

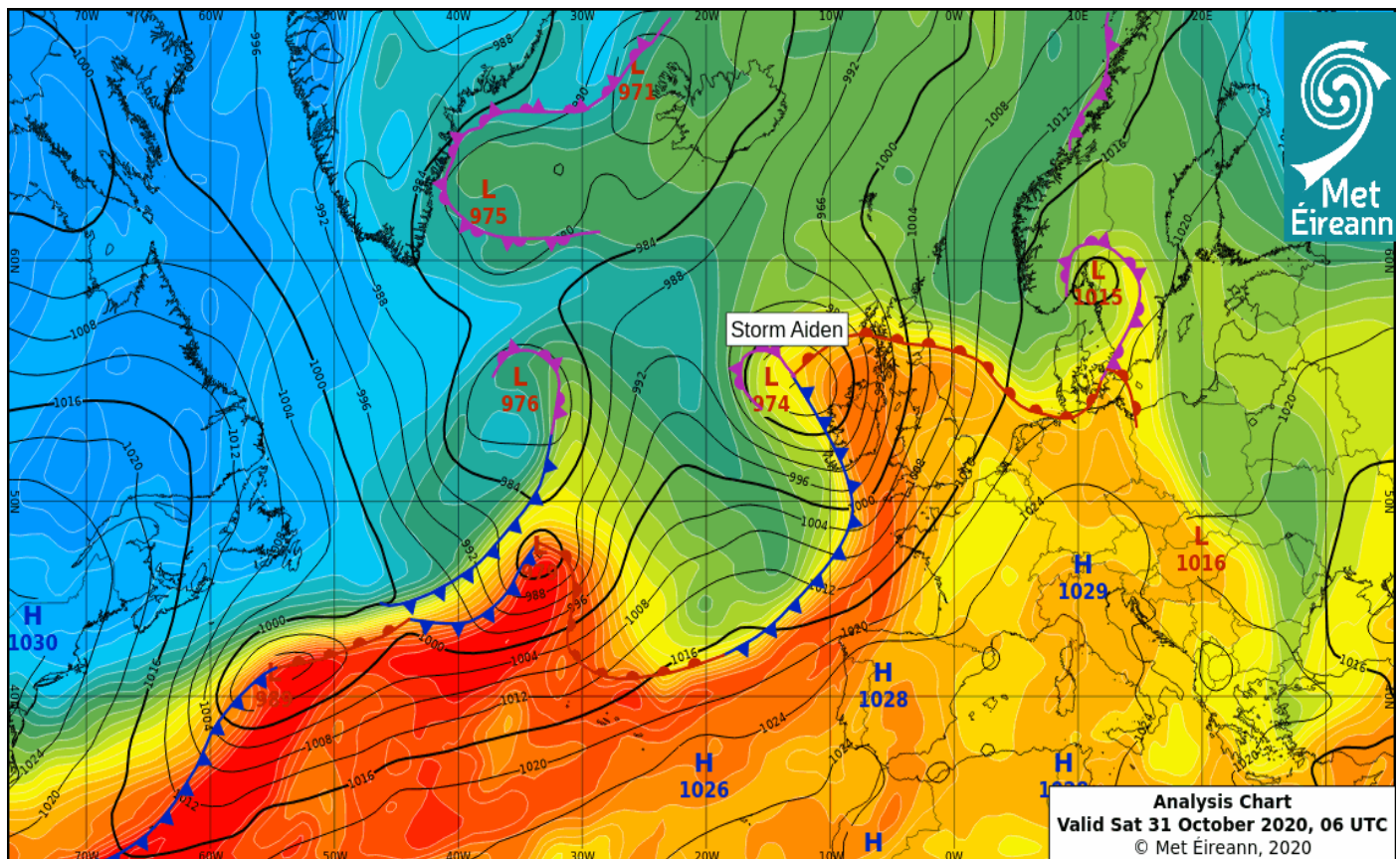
Storm Aiden

Saturday 31st October 2020

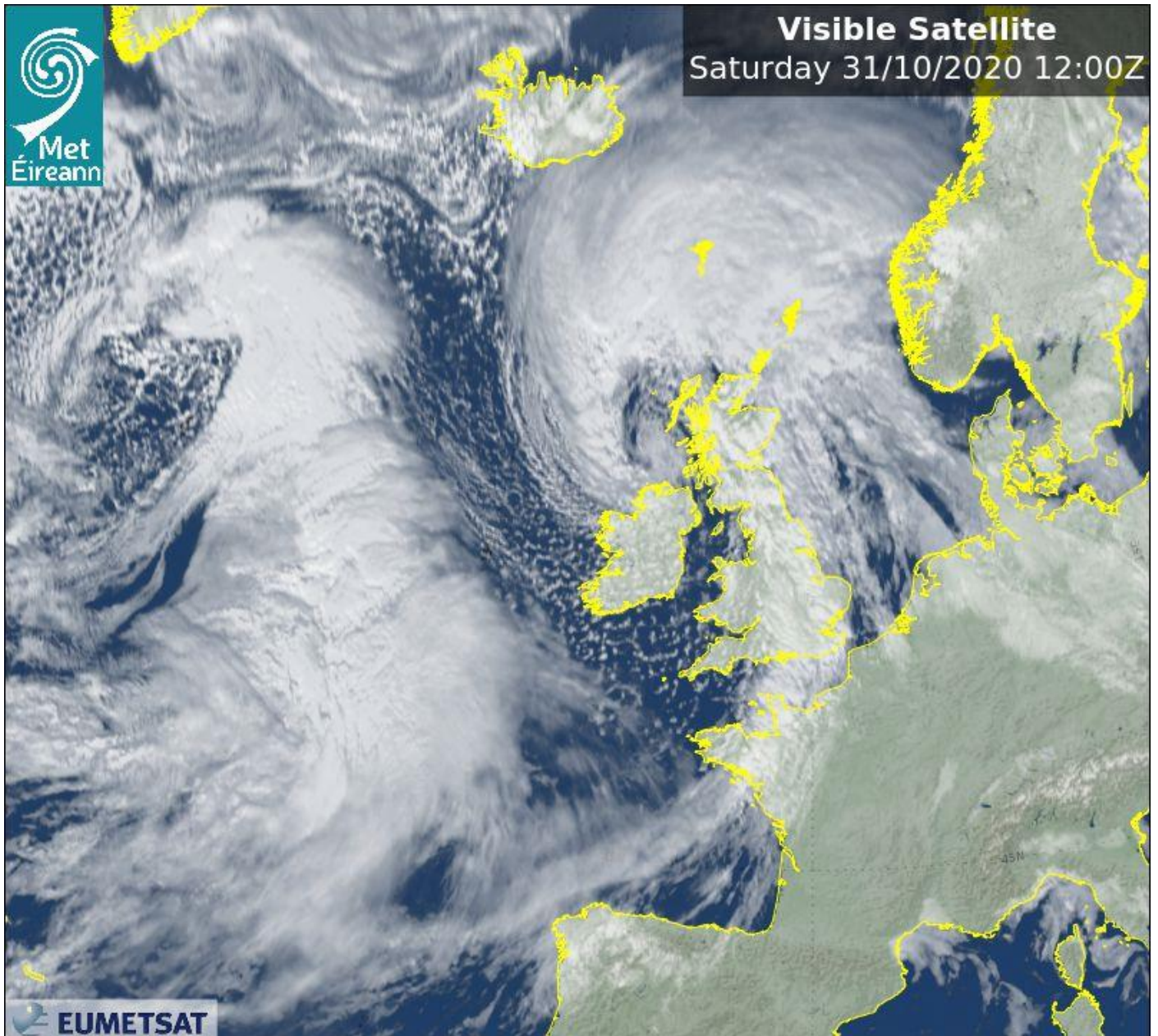
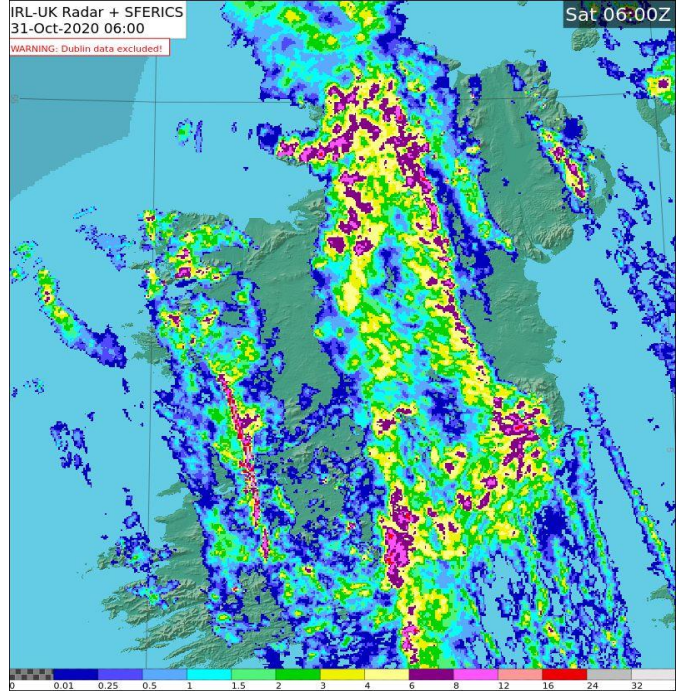
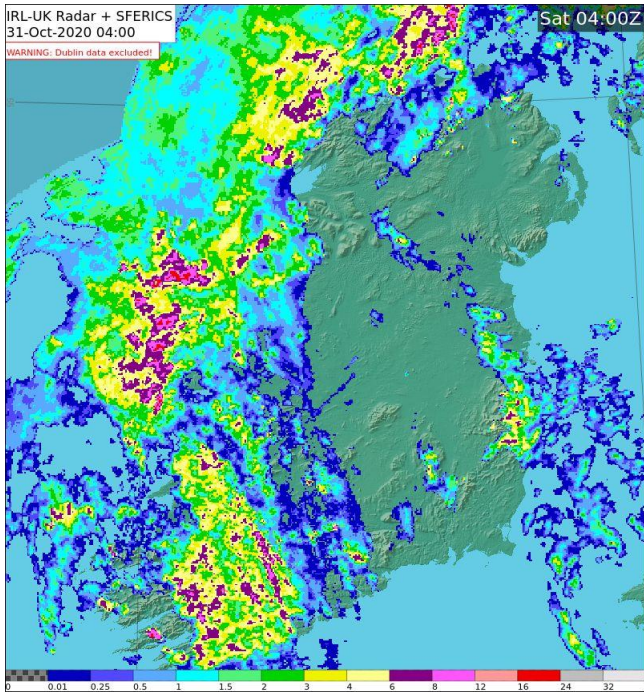
First named storm of the season, named by Met Éireann, on Friday 30th October 2020

Storm Aiden occurred during a very active period of weather for Ireland, with a strong Jetstream steering three individual low-pressure systems (the second containing remnants of ex-hurricane Zeta) over or just to the northwest of Ireland between Saturday 31st October and Monday 2nd November. Met Éireann named the first of these low-pressure systems, Storm Aiden, on Friday 30th October, when it became clear Orange level wind warning thresholds would be reached.

Storm Aiden developed early Friday 30th in the Atlantic, to the north of the Azores and deepened rapidly between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon on the 31st as it interacted with the left exit region of the Atlantic Jetstream. The storm centre moved quickly north-westwards, passing to within 300 km's of the north-western coast of Ireland early on Saturday 31st with a central pressure of 974 hPa.



Some areas, especially along the south coast, received their strongest winds from the system overnight and during the early morning hours, along and ahead of the associated active cold front, which passed over the county from west to east between midnight and 9am on the 31st approximately. Other areas, especially in the West and Northwest received their strongest winds from Storm Aiden during the late morning and early afternoon on Saturday 31st as the low-pressure centre passed close to the northwest coast. This included the highest recorded sustained wind of 98 km/h (53knots) and gust of 130 km/h (70knots) at Malin Head, Co Donegal at around 12 noon on the 31st. Sunny spells and scattered squally showers followed the cold front during daylight hours of Saturday 31st before the next system moved in from the southwest later in the day.



Impacts

- Up to 6,000 businesses and homes were left without power in the Northwest as Storm Aiden hit the region hard. Around 3,000 customers were affected by earlier outages in Kilkee, Co Clare and Carrigaline, Co Cork.
- A man died after getting into difficulty while kite surfing at Dollymount Strand in Dublin.
- Heavy rain affected all areas of the country overnight, with Maam Cross in Connemara, Co Galway, recording 38 millimetres of rain in six hours. High seas led to some coastal flooding in the West also.
- In addition to the recent heavy rainfall and strong winds, the storm made conditions even more hazardous for drivers.

Station Name	Rainfall (mm)	Highest 10-minute mean wind speed (km/h).	Highest Gust (km/h)	Wind Direction (degree)	Hour of occurrence (utc)
MALIN HEAD	12.6	98 (53 kt)	130 (70 kt)	220	1200
MACE HEAD	33.2	83 (45 kt)	106 (57 kt)	260	1100
BELMULLET	14.9	80 (43 kt)	115 (62 kt)	230	0900
ROCHES POINT	6.2	74 (40 kt)	91 (49 kt)	170	0400
Sherkin Island	10.4	72 (39 kt)	96 (52 kt)	170	0400
FINNER	15.5	69 (37 kt)	102 (55 kt)	240	1200
CASEMENT	4.5	61 (33 kt)	93 (50 kt)	190	0800
SHANNON AIRPORT	7.1	61 (33 kt)	89 (48 kt)	240	0900
KNOCK AIRPORT	12.1	61 (33 kt)	106 (57 kt)	240	1100
VALENTIA	21.2	56 (30 kt)	87 (47 kt)	250	0700
OAK PARK, CARLOW	10.7	54 (29 kt)	87 (47 kt)	160	0500
CORK AIRPORT	11.0	54 (29 kt)	87 (47 kt)	190	0700
GURTEEN	6.8	52 (28 kt)	74 (40 kt)	150	0400
JOHNSTOWN Castle	9.8	52 (28 kt)	78 (42 kt)	160	0600
NEWPORT	23.3	52 (28 kt)	93 (50 kt)	240	1000
DUNSANY	7.8	50 (27 kt)	80 (43 kt)	240	1100
CLAREMORRIS	12.0	46 (25 kt)	74 (40 kt)	230	1200
MOORE PARK	9.7	44 (24 kt)	76 (41 kt)	160	0400
ATHENRY	13.5	44 (24 kt)	81 (44 kt)	240	0900
DUBLIN AIRPORT	3.2	43 (23 kt)	76 (41 kt)	260	1100
BALLYHAISE	6.7	43 (23 kt)	78 (42 kt)	240	1200
MT DILLON	8.8	43 (23 kt)	80 (43 kt)	240	1300
MULLINGAR	6.4	41 (22 kt)	69 (37 kt)	160	0600

Synoptic station data for 31st October 2020

WEATHER WARNINGS



Status Orange - Wind warning for Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Wicklow, Cork, Kerry and Waterford

Met Éireann Weather Warning

On Saturday morning strong southerly winds veering southwesterly associated with Storm Aiden will reach mean speeds of 65 to 80km/h, with severe and damaging gusts of 100 to 130km/h.

Valid: 05:00 Saturday 31/10/2020 to 10:00 Saturday 31/10/2020

Issued: 10:00 Friday 30/10/2020



Status Orange - Wind warning for Donegal, Galway, Mayo, Sligo and Clare

Met Éireann Weather Warning

On Saturday morning and afternoon strong southwest to west winds associated with Storm Aiden will reach mean speeds of 65 to 80km/h, with severe and damaging gusts of 100 to 130km/h.

Valid: 08:00 Saturday 31/10/2020 to 16:00 Saturday 31/10/2020

Issued: 10:00 Friday 30/10/2020



Status Yellow - Wind warning for Ireland

Met Éireann Weather Warning

Update: During Friday night and Saturday strong southerly winds veering westerly will reach mean speeds of 50 to 65km/h with severe and possibly damaging gusts to around 100km/h. Some coastal flooding possible also due to the combination of low pressure, high tides and onshore winds.

Valid: 02:00 Saturday 31/10/2020 to 16:00 Saturday 31/10/2020

Issued: 11:00 Thursday 29/10/2020

Updated: 13:04 Friday 30/10/2020

