



# Exceptional weather events

**Type of event:**

**Storm**

**Date:**

**February 1903**

## Storms causing widespread damage.

The period 18<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> February 1903 was a very stormy one with depressions from the Atlantic passing close-by the west coast of Ireland in a north easterly direction. The storm on the night of 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> February was probably the most severe one to affect Ireland since "The Night of the Big Wind". It was reported that 2,000 trees were uprooted on an estate near Birr and 4,000 on an estate in Kilkenny. In the Phoenix Park, Dublin the storm uprooted a large number of trees (chiefly elms) estimated at 1,000 to 3,000, in different accounts. In parts of the country it was reported that whole woods were laid low. Damage to roofs, chimneys and whole buildings was correspondingly great.

Quotes from Ulysses referring to the storm: - O yes, J.J. O'Molloy said eagerly. Lady Dudley was walking home through the park to see all the trees that were blown down by that cyclone last year and thought she'd buy a view of Dublin." (U7.700)

There was indeed a great storm on February 27th 1903. In Phoenix Park, this PC states, 2948 trees were blown down.



Although winds of 42.9 m/s (83 kts) were recorded by a Robinson cup anemometer on the pier at Dun Laoghaire for the period 4 a.m. to 4.30 a.m. on 27<sup>th</sup>, it was believed on examination that this was not a good indication of the wind at the time because a suspect conversion factor was used. A re analysis of the record later suggested that the wind in that interval was about 31 m/s (61 kts).

**Below:** Atlantic chart showing the development of the storm  
(taken from: Hubert Lamb, *Historic Storms of the North Sea, British Isles and Northwest Europe*, Cambridge 1991)

