



TORRO PRESS RELEASE on the Jersey tornado of early November 2023

On the night of Wednesday 1 November and Thursday 2 November 2023, a severe thunderstorm associated with Storm Ciarán passed over Jersey, close to midnight. As well as producing frequent lightning, strong winds, and large hail, the storm also produced a significant tornado, which affected eastern parts of the island.

Supported by Jersey Met, TORRO conducted an in-person site investigation on Saturday 4 November and Sunday 5 November 2023. The results of the survey conclude that an intense tornado made landfall at St Clement and traversed the island, around midnight on Wednesday night. Severe damage was found along the length of the 8km track. The tornado exited Jersey around Fliquet.

TORRO rates tornadoes based on the International Tornado Intensity Scale (T-scale) - <https://www.torro.org.uk/research/tornadoes/tscale>. Damage is assessed, and then compared against the typical damage descriptions against each rating. The scale is a natural extension of the Beaufort wind scale and runs from T0 to T10.

The damage on Jersey is being examined by TORRO staff, to assess the strength of the tornado. Our preliminary rating is an intensity of T6. Consulting TORRO's records, it has been determined to be stronger than the Birmingham, UK, tornado, of Wednesday 28 July 2005, (which was rated T5/6) and is likely the strongest since the Gunnersbury (West London) tornado of Wednesday 8 December 1954, which was rated T7.

TORRO keeps records of tornadoes for the UK, Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man. There have only been a few tornadoes of T6 intensity and greater in the last century within the records, and this is easily the strongest on record for the Channel Islands. TORRO has a record of a tornado affecting St John, on Tuesday 15 September 1981, which was given a rating of T3.

Regarding the large hail – the last time hail of a comparable size occurred on Jersey appears to have been on Sunday 5 June 1983, when 5cm hailstones were reported.

TORRO would like to extend their sympathy to affected residents and thank them for their patience and help. TORRO would also like to thank Jersey Met for all their help and support over the weekend.

Notes for Editors:

TORRO: TORRO was founded in 1974 by Dr. Terence Meaden. It is a privately supported research body serving the national and international public interest. All staff and members are volunteers, and the research, tornado site investigations, and forecasting, are all done voluntarily. The core of TORRO's activity has been in data collection, site investigations and climatological research. TORRO holds records of over 3500 tornadoes across the UK, Republic of Ireland, Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands. All enquiries should go to TORRO, please. Contact info: <https://www.torro.org.uk/contact>

Note: Due to TORRO being a voluntary organisation, there may be a slight delay in responses.