

Weather chart for 00 UTC on 31 January 1953

General summary

The most prominent feature of the weather was the wind. To start the day, the wind was a strong north-westerly, approaching gale force across Scotland. During the afternoon the wind veered to a northerly with the strongest winds transferring to the eastern side of the country. Gale or severe gale force winds affected many eastern counties of Scotland and England during the late afternoon and evening with the east coast taking the brunt of the winds. A storm surge accompanied the winds down the east coast causing severe flooding across many low-lying areas of East Anglia and the Thames Estuary. It was a cold day generally with temperatures well below the late January average.

Significant weather event

The Stranraer to Larne ferry boat 'Princess Victoria' foundered with the loss of 133 lives.

307 people died across southeast England (including 58 at Canvey Island and 35 at Jaywick).

1800 people died in Holland as a direct result of the storm surge.

160,000 acres of eastern England flooded by sea water.

Highest gust speeds:

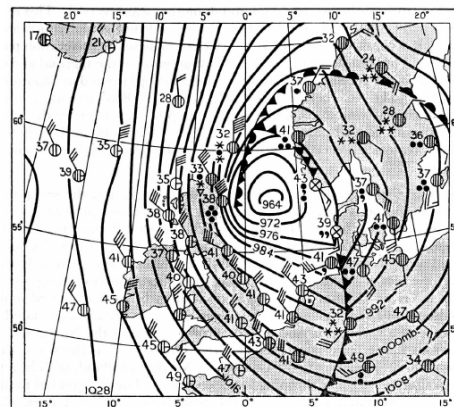
Costa Hill, 109 knots / 126 mph

Lossiemouth, 98 knots / 113 mph

Grimsetter Airport, 93 knots / 107 mph

Dyce, 88 knots / 101 mph

Lerwick, 85 knots / 98 mph



SYNOPTIC CHART, 1200 G.M.T., JANUARY 31, 1953

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Daily weather extremes

Highest Maximum Temperature

7.8 °C at St Mary's (Isles of Scilly)

Lowest Minimum Temperature

-1.7 °C at Balmoral (Aberdeenshire)

Most Rainfall

14.0 mm at Dyce (Aberdeenshire)

Most Sunshine

6.5 hours at Eastbourne (Sussex)