

Storm Hannah 26 to 27 April 2019

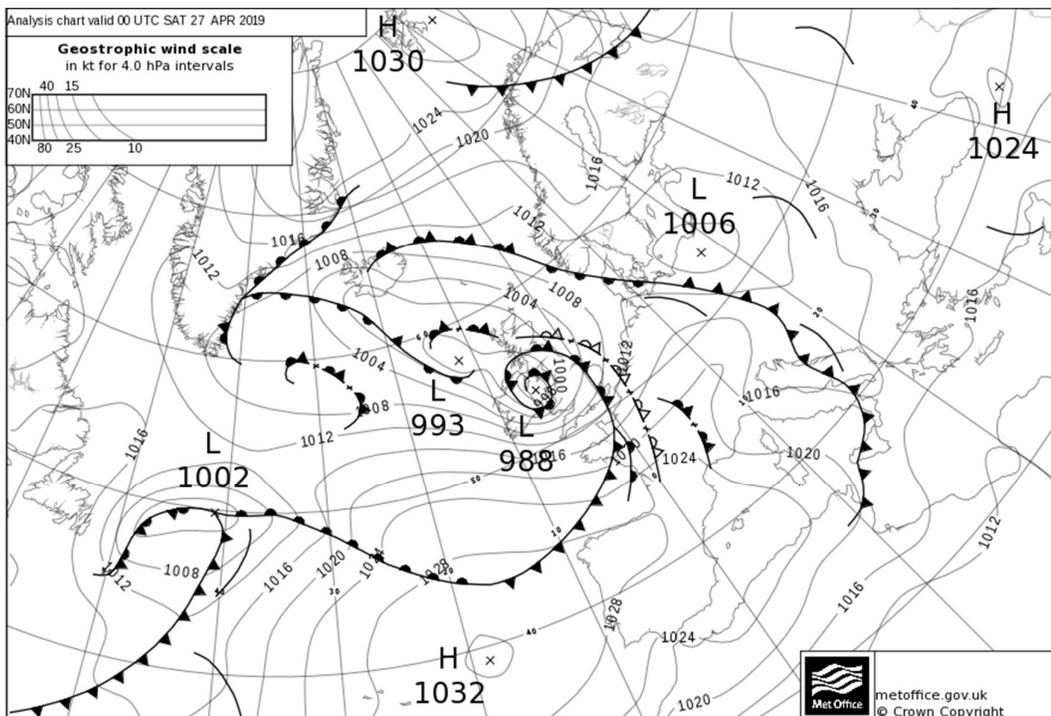
Storm Hannah brought some very strong winds to England and Wales overnight 26 to 27 April 2019, with exposed locations in west Wales recording gusts of over 60 Kt (69 mph). Gusts also exceeded 60 Kt across the south and west of Ireland. For Wales, this was one of the most significant April storms in the last 50 years.

Impacts

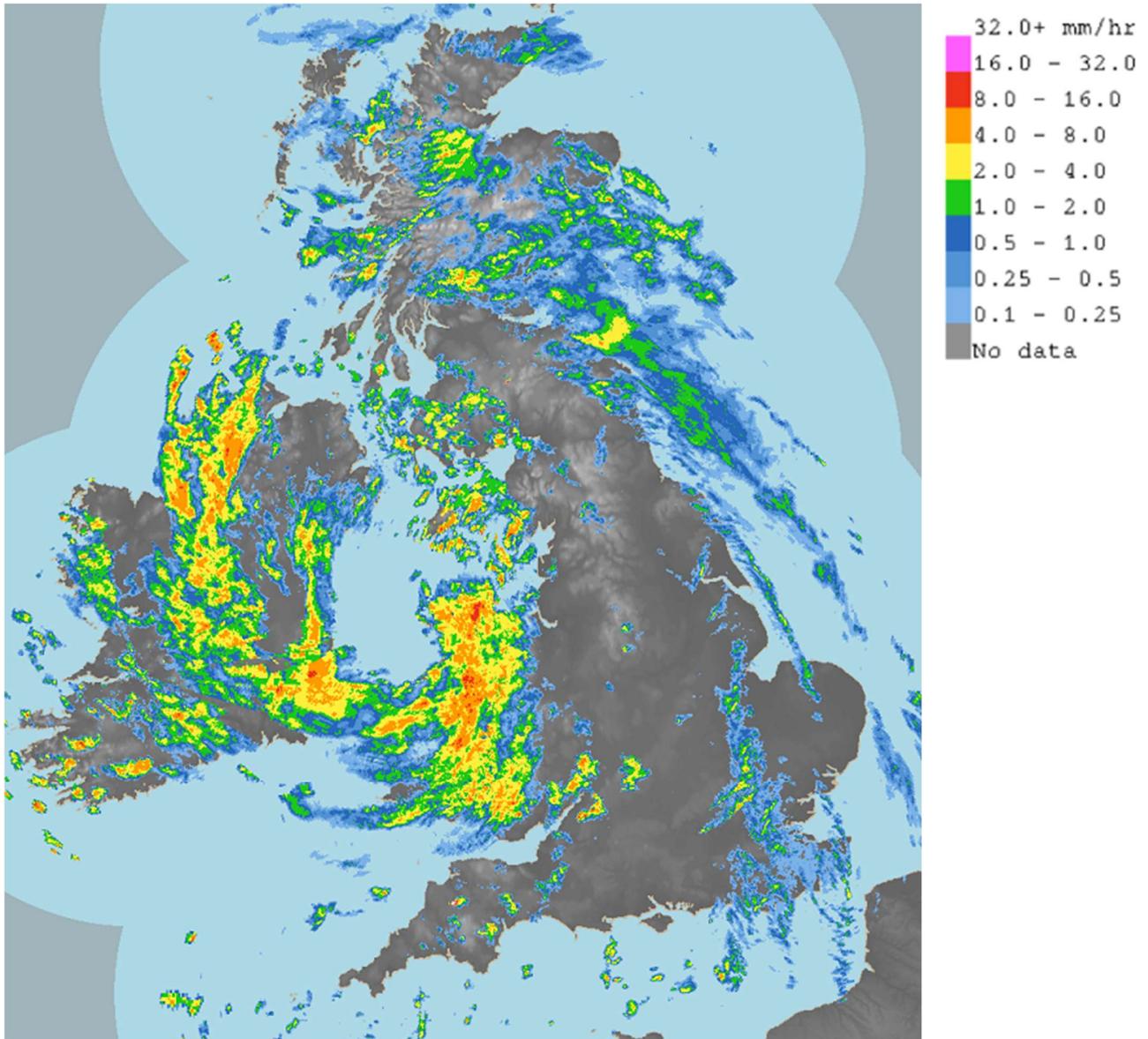
Storm Hannah brought major disruption on roads across Wales with the M48 Severn Bridge and A55 near Holyhead both closed. There were power cuts to over 1000 properties, reports of fallen trees (coming into leaf at this time of year), and disruption to trains across south Wales. However, the most severe impacts from storm Hannah were across Ireland, where a Red Warning was issued by Met Eireann, the Irish Met Service, for parts of the south-west of Ireland.

Weather data

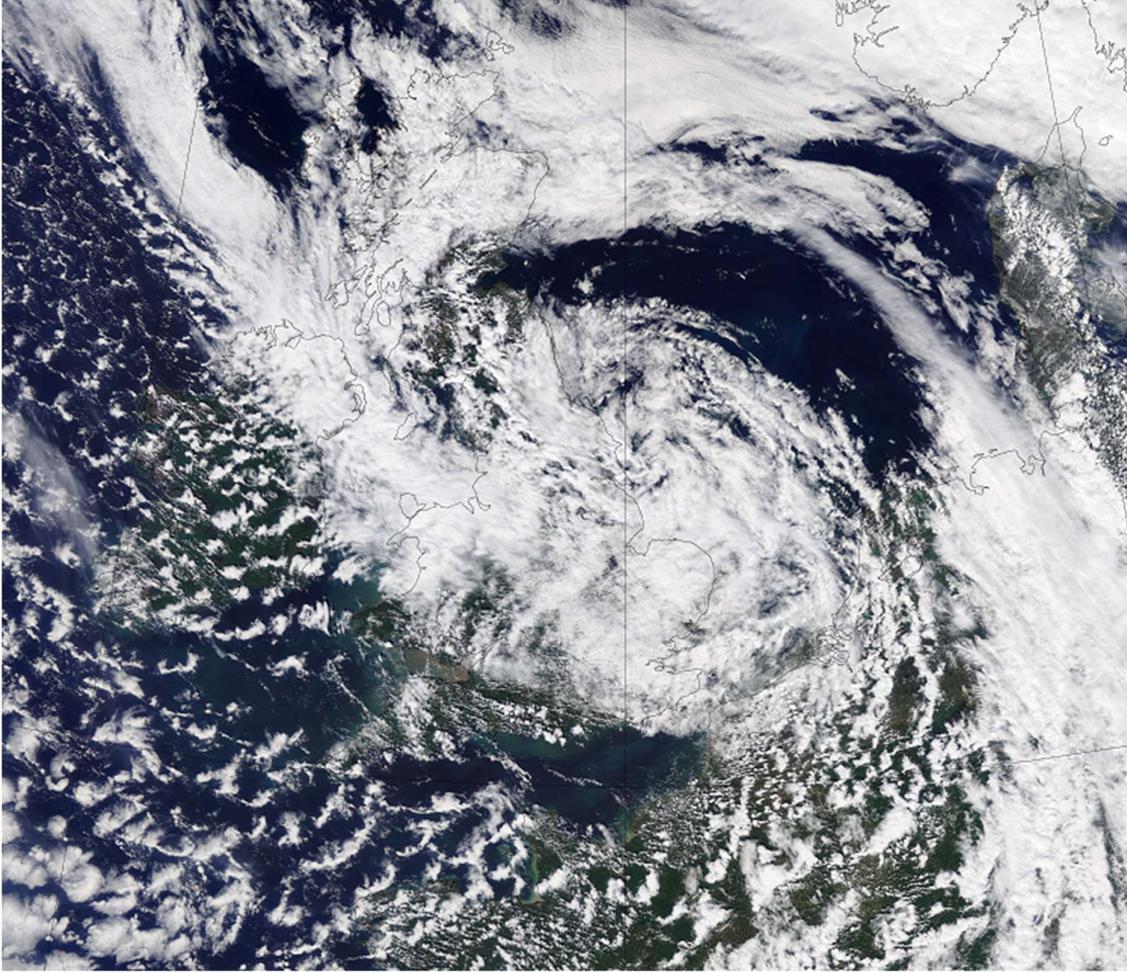
The analysis chart at 000 UTC 27 April 2019 shows storm Hannah centred in the Irish sea before tracking eastwards across England during the morning of the 27th, bringing some very strong winds to exposed western coastal areas.



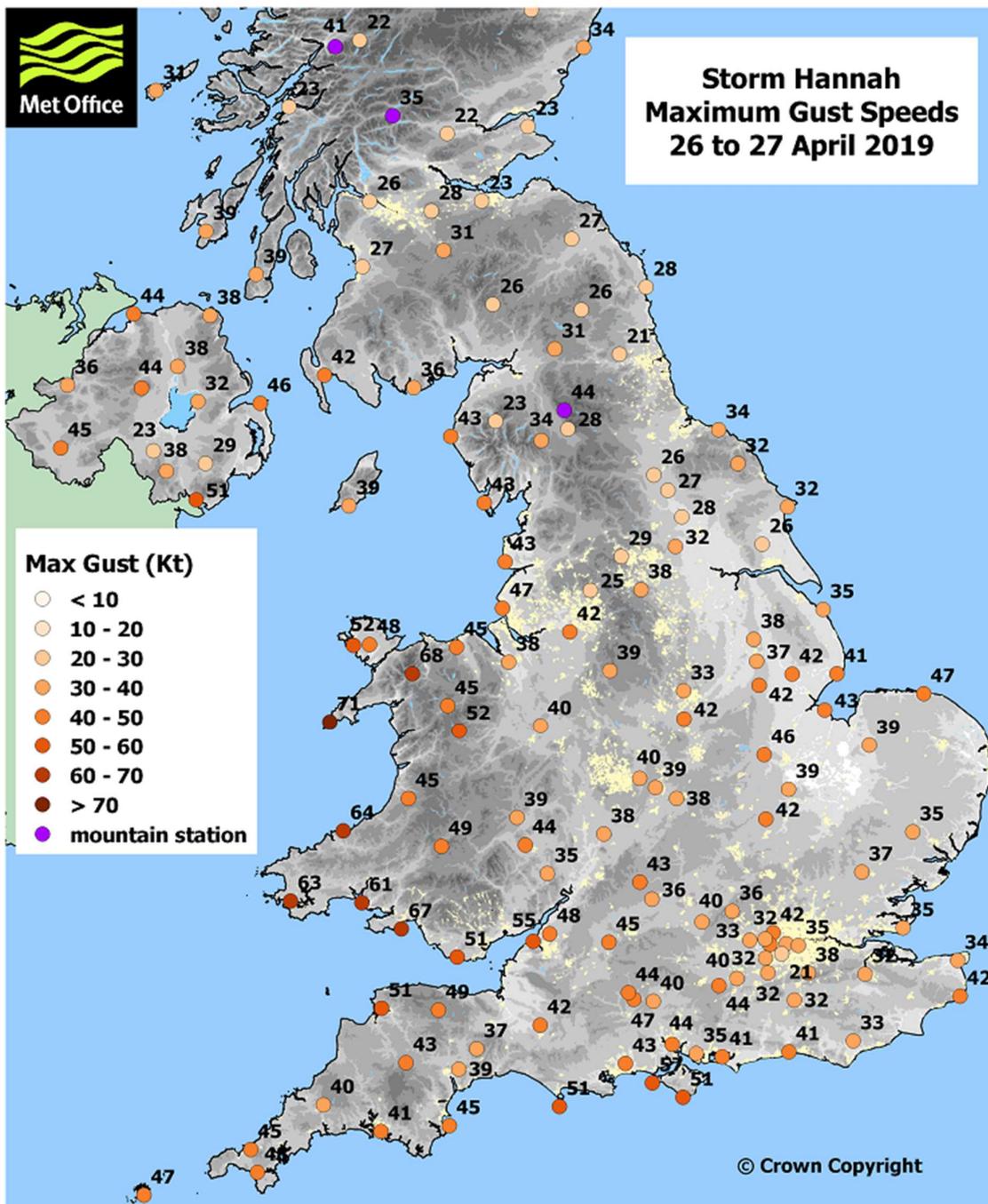
The chart below shows rain-rates at 0000 UTC on Saturday 27 April 2019 with storm Hannah bringing heavy rain across the Welsh mountains. Capel Curig (Conwy) recorded a 2 day total for 26 to 27 April of 108.4mm, 71% of the April 1981-2010 long-term average, with most of this rain falling in a 22 hour period.



The satellite image shows storm Hannah clearing the east coast of England on the morning of 27 April 2019. Image copyright Met Office / NASA / NOAA

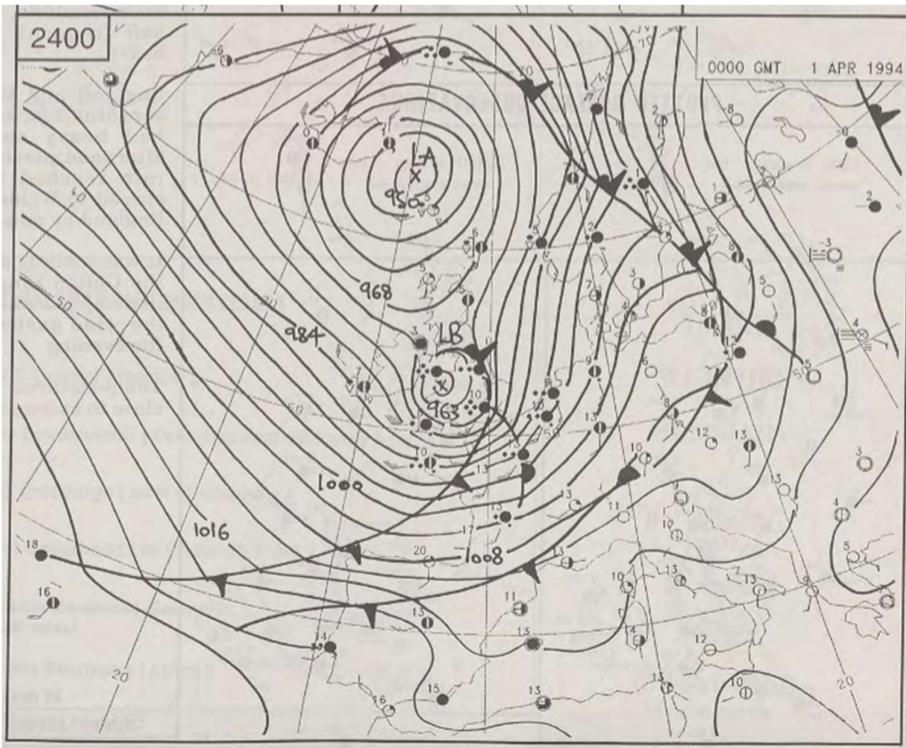


The map below shows maximum gust speeds on 26 to 27 April 2019. Winds gusted at over 60 Kt (69 mph) around the coastline of west Wales, with 71 Kt (82 mph) at Aberdaron, Gwynedd. Winds also gusted at 40 to 50 Kt across the southern half of England and across Northern Ireland.

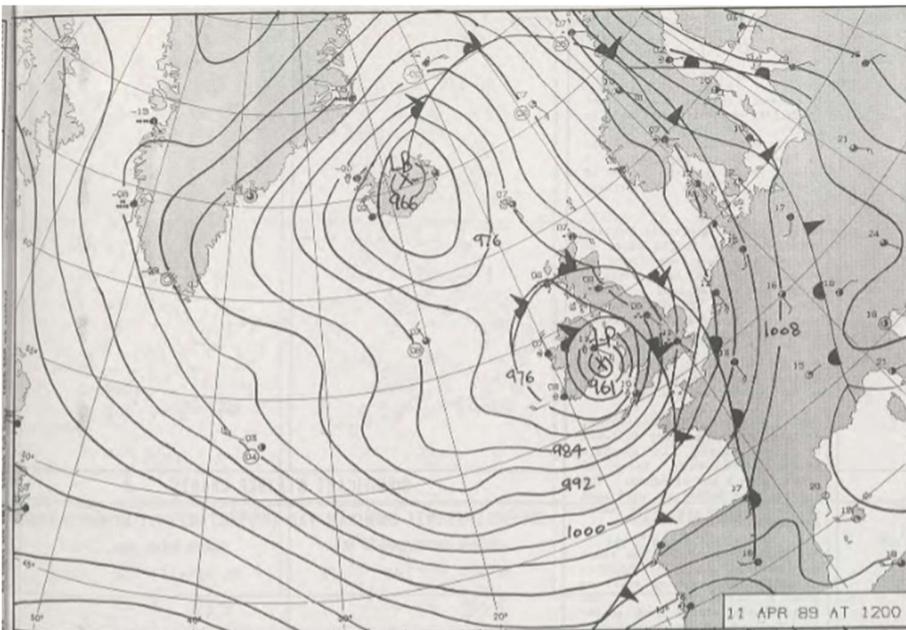


Strong winds are to be expected at times during spring, for example on 17 to 18 April 2013 winds gusted widely at 40 to 50 Kt or more across Wales and northern England. However, it is unusual for relatively widespread gusts exceeding 60 Kt to be recorded during April, and for west Wales this was arguably the third most severe April storm in the last 50 years. The most severe April storm in observational wind records – in terms of widespread gusts exceeding 60 Kt - was on 1 April 1994, followed by 11 April 1989. The analysis charts below show each of these events as deep Atlantic low pressure systems tracking across the UK. Both of these events were much more severe overall than 26 to 27 April 2019.

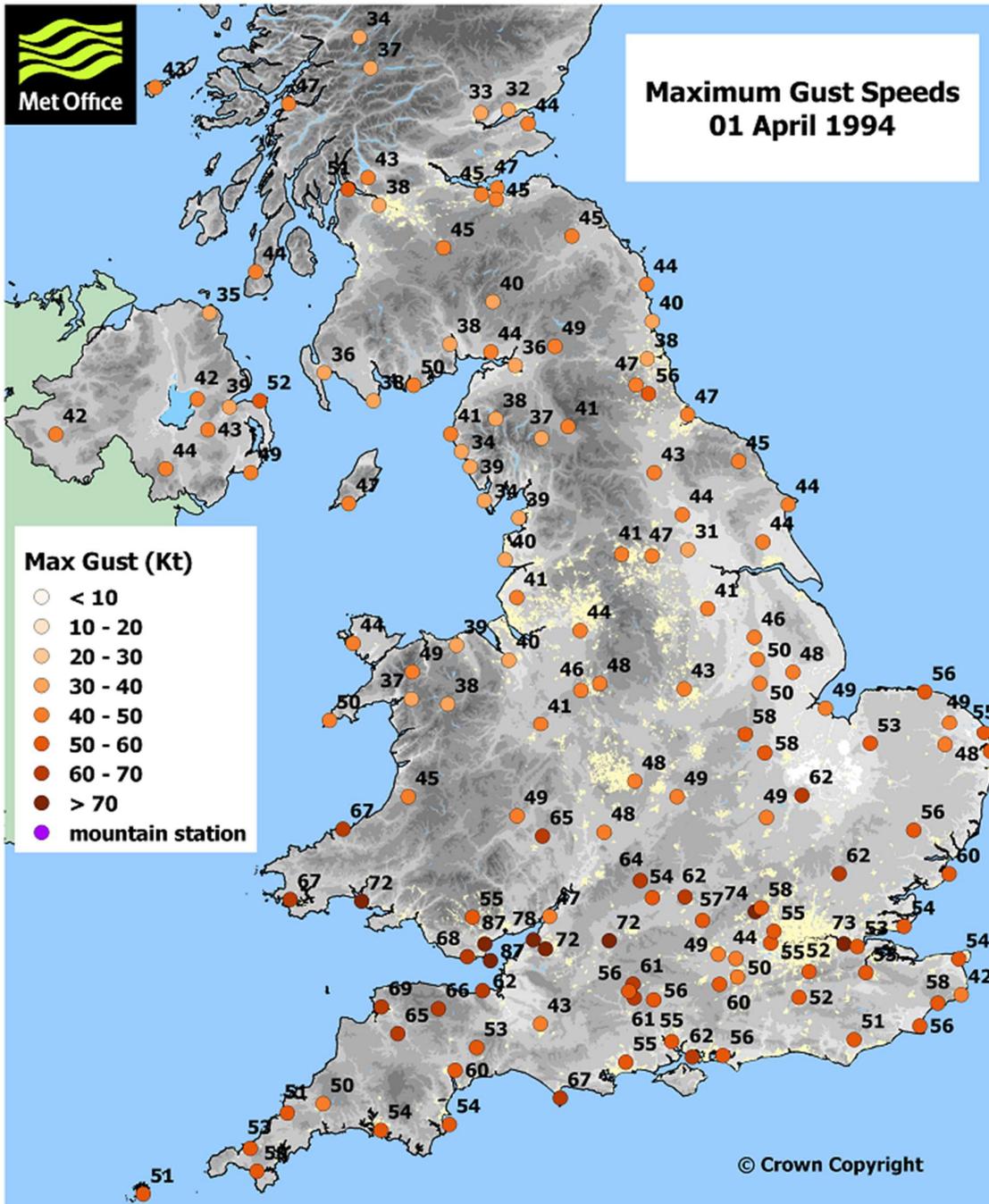
Analysis chart at 0000 UTC 1 April 1994



Analysis chart at 1200 UTC 11 April 1989



The map below shows maximum gust speeds across the UK on 1 April 1994. Gusts of 60 Kt or more were recorded in a swathe from south Wales to East Anglia, with Flat Holm in the Bristol Channel recording 87 Kt (100mph) – the UK’s highest April gust on record (Cardiff Weather Centre also recorded 87 Kt, but this being a rooftop location with non-standard exposure). Gusts of over 70 Kt were recorded even well inland, for example 74 Kt (85 mph) at Amersham, Buckinghamshire and 72 Kt (83 mph) at Lyneham, Wiltshire.



The map below shows maximum gust speeds across the UK on 11 April 1989. Gusts of 70 to 80 Kt were recorded on the coast of west Wales and the far south-west, with 84 Kt (97 mph) at Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire.

