



TORRO SITE INVESTIGATION
SUMMARY REPORT
Coldwood, County Galway, Eire
26 June 2026

Report number: SI20260626_Coldwood

Site Investigator: Sarah Horton (offsite) aided by resident John Murphy

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Horton, S.	0.1	Initial draft	12/7/26	
Smart, D.	0.2	Revision	11/8/26	Added synoptic summary.
Smart, D.	0.3	Revision	15/8/26	Revised skewt figure to include diagnostics; adjusted text.
Horton, S.	1.0	Final	17/8/26	Minor amendments

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https://www.torro.org.uk/pdf/SI/SI20260626_Coldwood.pdf

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Site Investigation summary

Cause of damage:	Tornado
Strength:	T2
Track Length:	Intermittent 1.7km
Maximum measured width:	70m
Time/ duration	1545 UTC +/-10min
Map Location (Lat/Long)	53.25, -8.81

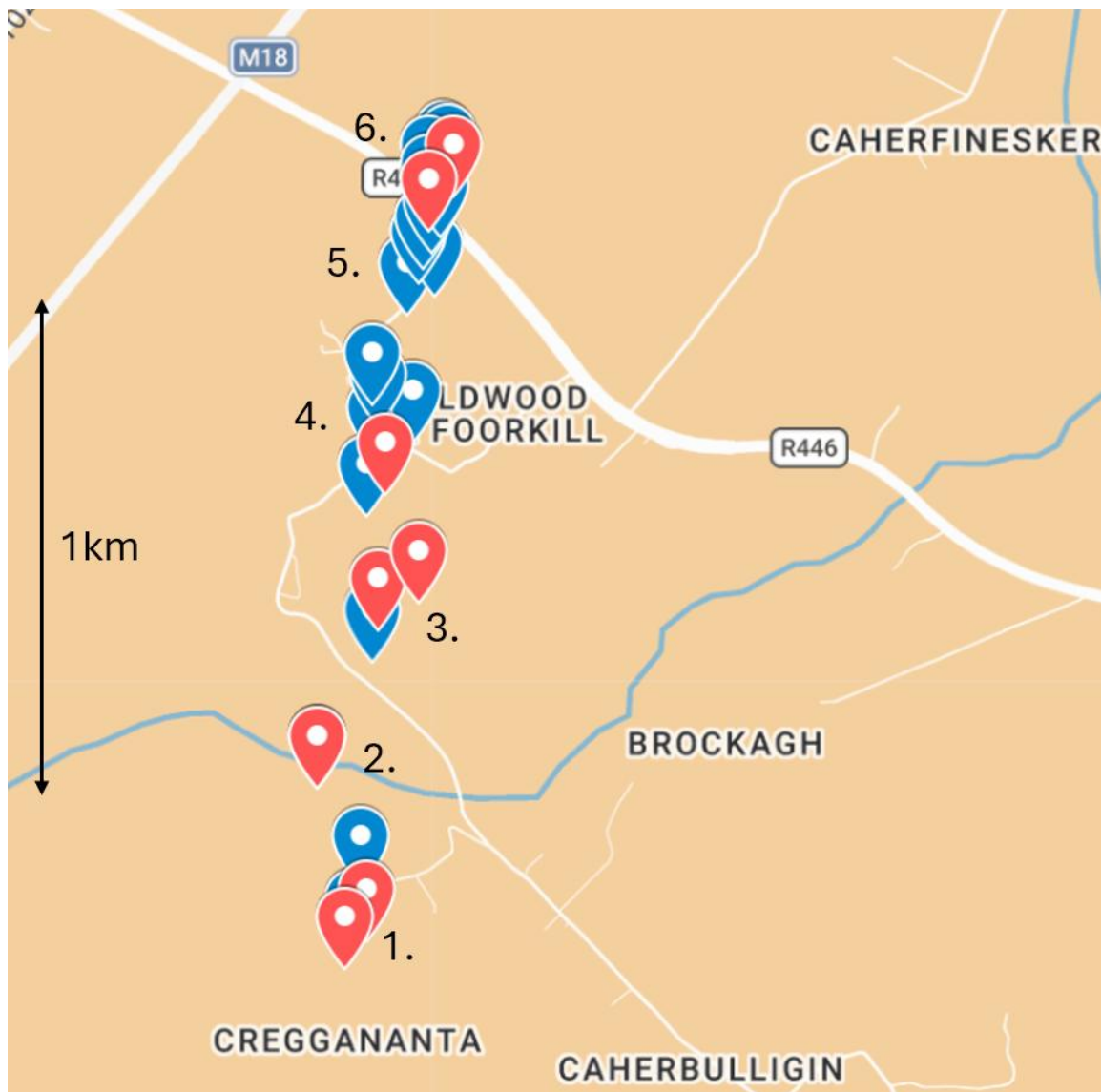


Figure 1: Damage track of the Coldwood tornado (2026). Blue markers are damage points recorded in person by John Murphy, Red markers are damage points located by drone imagery. Map data ©2026 Google.

Key damage indicators

Unfortunately TORRO site investigators were unable to attend Coldwood due to lack of available investigators in Eire. The intensity is estimated from images supplied to us and therefore has been rated cautiously. We were very fortunate that John Murphy, a County Galway resident, was able to map damage for us in person and to fly a drone over the damage track. We are very grateful for his work on this.

1. The first evidence of damage was located here. At least two trees were felled though the failure point of one (53.2466, -8.8138) was unclear - the second (53.2470, -8.8135), was uprooted and fell approx. W, dislodging a stone wall covered in vegetation. Fascia boards were reported damaged and leisure equipment (a football goal and a trampoline) was relocated and/or damaged by the tornado. **Intensity rating: T2**
2. An ash tree was snapped at its base and fell E. (53.2501, -8.8146) **Intensity rating: T2**
3. Windows which had been left on the latch were 'sucked out' and required repair (53.2524, -8.8130). A small tree had snapped near the base. **Intensity rating: T1**
4. Multiple trees, including an ash tree and a chestnut tree suffered damage, with snapped branches. In addition, drone footage revealed what appeared to be fallen trees. One house (53.2569, -8.8128) lost a number of slates. **Intensity rating: T2**
5. In this location damage density intensified. At 53.2596, -8.8115 a large ash tree had fallen onto a power cable. At 53.2602, -8.8111 multiple trees had fallen across the road. At 53.2605, -8.8109 a power pole was found to be snapped at the base. It is assumed that this was due to the weight of trees falling on the cable. Drone footage of this area showed grass flattened by strong winds, though the boundaries of the affected area were difficult to determine. **Intensity rating: T2**
6. Around 53.2615, -8.8106 a property owner reported that multiple trees were felled. A 'garden bunker shed' was destroyed and a steel garden table thrown 20m.

It is possible that in this location we have underrated the tornado intensity. **Estimated intensity rating: T2**

Meteorological summary

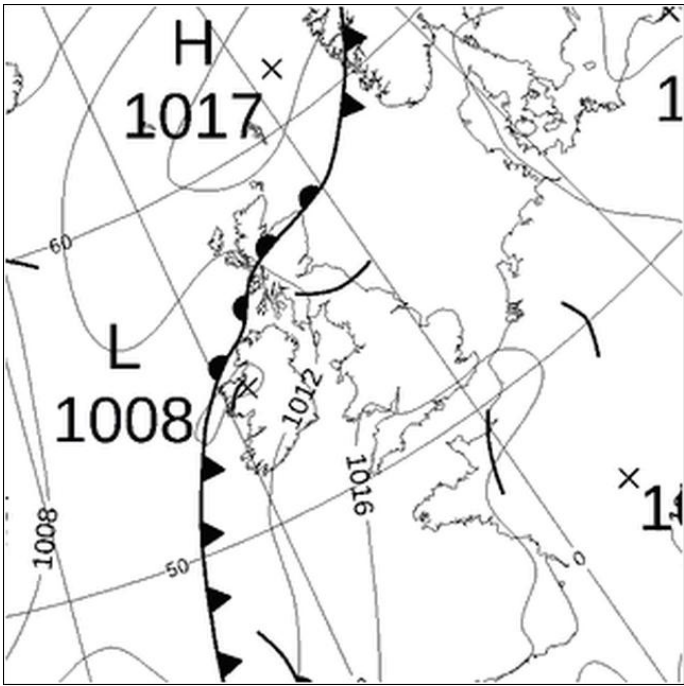


Figure 2: Section of the UKMO ASXX valid 1800 UTC 26 June 2026. Original: Crown copyright.

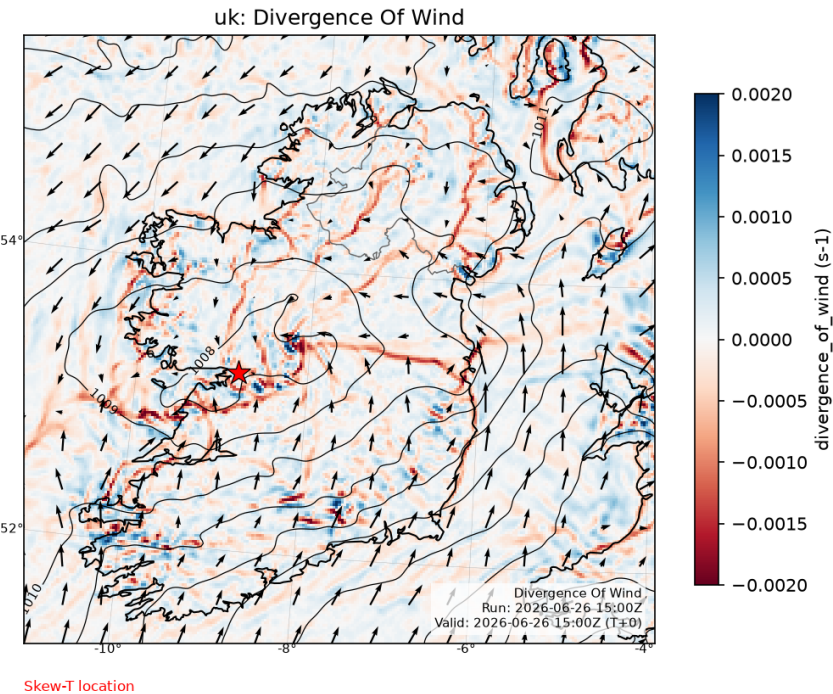


Figure 3: UKMO UKV model 15 UTC T+0 divergence of the 10-m wind, 10-m wind vectors and MSLP. The location of the skewt plot in Fig 4 is indicated by the star. Plotted from UKMO data made available via Amazon Web Services.

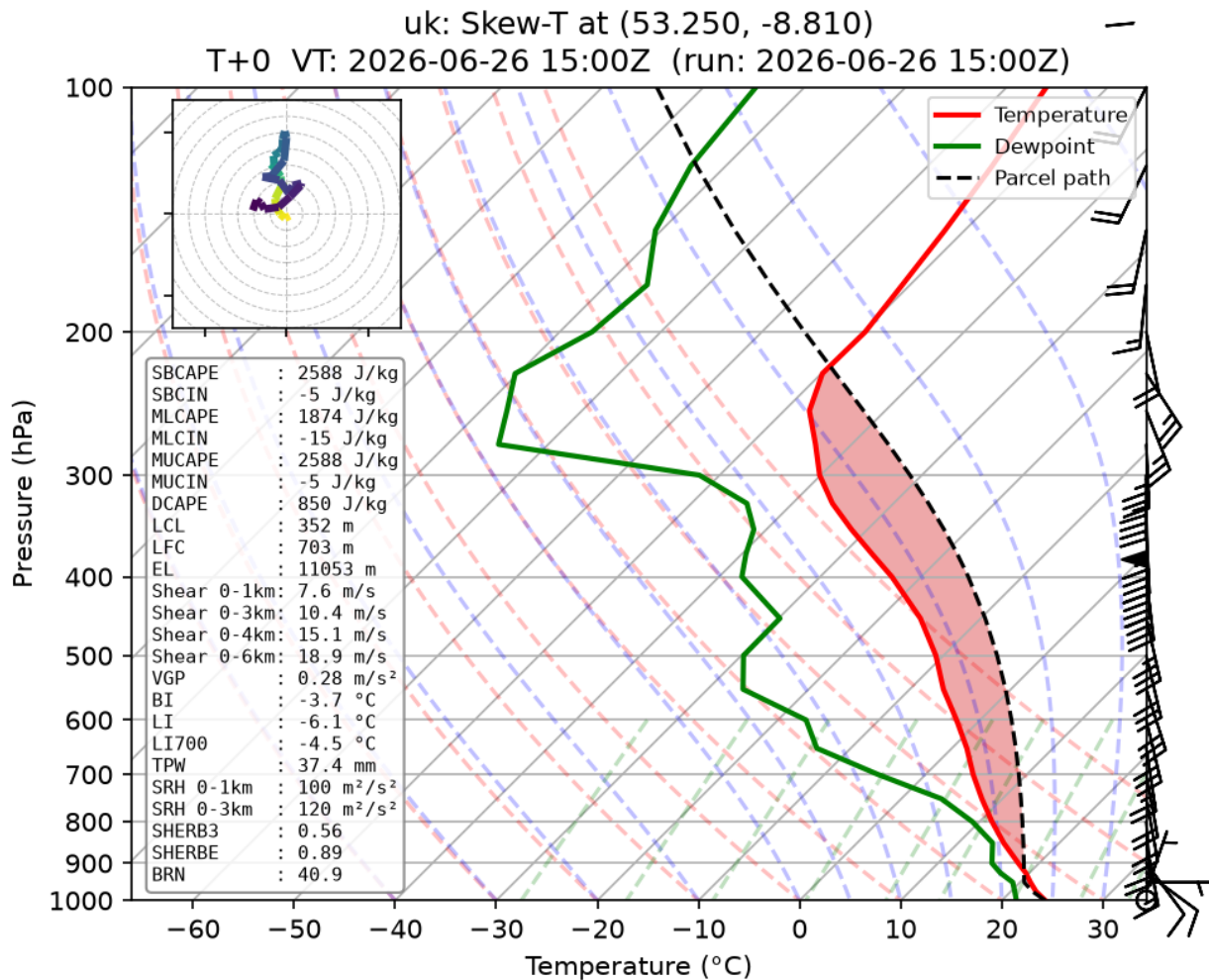


Figure 4: UKMO UKV 15 UTC T+0 skewt at the location indicated in Fig 3. Plotted from UKMO data made available via Amazon Web Services.

On this day thunderstorms occurred over Ireland and the mainland of the UK. The tornado occurred as fast moving thundery showers associated with a 1008hPa low centre moved north-northwestwards over western Ireland. The low centre was in the warm sector of a waving warm front. The environment of the low was very unstable with surface CAPE exceeding 2000Jkg^{-1} . Around 15-16 UTC a marked convergence zone straddled central Ireland with easterly winds to the north of this boundary and southerlies or south-southwesterlies to the south. This resulted in high levels of low-level helicity. Vorticity Generation Potential (VGP) in the UKV model exceeded $0.2\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-2}$ in the vicinity of the event with Lifting Condensation Levels (LCL) below 400m (see diagnostics panel in Fig 4).

Data availability: UKMO HDF5 ODIM radar product and UKV data on a 2-year rolling archive, see <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/data/external-data-channels>. Metars:

<https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/request/download.phtml>.

EUMETSAT imagery including lightning accumulated flash product via WMS feed.

No proximity RAOB available.

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Comments

- 1 The relevant forum thread for the event analysis: [TORRO Forum](#) ACCESS RESTRICTED TO TORRO MEMBERS.
- 2 Footage of the tornado was taken by various members of the public, including footage which showed tree branches and a football goal being lofted across a road. The footage can be viewed on the @CarlowWeather social media X account.
- 3 Thank you to all the members of public who contacted TORRO and all those who aided the site investigation. Their contributions added greatly to the site investigation.