

Storm Kathleen, 6 to 7 April 2024

Storm Kathleen was the 11th named storm of the 2023-2024 storm season. Kathleen was a particularly deep area of low pressure for the time of year, bringing strong winds gusting widely at over 50Kt around coastlines in the west and north and over 60Kt in some locations. This was an unusually severe storm for this time in spring; storm Kathleen and storm Noa on 12 April 2023 were the most significant April windstorms to affect the UK since April 2013.

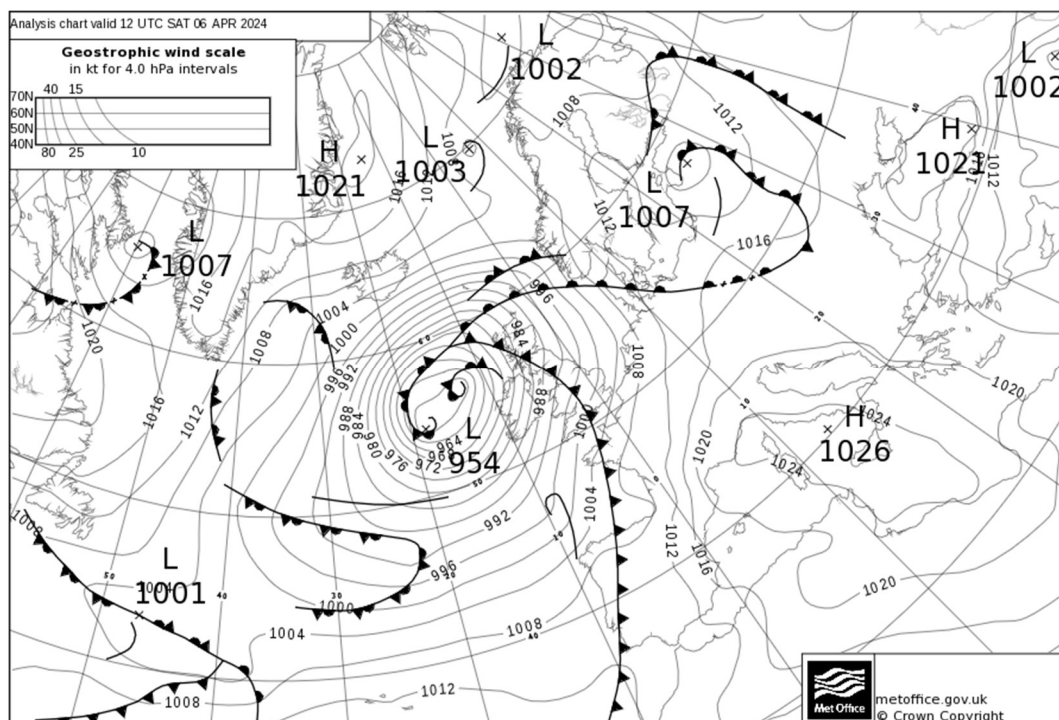
The Irish National Met Service, Met Éireann, named Storm Kathleen after computer programming pioneer Kathleen McNulty from County Donegal and crystallographer Dame Kathleen Lonsdale from County Kildare.

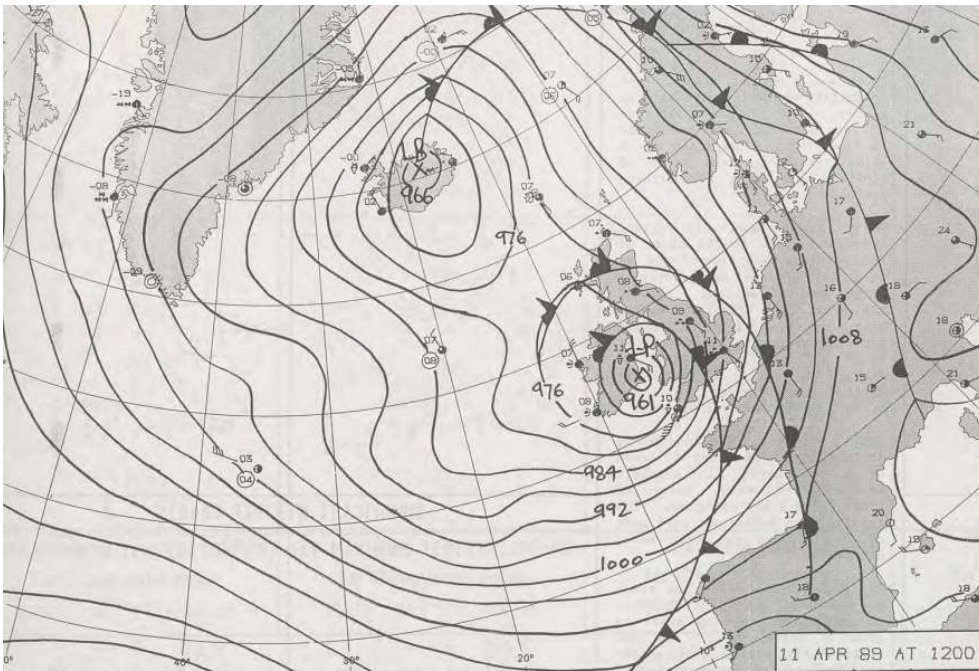
Impacts

Flights were cancelled at airports including Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Belfast City. Ferry services were also disrupted and in Northern Ireland there were impacts from fallen trees and power outages, with damage to the roof of the Titanic Belfast Museum.

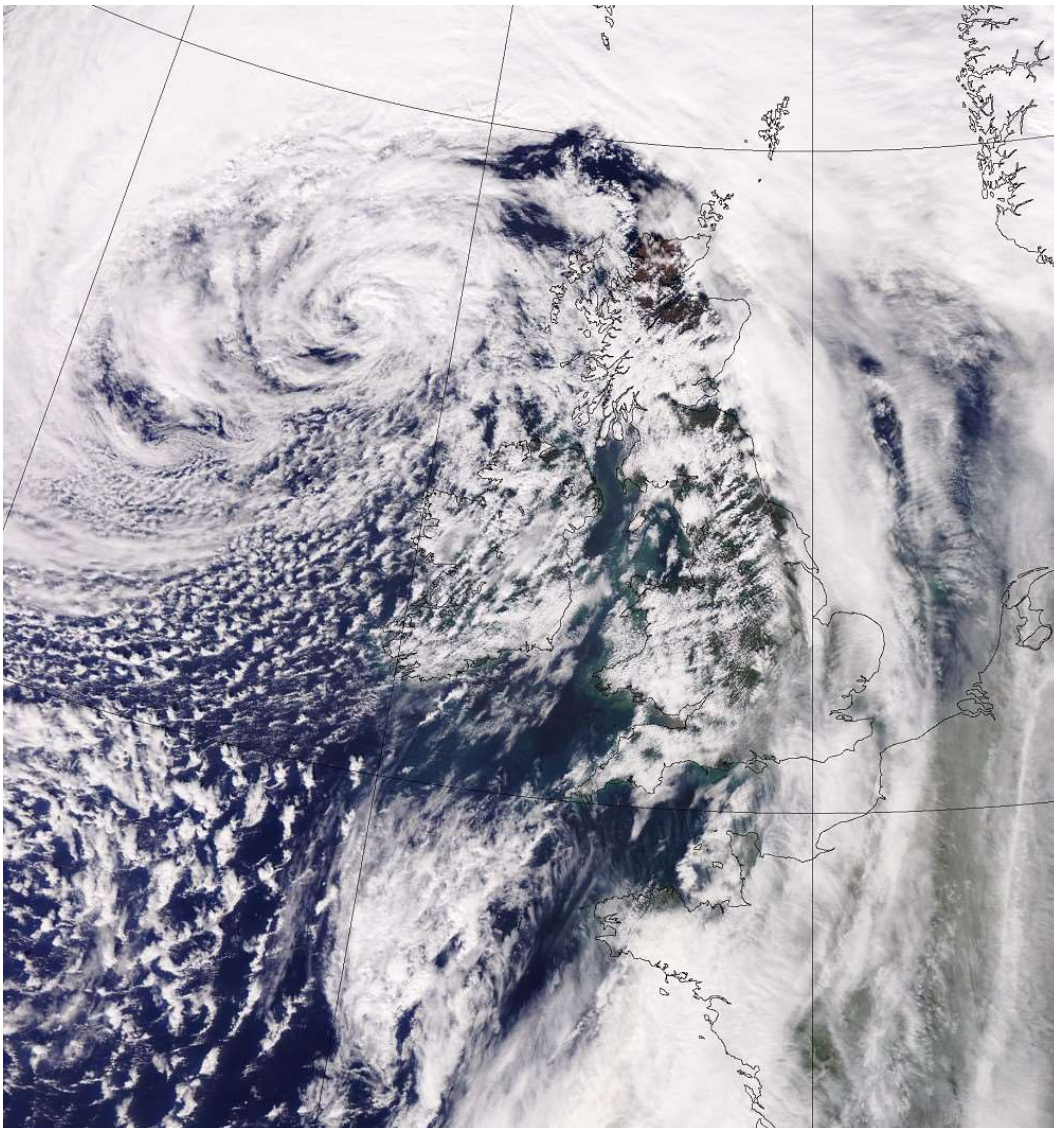
Weather data

The analysis chart at 1200UTC 6 April 2024 shows storm Kathleen centred to the west of the UK with associated fronts sweeping north across the country. The central pressure from this storm was particularly deep, reaching 953hPa (over the ocean). The UK's lowest recorded mean sea level pressure in April (over land) is 961.4hPa at Dundrennan (Kircudbrightshire) on 11 April 1989. The second analysis chart at 1200 UTC 11 April 1989 shows the storm on this date.

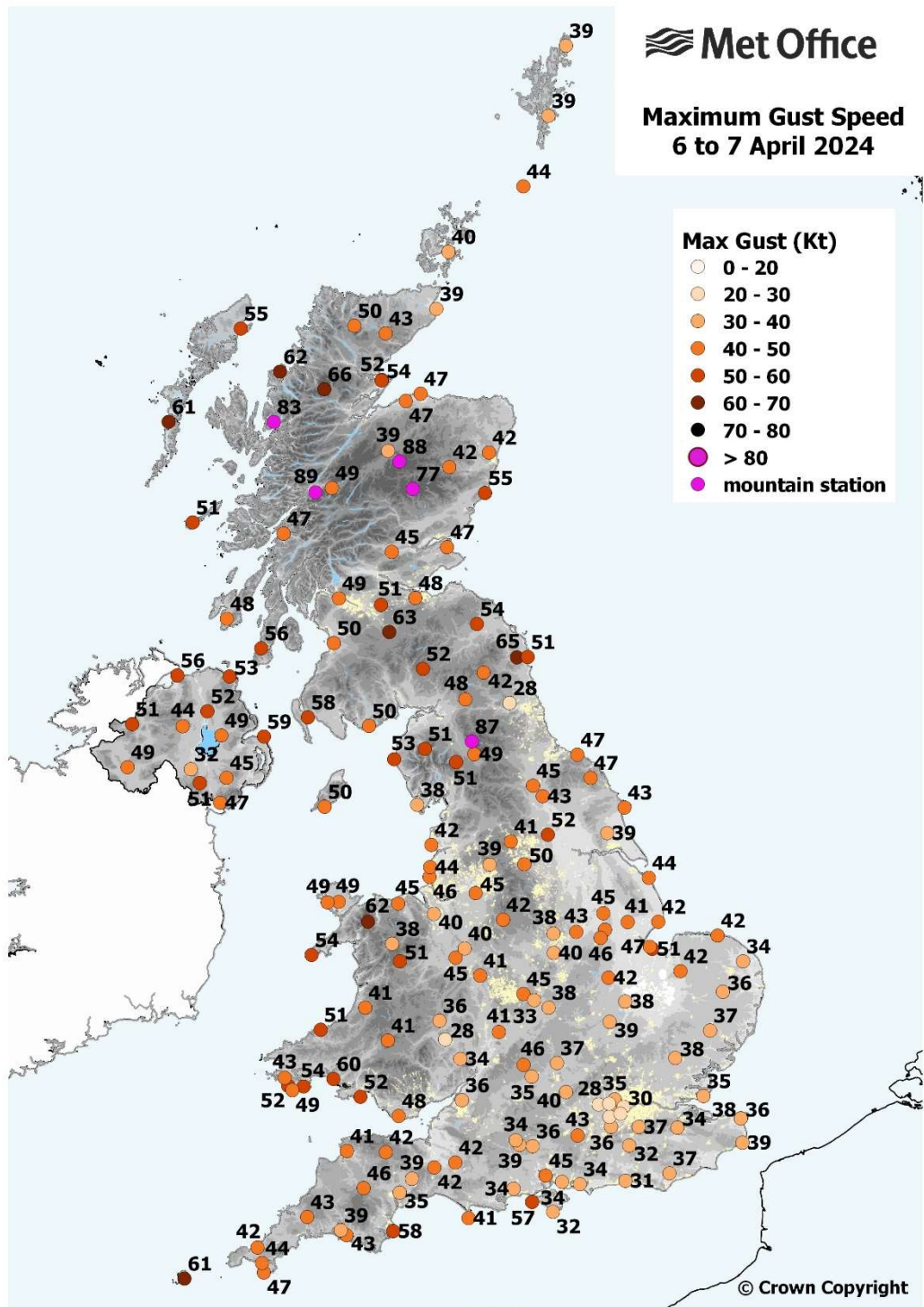




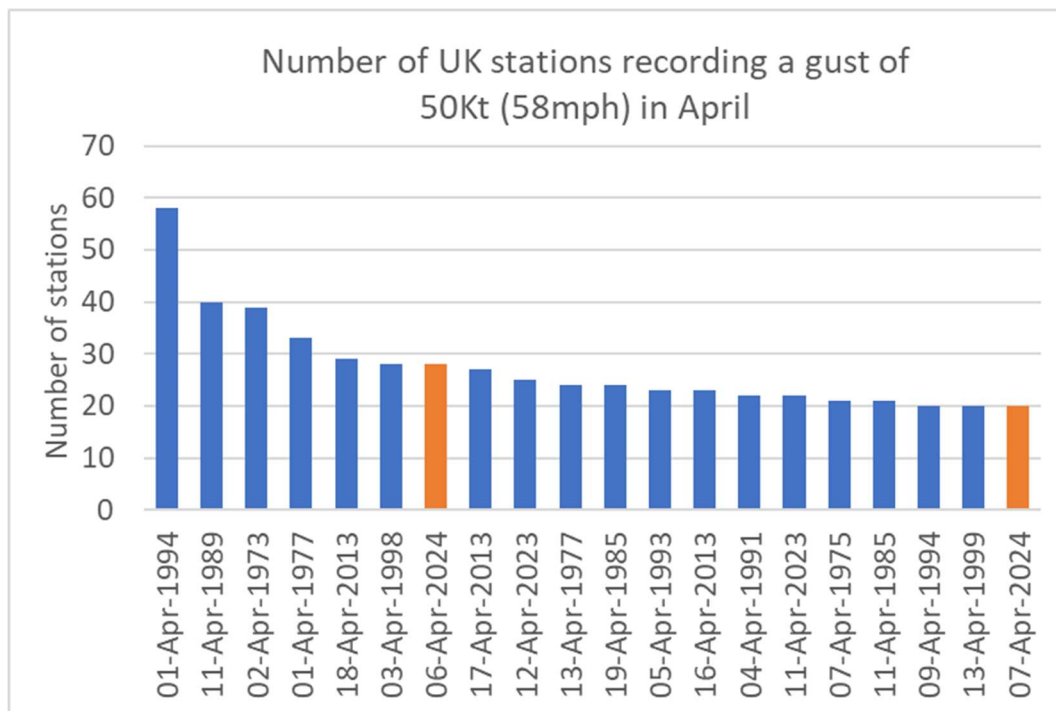
The satellite image on 6 April 2024 shows storm Kathleen with the low centre in the North Atlantic to the west of Scotland. Image copyright Met Office / NOAA / NASA.



The map below shows maximum gust speeds from storm Kathleen from 6 to 7 April 2024. Many stations recorded gusts of over 50Kt (58mph), with gusts of over 60Kt (69mph) at several stations including Loch Glascarnoch (Ross & Cromarty), Brizlee Wood (Northumberland), Drumalbin (Lanarkshire), Capel Curig (Conwy), Aultbea (Ross & Cromarty), St Mary's Airport (Isles of Scilly), South Uist (Western Isles) and Pembrey Sands (Carmarthenshire). Aonach Mor (1130masl) recorded a gust of 89Kt (102mph), with 100mph gusts also at Cairngorm Summit (1237 masl) and Great Dun Fell (847masl) on the crest of the Pennines. Many weather stations recorded their highest April gust since 16 to 18 April 2013, while Kathleen set new April gust speed records at several stations in Scotland and Northern Ireland.



The chart below provides a count by day of the number of stations across the UK recording a gust exceeding 50Kt (58mph) during April, based on data from 1970. By this metric storm Kathleen was one of the ten most significant April storms to affect the UK in the last fifty years, although with several more powerful April storms in the observational record, including 1 April 1994, 11 April 1989 and 2 April 1973. (6 and 7 April 2024 storm Kathleen highlighted in orange).



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