

Dullest July in over 30 years

Not much of a summer so far, sad to say. The weather pattern during the month was dominated by westerly winds that brought moist, cloudy air from the Atlantic over the country. All that cloud was responsible for the most significant feature of July's weather, which is that sunshine amounts were well below normal everywhere for the third consecutive month. New records for dullness during the month of July were set at a number of stations, notably Valentia Observatory in Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry, where they haven't had as dull a July since records commenced in 1892. Birr, Claremorris and Shannon Airport had their dullest July in over 40 years. At a number of other stations there hasn't been as little sunshine in July in more than 30 years.

WETTEST IN THE WEST

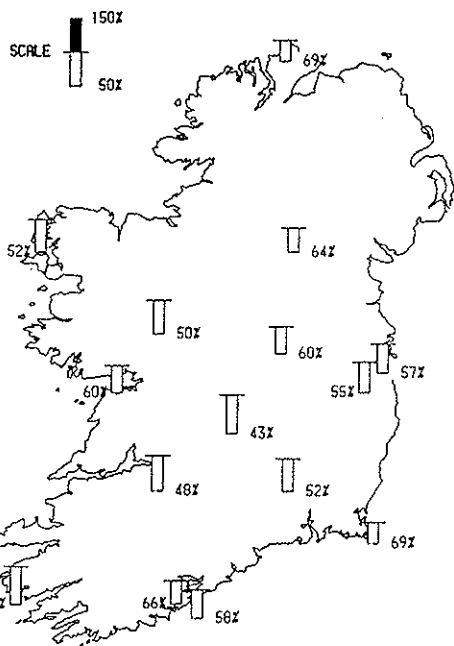
Rainfall amounts were close to normal at most stations. As the map inside shows, the main exceptions were in western and northwestern coastal areas - Balmullet had 130% of normal rain - and in the south midlands where amounts were only about half the normal for July. Cahirciveen was the wettest station in the country with a rainfall total for the month of 98.5mm. The driest station was Kilkenny with only 25.3mm. Malin Head had only one dry day during the month. In contrast, Rosslare recorded noticeable rain on only 12 days. The period from Sunday 27th to Wednesday 30th saw the heaviest falls almost everywhere. In Rosslare 27.8mm of rain fell on Wednesday 30th, the greatest daily total recorded during July.

COOL DAYS, MILD NIGHTS

Mean temperatures for the month were close to normal everywhere. There was a notable lack of high daytime temperatures but this was balanced by the fact that nighttime minima were generally above normal. Monday 14th was the warmest day of the month at most stations. Maximum temperatures that day were generally between 20°C and 25°C. The night of Tuesday 8th/Wednesday 9th was the coolest in most places. In parts of the south lowest temperatures were recorded on Tuesday 22nd.

Kilkenny was the warmest station with the highest mean maximum at 19.1°C, and the highest temperature recorded during the month, 26.5°C on Monday 14th. This was also the highest temperature recorded so far this year. But Kilkenny was relatively cool at night, so much so that it also recorded the lowest temperature of the month, 4.8°C, during the early hours of Wednesday 9th. Kilkenny experiences a greater range of temperature

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Sunshine percentage of (1951-1980) normals

Distribution of Daily Values

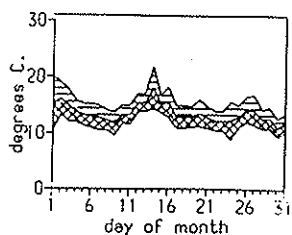
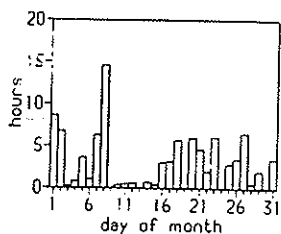
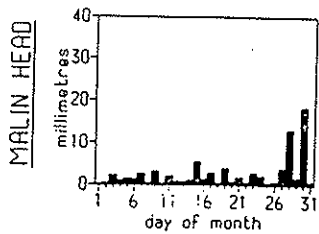
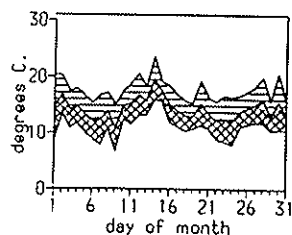
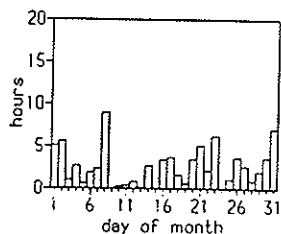
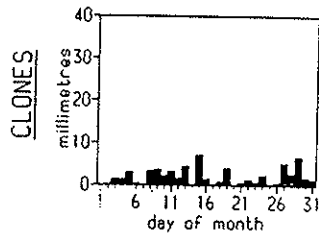
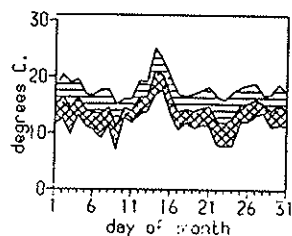
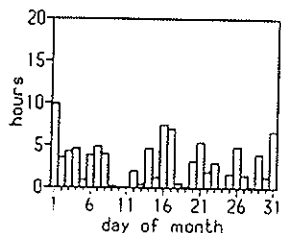
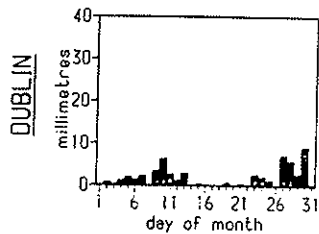
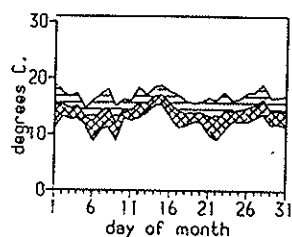
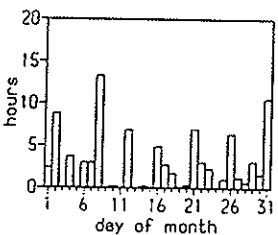
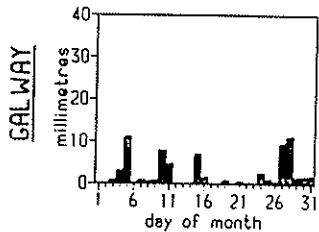
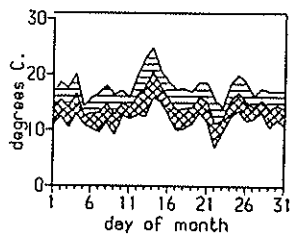
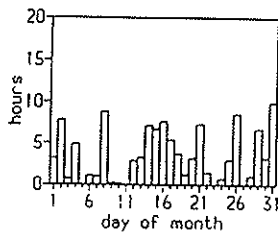
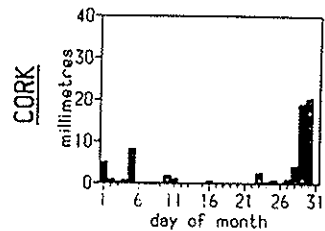


 Max
 Mean
 Min

Rainfall

Sunshine

Temperature



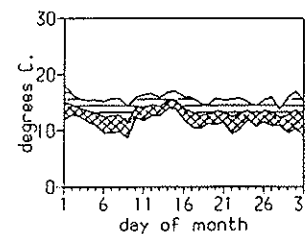
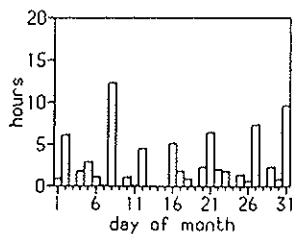
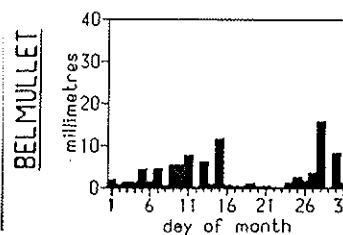
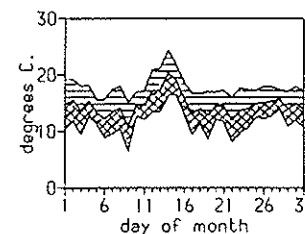
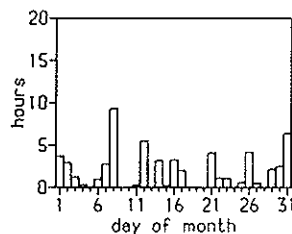
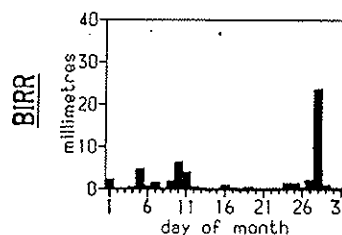
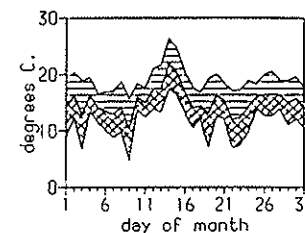
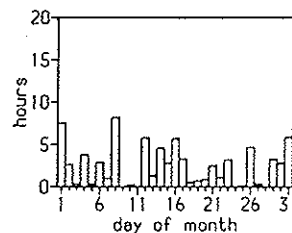
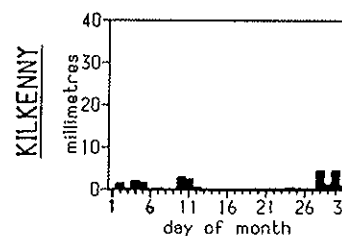
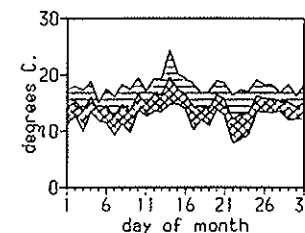
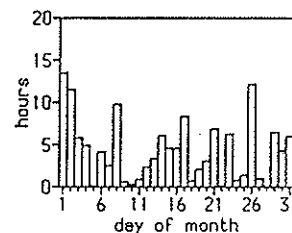
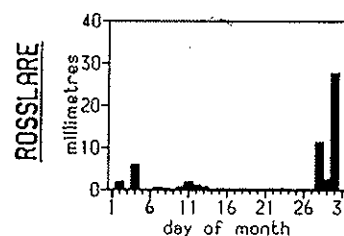
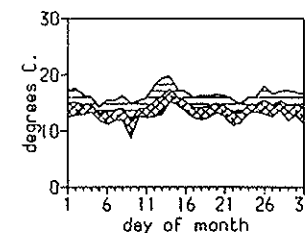
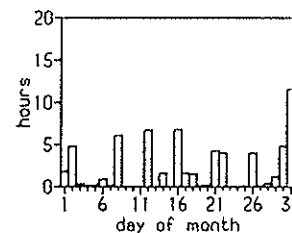
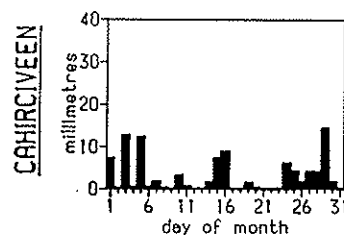


 Max
 Mean
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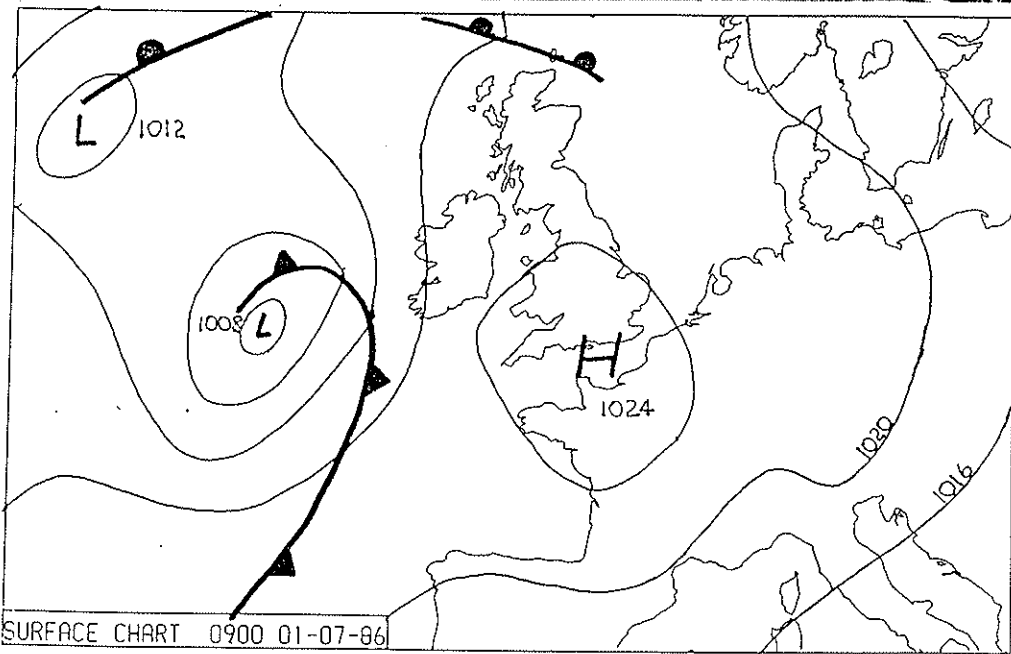
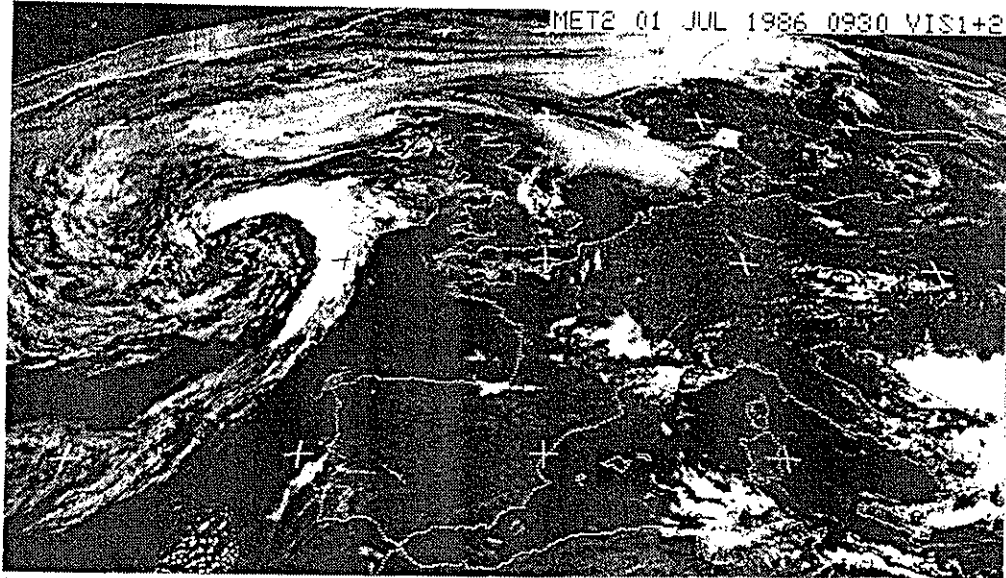
Rainfall

Sunshine

Temperature



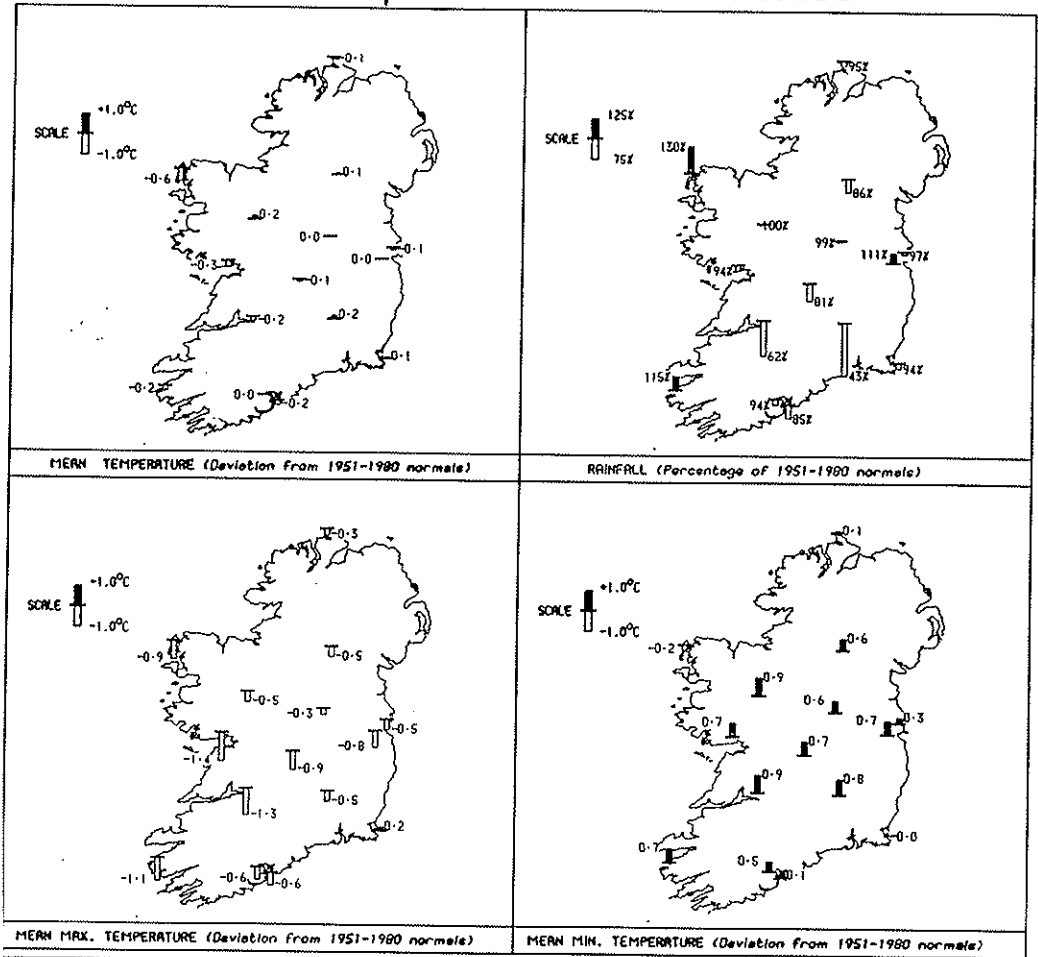
Weather Situation on the morning of 1st July



The satellite picture was taken by the European METEOSAT at 0930 GMT on Tuesday 1st July. The synoptic chart shows the situation at 0900 GMT that day. The dominant feature is the large area of high pressure centred over the English Channel, keeping most of Europe cloud-free. That Tuesday was the sunniest day of the month in many eastern areas. The good weather didn't last long however, as the low pressure system to the southwest of Ireland with its associated cold front was already beginning to affect western parts.

July 1986

Totals, Means and Extremes



Station	Rainfall		Air Temperature						Sunshine		Wind		Number of days with								
	Total	Most in a Day Amount (Date(s))	Means of		Extreme Temperature		Total	Most in a Day Amount (Date(s))	Max Gale Gust	Rain	Snow	Air Frost	Hail	Thunder	Fog	Gale Gusts					
			Max	Min	Highest Date(s)	Lowest Date(s)															
Balmuliat	93.5	15.9	28	15.8	11.2	13.5	18.2	1	8.6	9	75.2	12.3	8	51	28	-	-	-	-	4	2
Birr	55.4	23.7	28	17.9	11.5	14.7	24.5	14	6.4	9	58.7	9.3	8	38	21	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cahircivean	98.5	14.7	29	16.6	12.6	14.6	19.9	14	8.7	9	63.3	11.6	31	38	25	-	-	-	-	3	2
Cesamont	59.8	9.4	27	18.4	11.3	14.9	24.5	14	6.0	9	84.7	11.3	1	42	23	-	-	-	-	-	1
Clonmacorris	74.9	17.2	28	17.6	11.2	14.4	22.1	12	6.7	9	60.3	12.3	8	43	26	-	-	-	-	1	1
Clones	62.2	7.1	15	17.7	11.0	14.4	23.6	14	6.6	9	79.9	9.0	8	40	27	-	-	-	-	1	1
Cork Airport	68.5	20.6	30	17.8	11.7	14.8	24.9	14	6.9	22	110.6	9.9	31	-	18	-	-	-	-	5	-
Dublin Airport	57.5	9.2	30	18.1	11.7	14.9	25.2	14	7.0	9	93.4	9.9	1	-	24	-	-	-	-	2	-
Galvey	69.9	11.2	28	16.9	12.0	14.5	19.1	1	8.7	6	88.1	13.3	8	41	22	-	-	-	-	2	1
Kilkenny	25.3	4.7	30	19.1	11.4	15.3	26.5	14	4.8	9	76.3	8.2	8	-	17	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malin Head	76.2	18.5	30	15.8	11.5	13.7	21.9	14	8.9	24	94.0	14.6	8	54	30	-	-	-	-	1	8
Mullingar	71.6	14.4	28	17.6	11.1	14.4	24.0	14	5.6	9	82.9	8.5	31	41	25	-	-	-	-	1	1
Rocha's Point	50.9	17.6	30	17.5	12.2	14.9	21.4	13	8.5	22	101.1	10.8	31	-	16	-	-	-	-	6	-
Rosslare	55.3	27.8	30	18.1	12.1	15.1	24.5	14	7.9	22	135.0	13.5	1	36	12	-	-	-	-	3	1
Shannon Airport	40.8	7.4	27	17.8	12.8	15.3	24.2	14	9.0	22	69.1	13.9	31	38	21	-	-	-	-	1	1

NOTES: Rainfall in millimetres, Temperatures in Degrees Celsius, Sunshine in Hours and Wind in Knots, Gale Gust = Gust of > 33.5 knots. * = days with 0.2mm or more

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then most other stations due to its eastern inland location. Being least affected by the moderating influence of the sea it tends towards a continental-type climate.

DULL SUMMER SO FAR

Rosslare had the most sunshine during July with a total of 135 hours - the sunny southeast lives up to its name, although that's still only 69% of normal for the month. Over the country as a whole amounts varied from a daily average of more than 4 hours at Rosslare to 1.9 hours in Birr. Compared to the long-term averages for the month, July this year only got between 40% and 70% of normal sunshine. Malin Head got the most sunshine in a day with 14.6 hours on Tuesday 8th, which was the sunniest day of the month at many stations. In the south the last day of the month was sunniest, and along the east the previous Tuesday, the 1st of the month, got the most sun. (See satellite picture inside.)

GALES AT MALIN AND BELMULLET

Gales occurred at Malin Head on the 16th, 17th and 30th, and at Belmullet on the 16th; these were the only gales reported during the month. The 16th was the windiest day in July with gale gusts reported from stations in the midlands, north and west. Malin recorded the highest gust of the month - 54 knots - that day, and Belmullet also had a gust of over 50 knots as a weak cold front moved eastwards bringing cooler, fresher air to replace the warm, humid air that had covered the country during the previous few days.

7-DAY FORECAST

[from 2nd to 8th August]

The holiday weekend will be unsettled and windy with a mixture of sunshine and showers. Some of the showers will be heavy, with a risk of thunder, particularly on Sunday and Monday.

A short spell of more settled weather is likely around midweek in the southern half of the country while more northern areas can expect further spells of rain. This unsettled type of weather will predominate in all parts later in the week. Temperatures will be near or slightly below normal and no prolonged periods of good drying are likely.

FOR LATEST FORECAST RING

Dublin area : 1199
 Leinster and Cavan/Monaghan : (01) 425555
 North Munster/South Connaught : (061) 62677
 South Munster : (021) 964600

Beaufort Scale of Wind Force

Beaufort Number	Short Description	Specification for use on Land	Wind Velocity at 10 metres above Level Ground		
			Knots	Metres per Second	Miles per Hour
0	Calm	Smoke rises vertically	< 1	< 0.3	< 1
1	Light Air	Direction of wind shown by smoke but not by wind vanes	1 - 3	0.3 - 1.5	1 - 3
2	Light breeze	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle, ordinary vanes moved by wind	4 - 6	1.6 - 3.3	4 - 7
3	Gentle breeze	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends light flag	7 - 10	3.4 - 5.4	8 - 12
4	Moderate breeze	Raises dust and loose paper; small branches are moved	11 - 16	5.5 - 7.9	13 - 18
5	Fresh breeze	Small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland waters	17 - 21	8.0 - 10.7	19 - 24
6	Strong breeze	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telegraph wires; umbrellas used with difficulty	22 - 27	10.8 - 13.8	25 - 31
7	Near gale	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt when walking against the wind	28 - 33	13.9 - 17.1	32 - 38
8	Gale	Breaks twigs off trees; generally impedes progress	34 - 40	17.2 - 20.7	39 - 46
9	Strong gale	Slight structural damage occurs (chimney pots and slates removed)	41 - 47	20.8 - 24.4	47 - 54
10	Storm	Seldom experienced inland; trees uprooted; considerable structural damage occurs	48 - 55	24.5 - 28.4	55 - 63
11	Violent Storm	Very rarely experienced; accompanied by widespread damage	56 - 63	28.5 - 32.6	64 - 72
12	Hurricane	—	64 and over	32.7 and over	73 and over

The Beaufort Scale of Wind Force was devised by Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort in 1806. Born in Co. Meath in 1774, Beaufort became Hydrographer of the Royal Navy in 1829. Throughout his life he maintained a keen interest in meteorology and kept a daily weather journal for more than 50 years.