Storm Freya

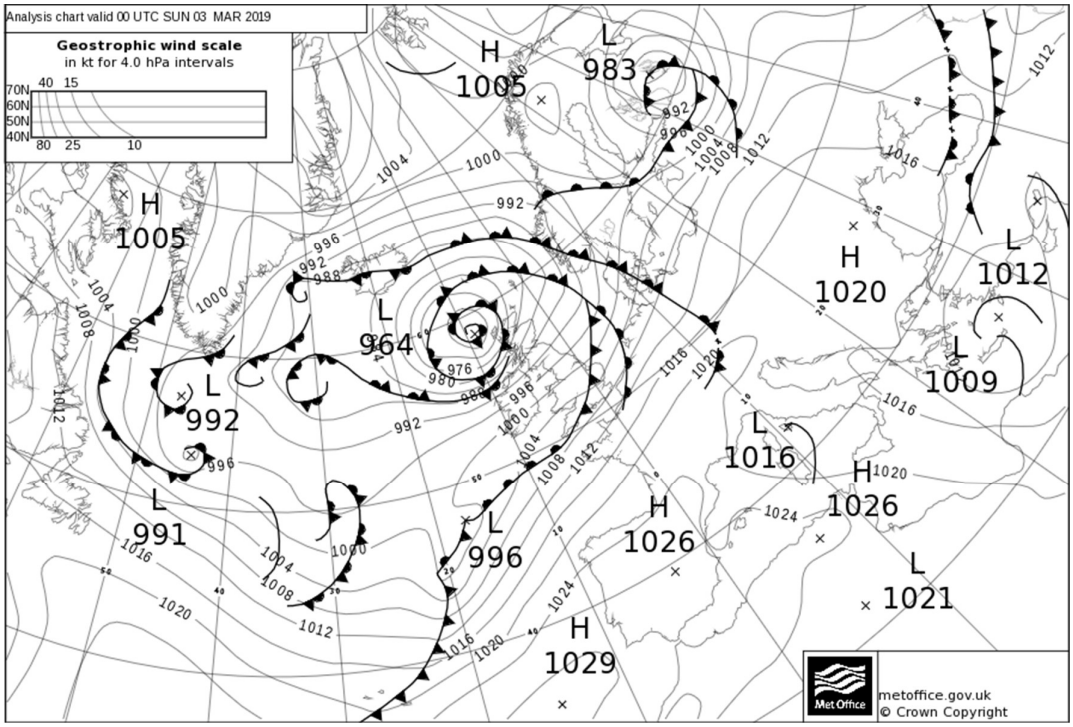
Storm Freya, the sixth named storm of the 2018/2019 winter, was a rapidly deepening area of low pressure as it crossed the UK, bringing strong winds and heavy rain to England, Wales and southern Scotland. This storm rapidly followed another deep area of low pressure which brought some very strong winds across Scotland.

Impacts

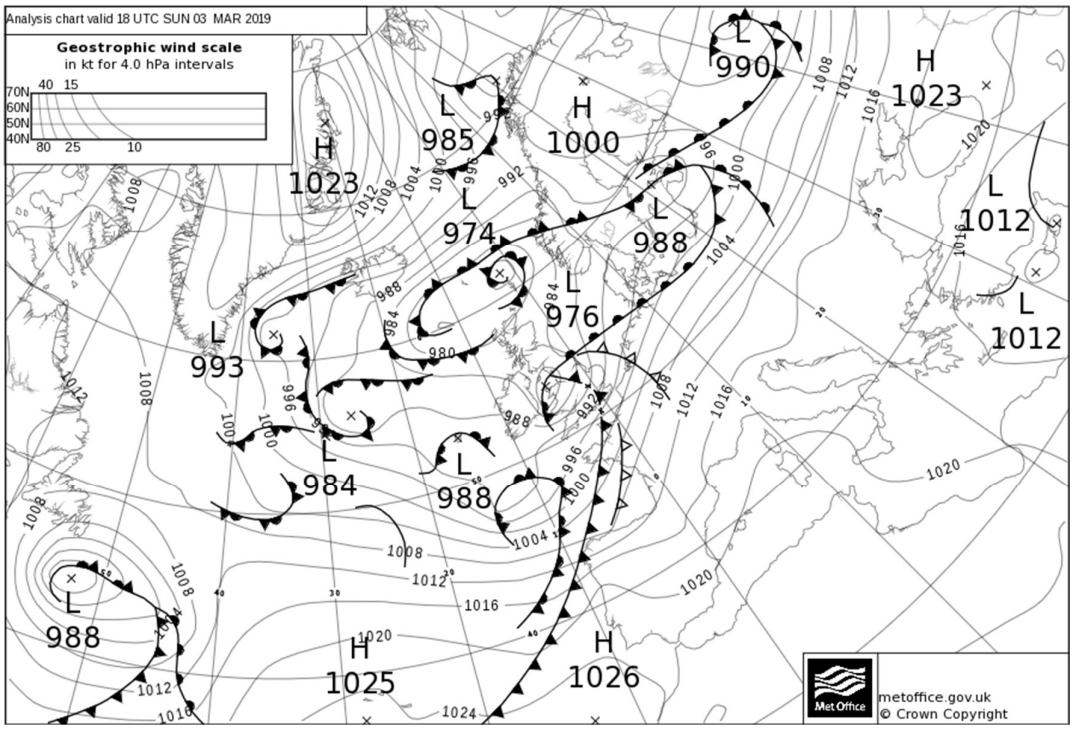
Strong winds caused disruption on the rail network across Wales and the Midlands, and a number of fallen trees blocked some routes for motorists. Some snow across higher levels in the north causing hazardous driving conditions. A section of the M4 was closed because of high winds, localised flooding affected some roads across Wales and large waves battered exposed coastlines.

Weather data

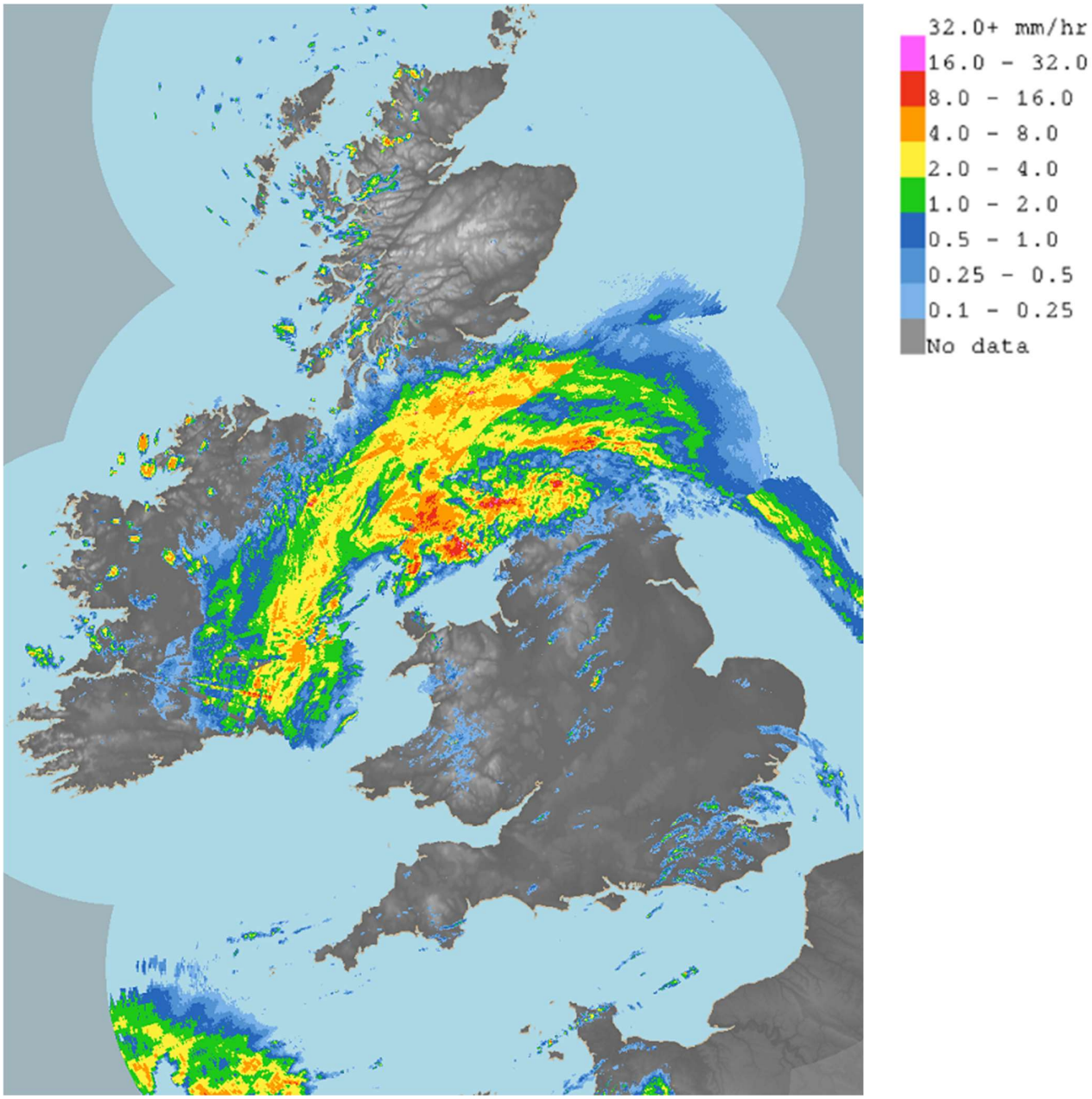
The analysis chart at 0000 UTC on Sunday 3 March 2019 shows a deep area of low pressure to the north-west of Scotland bringing some very strong winds to the north of the UK. Storm Freya is the rapidly deepening area of low pressure west of the Bay of Biscay.



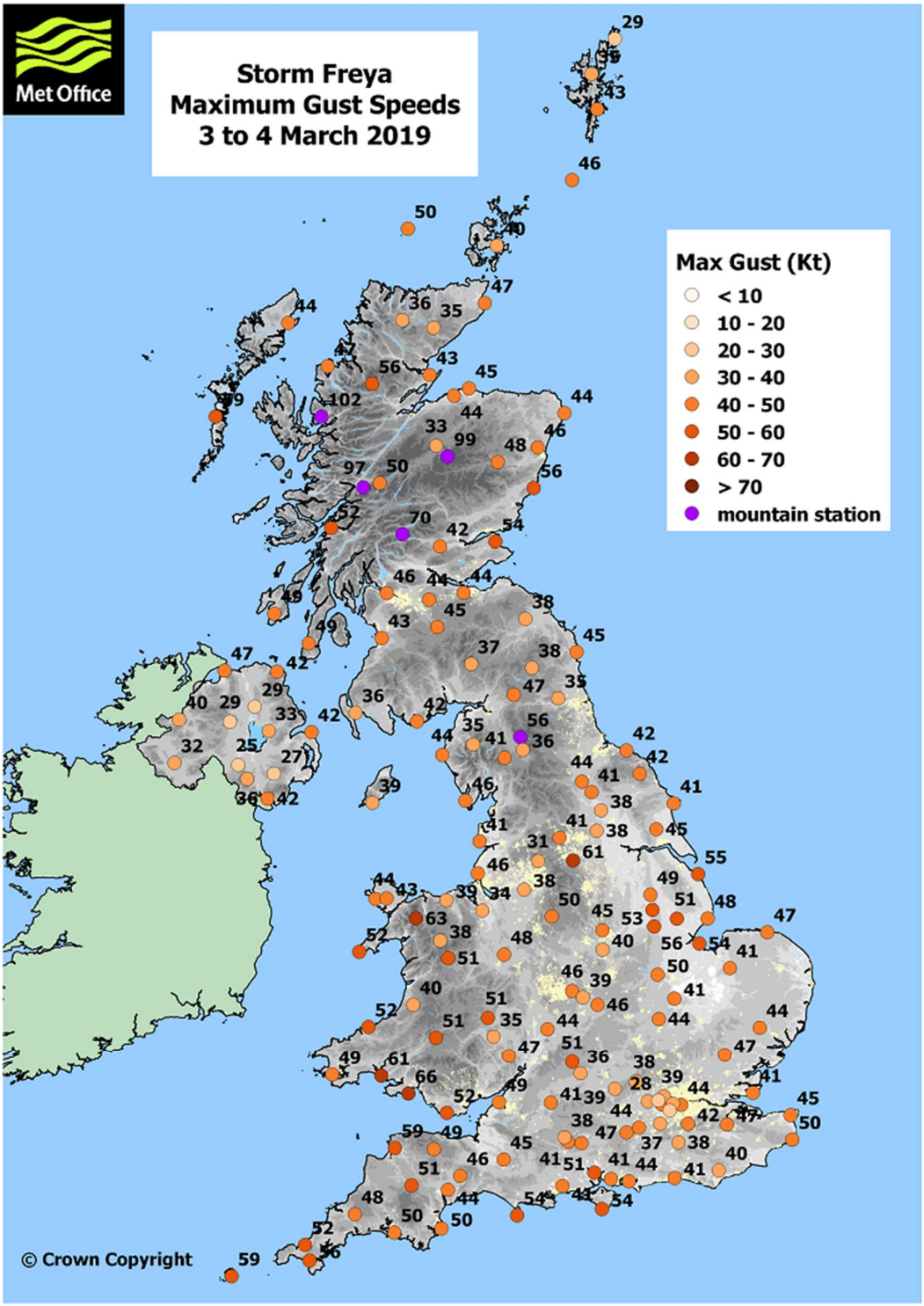
The analysis chart at 1800 UTC Sunday 3 March 2019 shows storm Freya centred in the Irish Sea as it tracked rapidly north-eastward across the UK.



The chart below shows rain-rates at 1800 UTC on Sunday 3 March 2019, with persistent heavy rain associated with strong winds across northern England and southern Scotland; 20 to 30mm of rain fell across this area.



The map below shows maximum gust speeds recorded across the UK on 3 to 4 March 2019. Gusts of 40 to 50 Kt (46 to 58mph) were recorded across much of England. The highest gusts were 66 Kt (76 mph) at Mumbles Head (Swansea), 63 Kt (72 mph) at Capel Curig (Conwy) and 61 Kt (70 mph) at Emley Moor (West Yorkshire). The previous low pressure system early on the 3rd brought some very strong winds across Scotland – particularly the mountain summits where Bealach na Ba (Wester Ross) recorded a gust of 102 Kt (117 mph).



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Met Office