000	31
Tulloch Bridge, Inverness-shire	62	54	23 Oct 2008	30
Inverbervie, Kincardineshire	70	68	26 Oct 2006	30
Eskdalemuir, Dumfriesshire	55	50	17 Oct 2011	30
Spadeadam, Cumbria	61	55	27 Oct 1998	30
Shap, Cumbria	62	58	16 Oct 2017	30

While several stations recorded gusts in excess of 70Kt, more than 25 recorded over 60Kt (69mph), the most for an October storm in the UK since 27 October 2002.

One of the most significant October storms to affect Scotland in observational records was that of 18 October 1984. The chart below shows this storm, with the low pressure centre slightly further south than the track of storm Amy.



The map below shows maximum gust speeds from this storm. The highest gust speeds were further south compared to Amy and affected a more densely populated part of the UK i.e. Scotland's Central Belt. This storm set Scotland's highest October gust speed on record, 92Kt (106mph) at Salsburgh, Lanarkshire. Overall, while the storm of 18 October 1984 was significantly more severe than storm Amy, every storm is different, and the location of highest gust speeds and associated impacts depend on the precise track.



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