

January 2005 - stormy spells

January 2005 was characterised by unsettled weather conditions with several wet and very windy days, particularly in the first half.

There were two particularly stormy spells - on the 7th/8th and 11th/12th - each resulting in widespread damage and disruption. Many wind speed records were set during the month.

Impacts

January 7/8 - northern England took a battering, with transport and power supplies disrupted. Among the incidents reported were overturned lorries on the A1 in north Yorkshire and Northumberland and the M6 in Cumbria, and delays to train services on the east coast main line in north Yorkshire because of damage to overhead power lines. By late on the 7th 80,000 customers had lost power in NE England and 20,000 houses in Yorkshire and Humberside remained without electricity for most of the 8th. [BBC News link][Severe gales cause havoc on roads](#)

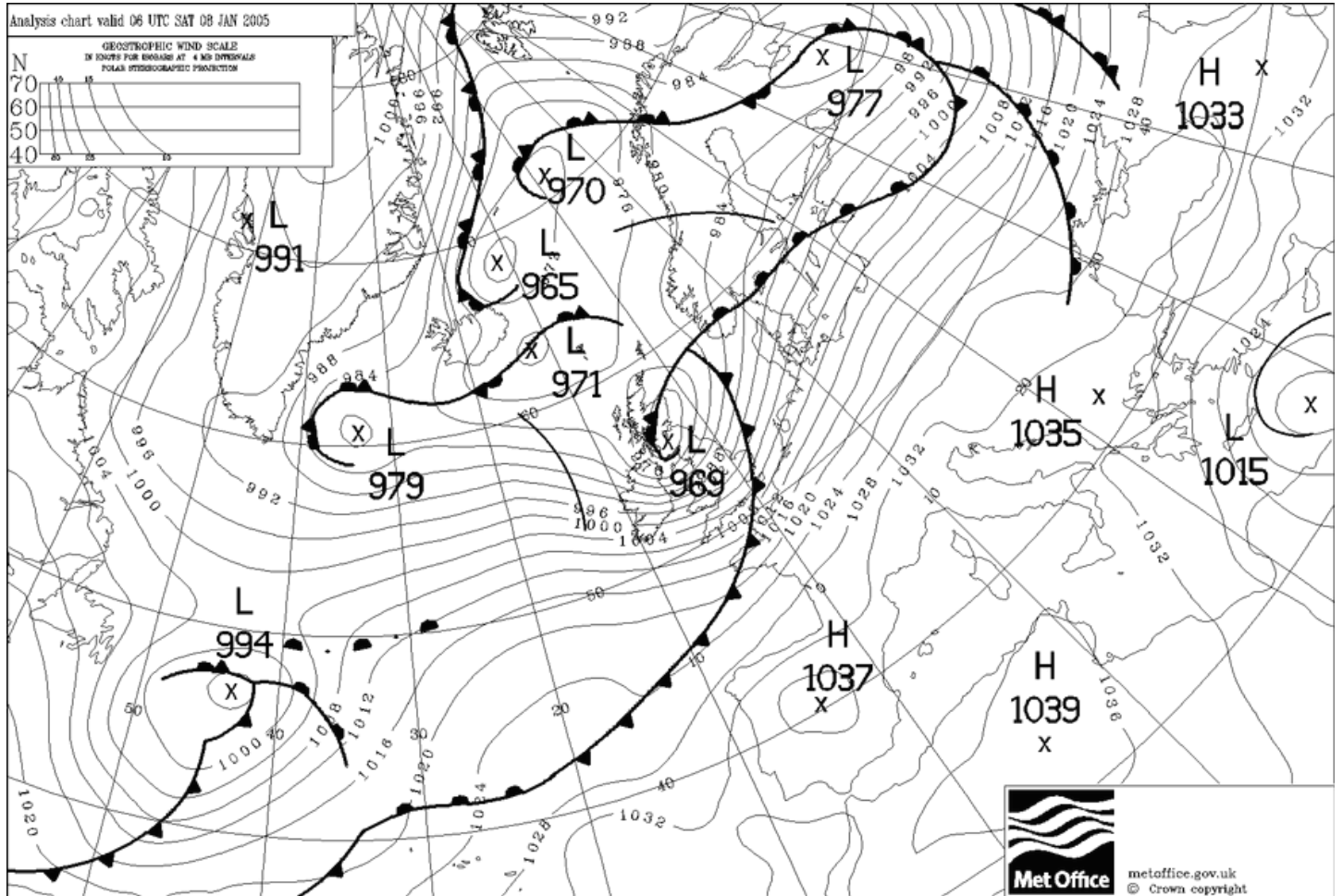
There was also heavy rain across northern England on the 7th, bringing floods to [Floods in Carlisle - January 2005](#).

January 11/12 - Scotland bore the brunt of the damage and disruption notably to transport with bridges closed, roads and rail lines blocked by fallen trees and ferry services suspended. In addition, water and power supplies were cut and some buildings damaged. A tragedy occurred when five members of the same family were drowned as they tried to drive across a causeway linking South Uist to Benbecula in the Western Isles [BBC News link] [Community shock over storm deaths](#)

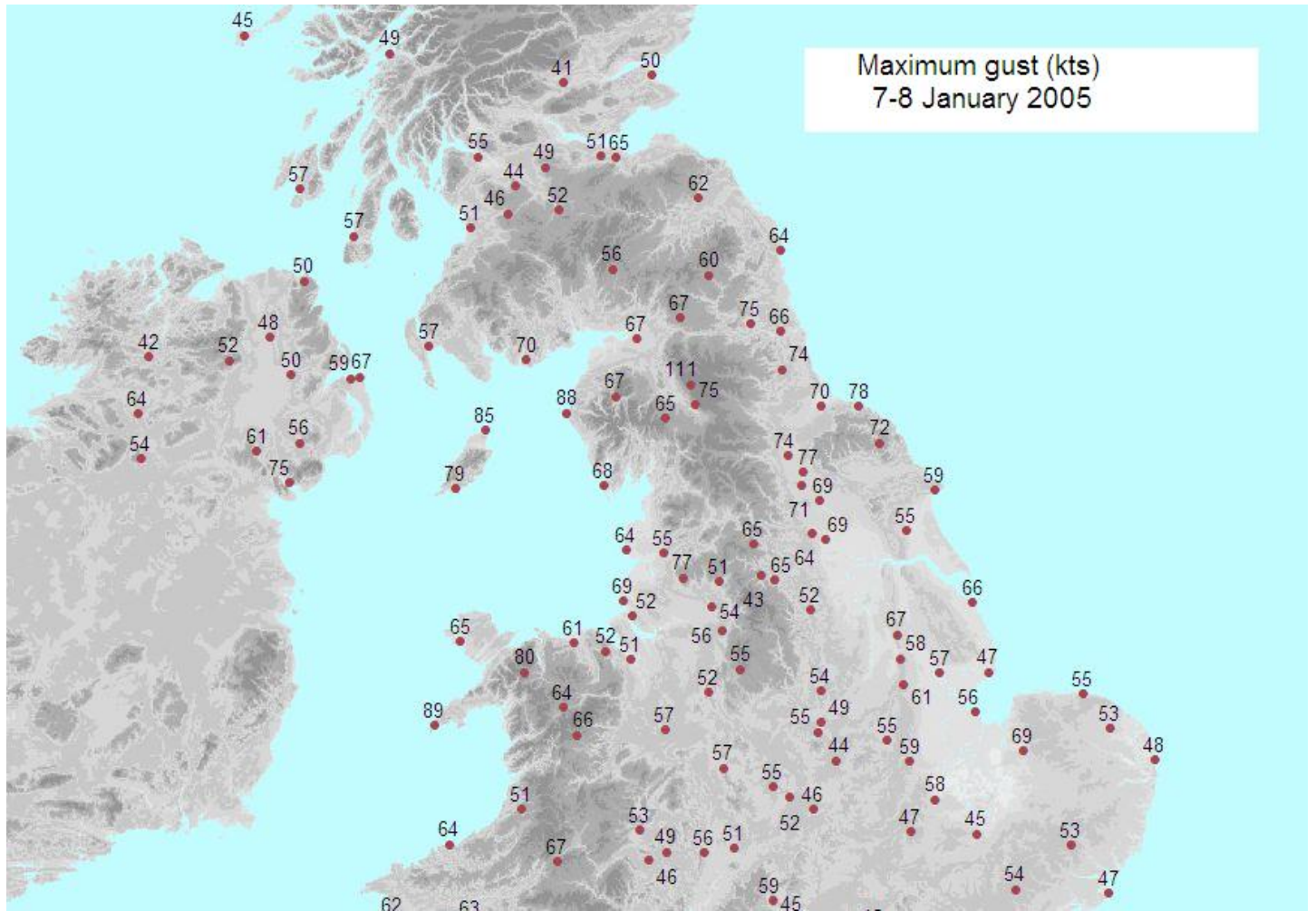
Weather data

January 7/8 - as a very deep depression (reaching 962 mb) tracked north-eastwards across southern Scotland, strong winds battered England and Wales particularly northern areas. Gusts in excess of 70 knots (81 mph) were recorded from the Isle of Man and north Wales across to the coast of north-east England. 88 knots (101 m.p.h.) was recorded at St Bees Head (Cumbria) and 89 knots (102 m.p.h.) at Aberdaron on the Lleyn peninsula (Gwynedd).

The synoptic chart at 0600 GMT on 8 January 2005

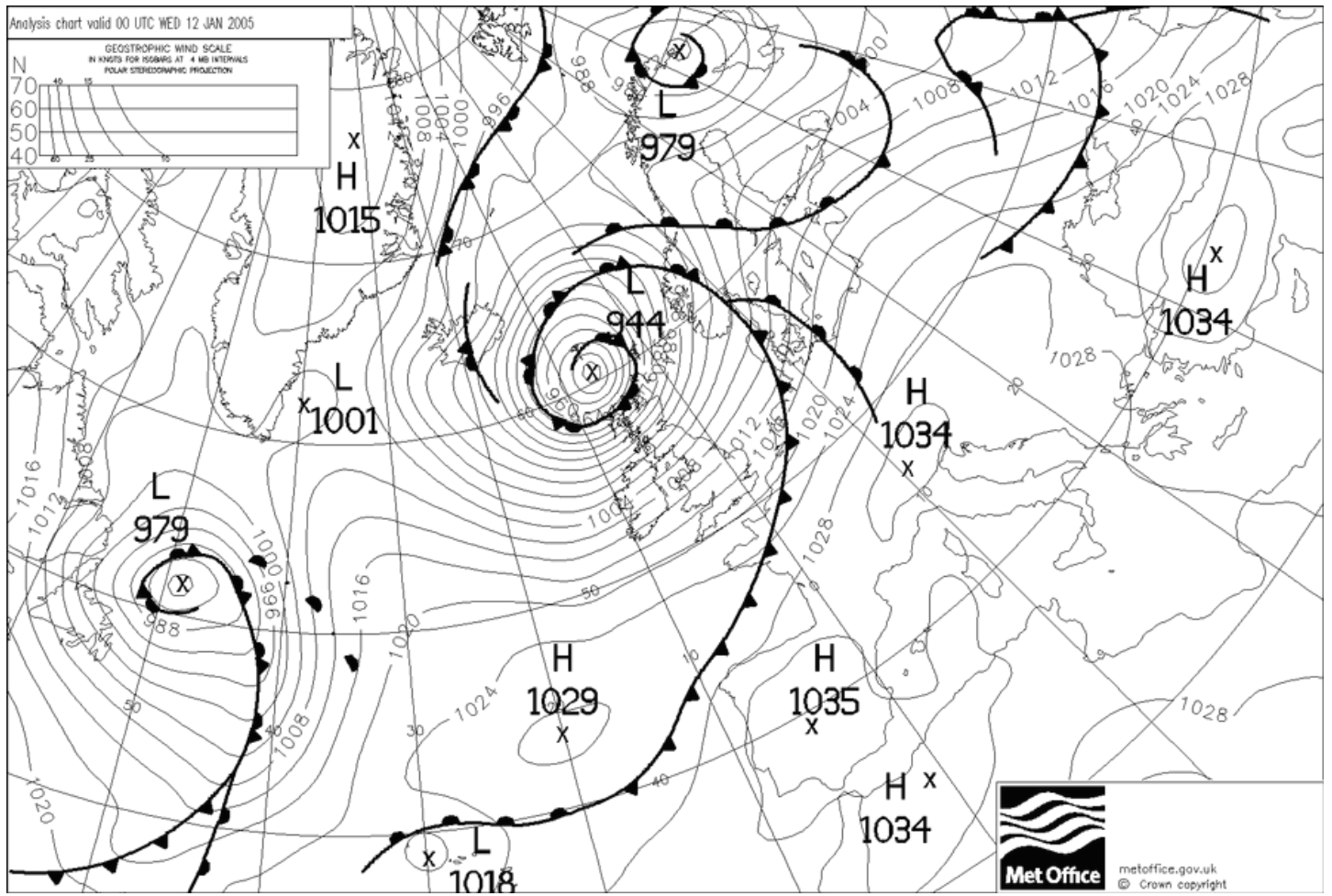


Map of highest gusts 7-8 January 2005

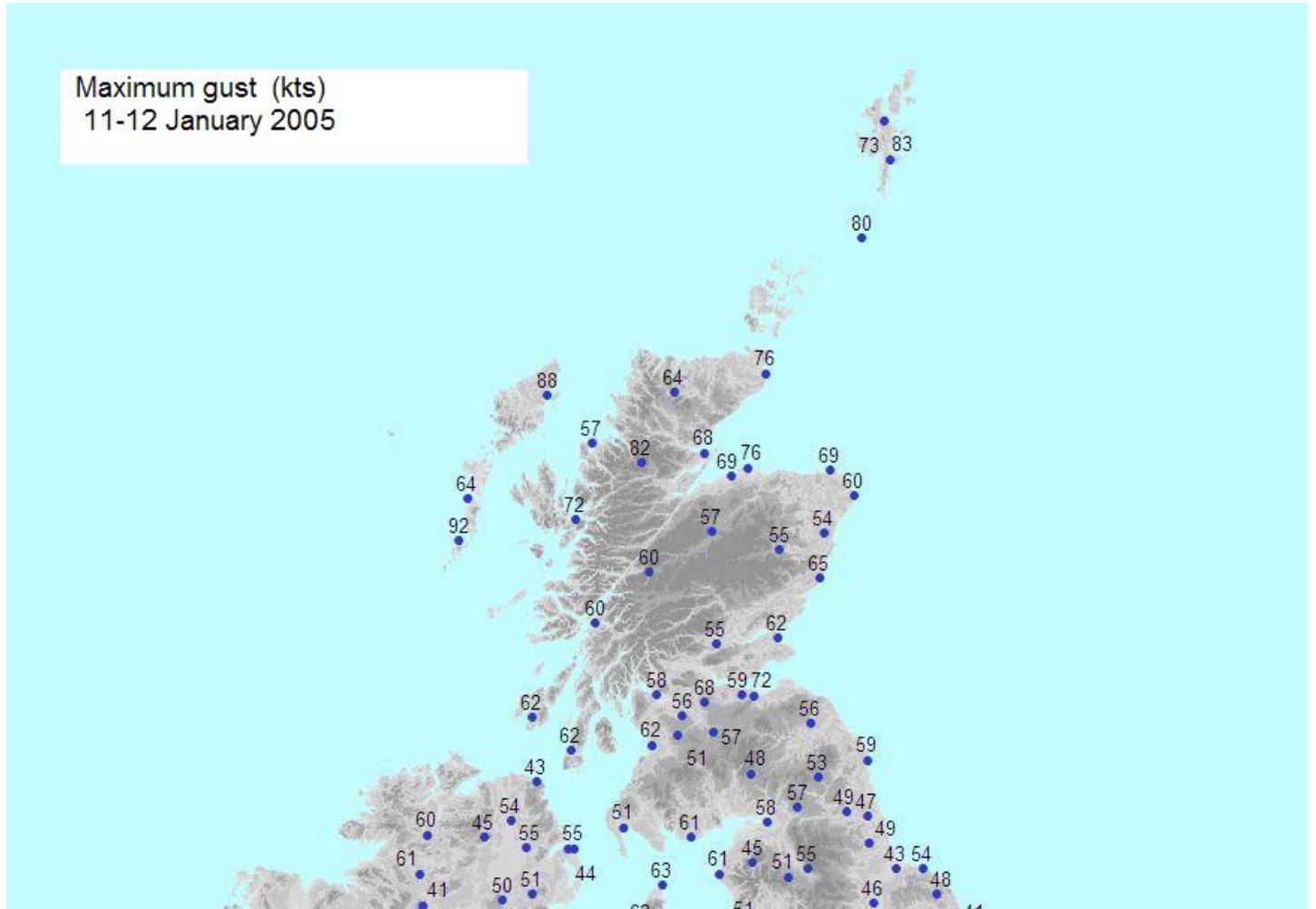


January 11/12 - another very deep depression (944 mb) tracked north-eastwards but this time passing to the north of Scotland. Consequently Scotland experienced very strong winds with gusts over 60 kn (69 m.p.h.) widely and over 80 kn (92 m.p.h.) in the Northern and Western Isles. A speed of 92 knots (106 m.p.h.) was recorded at Barra and 88 knots (101 m.p.h.) at Stornoway.

The synoptic chart at 0000 GMT 12 January 2005



Map of highest gusts 11-12 January 2005



Extreme January 2005 winds

Station	County	Highest hourly mean (knots)	Highest gust (knots)	Date	Comments #
Great Dun Fell (847 m)	Cumbria	84	111	8th	Highest hourly mean and highest gust 1994-2009. High level station
St Bees Head	Cumbria	63	88	8th	Highest hourly mean and gust 1993-2009
Stornoway	Western Isles	59	88	11th	Highest hourly mean and 2nd highest gust 1980-2009
Fair Isle	Shetland	58	80	12th	Highest hourly mean and 2nd highest gust 1998-2009
Point of Ayre	Isle of Man	56	85	8th	Highest hourly mean and highest gust 1980-2009
Ronaldsway	Isle of Man	54	79	8th	Highest hourly mean and highest gust 1980-2009
Barra	Western Isles	52	92	11th	Highest hourly mean and highest gust 1998-2007
Loftus	Redcar and Cleveland	52	78	8th	Highest gust and highest hourly mean 1997-2009
Leeming	North Yorkshire	48	74	8th	Joint highest gust and joint highest hourly mean 1974-2009
Killowen	County Down	46	75	8th	Highest gust and 2nd highest hourly mean 1998-2009
Dishforth	North Yorkshire	44	71	8th	Highest hourly mean 1980-2009
Orlock Head	County Down	44	67	8th	3rd Highest hourly mean and joint 3rd highest gust 1994-2009
Lossiemouth	Moray	43	76	11th	Highest gust and 2nd highest hourly mean 1980-2009

South Uist Range	Western Isles	42	64	11th	Joint 8th highest gust and 11th highest hourly mean 1997-2009 (four days missing Jan 2005)
Linton-on-Ouse	North Yorkshire	41	69	8th	2nd Highest hourly mean and 2nd highest gust 1980-2009
Kinloss	Moray	40	69	11th, 12th	Joint 2nd highest gust and joint 5th highest hourly mean 1964-2009
Tain Range	Highland	39	68	12th	4th Highest hourly mean 1992-2009
Aultbea	Highland	36	57	11th	Joint 5th highest hourly mean and joint 6th highest gust 1993-2009
Leconfield	East Riding of Yorkshire	34	55	8th	2nd Highest hourly mean and 2nd highest gust 1980-2009
Glenanne	County Armagh	31	61	8th	Highest gust and 3rd highest hourly mean 1994-2009

Dates show the period of digitised record available.

Additional Information

'[When NWP met climatology: storms over the Isle of Man during January 2005](#)'. A Hisscott. Weather, Vol. 62 Royal Meteorological Society, 2007

'The violent gale of 11-12 January 2005 in the north of Scotland'. P.R. Brown. Journal of Meteorology, Vol. 13, pp. 104-106 2005.

Last updated: 30 October 2012