

Storm on 12th February 2014.

Meteorological situation: An intense depression of 952 hPa approached Slyne Head in the morning and tracked steadily north-eastwards over the country. Storm force gradients within its circulation abated early in the night as an unstable westerly airstream crossed Ireland.

Winds: Southeast to south gale to strong gale force 9 in the morning, increased from the south to storm force 10 at midday and veered west in the evening. Increased to violent storm force 11 for a time in parts of the south and west; backed west to southwest overnight and steadily decreased to force 5 - 7 by morning. Hurricane force 12 winds off the west coast

Weather: Moderate rain at first, showers merged to longer spells of rain, some wintry and thundery.

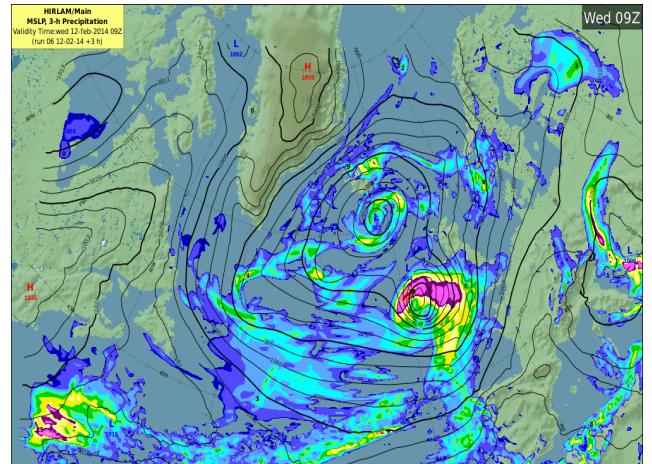
Significant Weather Event:

- Hurricane force winds were recorded at Mace Head, a mean 10-minute wind speed of 65kts.
- Maximum gust recorded was 86kt, at Shannon Airport.
- Shannon also recorded a 10-minute mean wind speed of 61kts, its highest since records began in 1945.
- Kinsale Energy Gas Platform recorded a maximum wave height of 25m in the afternoon, its highest on record.
- The maximum daily rainfall amount recorded was 21.5mm, at Mace Head.

Historical Context:

While this storm could be considered exceptional, it's not without parallel. We have had more violent storms in the past such as [Hurricane Debbie](#) in 1961, where the maximum gusts were between 70 and 85 knots generally with a maximum of 93kt reported in the northwest. The more recent storms of 26th December 1998 and 24th December 1997 were also of greater intensity.

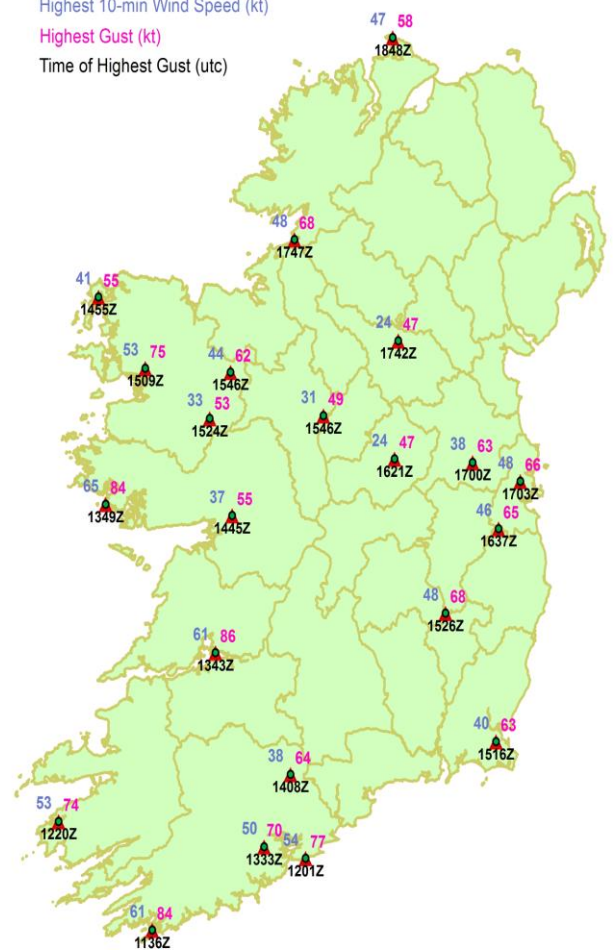
One hundred and seventy five years ago, on the 6/7th January 1839, a hurricane known as the "Night of the Big Wind" raged across Ireland. The following sentiments expressed in the Evening Post the next morning still remains valid today: Comparing it with all similar visitations in these latitudes, of which there exists any record, we would say that, for the violence of the hurricane and the deplorable effects which followed, as well as for its extensive sweep, embracing as it did the whole island in its destructive career, it remains not only without a parallel, but leaves far and away in the distance all that ever occurred in Ireland.



Highest 10-min Wind Speed (kt)

Highest Gust (kt)

Time of Highest Gust (utc)



Daily Weather Statistics:

Station	Highest 10-min Wind Speed (kt)	Wind Direction at time of 10-min Wind Speed (deg)	Highest Gust (kt)	Time of Highest Gust (utc)	Rainfall (mm)
Roches Point	54	180	77	1201	11.5
Valentia	53	260	74	1220	20.6
Sherkin Island	61	270	84	1136	16.4
Mace Head	65	280	84	1349	21.5
Cork Airport	50	260	70	1333	20.9
Athenry	37	270	55	1445	13.7
Shannon Airport	61	260	86	1343	18.7
Belmullet	41	300	55	1455	15.8
Moore Park, Fermoy	38	260	64	1408	20.7
Johnstown Castle	40	250	63	1516	10.6
Mt_Dillon	31	270	49	1546	14.8
Claremorris	33	280	53	1524	17.8
Newport	53	290	75	1509	25.8
Oak Park, Carlow	48	250	68	1526	17.1
Mullingar	24	250	47	1621	11.3
Knock Airport	44	280	62	1546	20.4
Finner	48	280	68	1747	20.8
Casement Aerodrome	46	250	65	1637	10.3
Dunsany	38	260	63	1700	9.4
Ballyhaise	24	260	47	1742	9.4
Dublin Airport	48	250	66	1703	6.6
Malin Head	47	300	58	1848	10.5