A local study of weather indices from Wales



Richard Wilson c.1760 'Snowdon from Llyn Nantlle' Image cannot be shared, but may be viewed here: <u>http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/walker/collections/paintings/18c/item-238269.aspx</u> Jones C.A.¹, Grady D.A.I.¹, Davies S.J.¹, and Macdonald N.²

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Sources

- The use of documentary sources to investigate past climate variability has been widely applied in a variety of contexts
- The potential of a variety of documentary sources in Wales has remained largely undiscovered

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- Case studies:
 - 20th Century:
 - Rainfall 1976, 1988
 - Snowfall 1947
 - Personal agricultural diaries
 - 19th Century:
 - Flood events 1870-1900
 - Newspapers
 - Venables diaries
 - 18th Century:
 - Bulkeley diaries

- Over 40% lies above 250 m, with >70% of NW Wales above this contour
- Steep temperature and precipitation gradients present due to relief
- >80% of welsh land is classed as 'less favourable' under EU guidelines.



- Numerous farmers have kept weather diaries, a valuable resource, but often difficult to obtain or locate
- These highly personal accounts, however, can illustrate the emotional, social and practical responses to weather extremes
- These sources potentially provide a greater depth and individual narrative to the evidence gleaned from official sources, such as estate records and Board of Agriculture archives



Macdonald et al. (2010) Weather

flash)	taranfollt(i)o	chiad mellten, gwreichioni mellt, llethrid, lluchedu, lluchedennu, melltennu, mellt(i)o, melltu, saethu mellt, taflu golau, taflu tâ			
	Sheet lightning	Awyrddraig, draig, planedo			
	(unaccompanied by thunder)				
	Flash of lightning	llucheden, lluch(i)aden, llecheden, lluchedeniad, lluchediad, maen cawod (cawad), melit, meliten, mylit, melitenaid, melitluched, post			
Rain	Glaw, glawogydd, adlaw, caw				
	Begin to rain	taflu dafnau			
	To rain and blow a high wind at the same time	Chwiwio bwrw			
	Hail/snow with rain	Ceseirlaw [hail], glaw eira [snow]			
	April rain	Glaw tyfu			
	Brew for rain	ceulo am law			
	Early rain/first rain	cynharlaw, cynnar-law			
	Likely to rain	clafaidd			
	Rain drops Heavy downpour of rain	clych glaw, dafnau glaw, dagr, degryn, deigryn, deigr, glaw bras [large] Arllwys (y glaw), diffwys, diffwyster, diwel y glaw, diwelaf, diwin, glaw gochel, glaw gyrru, glaw tyrfau, glaw tarannau, hirlaw, horslaw, hyrddla			
	Heavy downpour or rain	Ilyfreirlaw, pelt(i)o, pistyll(i)o, pistylliu, pistyllian, rhuthrlaw, curin, curing, cyrin, curlaw, curlawiog, glaw gyrru, glaw diannau, ninaw, norsiaw, nyrodia			
		dymchwel hi, pis(i)o bwrw (glaw), ponlaw, rhyslaw, slasio bwrw (glaw), stid(i)o bwrw/glawio, tatsio, tatsian, tresio, tresian bwrw (glaw), bwrw h			
		wragedd a ffyn (cats and dogs), bwrw cyllyll a ffyrc(s)			
	Gentle/drizzling rain	gwlith(i)o, gwlithen, gwlithgawod, gwlithgawad, gwlithlaw, ffrechan, ffrechen, lleithrin [weather], lleith-hin [weather], pigo, pigan, pigach, sg			
		smitlaw, briwlaw, glaw man, glaw smwc, glaw mynydd (on highlands), manlaw, man law, piglaw			
	Abundance of rain	Hidlaidd, hilaidd			
	Steady rain	gwastadlaw			
	Layer of frozen rain	glåsrew			
	Frozen rain	glaw iâ			
Rainbow	Bwa, bwa enfys, bwa'r glaw, bwa'r cyfamod, bwa'r Drindod, bwa'r hin, bwa'r wrach, bwa'r wybren				
	Partial rainbow	Cyw drycin			
Sleet	Eirlaw, glaw eira, glaweir, llifeirlaw, odlaw, slap, slot eira				
	(to) sleet	Odi			
Snow	Eira, eiraf, eiry, nyf, Briwod (fine-driven), cribod (surface), cynneiry (first fall of), ffluwch, ffluch, gwyneiry, gwynneiry (white/blessed), manod (fine-driven), nithoc (fine), ôd, odi, odif				
	Snowflake	Casnod, casna(d)d, clwyden o eira, fflochen, ffloch, hiff, hyff, ôd, tafell			
	Snowball	Caseg eira, mopen, pêl eira, plu(f) eira			
	Snow-drift	heod, Iluch, Iluchfa, Iluchiad, Iluwch, Iluwchyn, Ilywch, Iluwchfa, Ilochfa, Iluwchiad			
		Glaw eira			
	Rain mingled with snow	Olaw Ella			
Spring	2	aeanwyn, gwanhwyn, sbring, ysbring			

- Diaries of D.O. Jones (1934–2000)
- Ysbyty Ifan (northwest Wales)
- Daily descriptions
- Welsh, with some English



Macdonald et al. (2010) Weather



Weather indices (the numerical range applied in Figures 3 and 4).				
Weather type Indicies value				
Drought / Hot	0			
Dry / Fair / Close	1			
Drizzle / Foggy	2			
Showers	3			
Rain / Wet	4			
Storm	5			

Macdonald et al. (2010) Weather



Maçdonald et al. (2010) Weather





(1st June – 30 September, 1976)



(1st June – 30 September, 1988)

Summer storms recorded as significant to farmers, but short in duration



Jones et al. (2010) Gwerddon

Cod	Disgrifiad
0	Dadmer / Dim sôn am eira
1	Eira ysgafn
2	Cawodydd o eira
3	Eira trwm
4	Storm eira / lluwchfeydd



Jones et al. (2010) Gwerddon



19th Century: Floods in the News

(Grady, 2016 MSc thesis, Aberystwyth University)

19th Century: Floods in the News

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Figure 1.3 | (A) Archive regions of Wales as defined by the NLW (2016b), and (B) the number of newspaper articles and sources within the WNO archive. Created using shapefiles from DIVA-GIS (2016) in QGIS (v. 2.8.9). Table of region characteristics using individual region data found in NLW (2016b) for 1804-1919, with modern counties within each region from the Local Government (Wales) Act (1994). The number of newspaper articles in both English (E; green) and Welsh (W; red) and total number of newspaper sources were extracted from NLW (2016b).

(Grady, 2016 MSc thesis, Aberystwyth University)

LLYFRGELL GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES				lymraeg nich all newspapers	○0000 <	
Welsh Newspapers				New Search	Advanced Search	History -
Sorting - Res Search within these results	ults+	Search Results Viewing 1 - 12 of 28,368 results for flood 🖌			1	23 > *
Newspaper Title Filter Newspaper Titles Evening Express South Wales Daily News	A (2,072)	THE FLOOD! THE FLOOD! THE FLOCO! THE FLOOD! "I once witnessed an absur the drama, but the luck-less persans especially connec of a dam, reservoir, or sluice afforu the hero a time opp	ted with it. The j name of the p	siece I hnvo but there	was a sensation scen	
The Western Mail The Cardiff Times	(3.184) (3.843)	The South Wales Daily Post THE FLOOD! THE FLOOD!	262h june 1893	News	p.3	266 words
South Wales Echo The Cambrian News and Category	(1.112) ¥	THE FLOODI THE FLOODI Tonce witnessed an absur the drama, but the luck-lass persons especially conner which the bursting of a dam, reservoir, or sluice afford	ted with it. The name of the pl	lece I have forgotten, b	out there was a sensa	
Decade	~	The Montgomery County Times and Shropshire and Mid-Walks	27th January 1894	Neurs	p.7	265 words
Year Month Day	* *	The Flood. The Flood. I am called Louis Goodwin, I am seventy y I struggled with the ground, to win my daily bread, they house appeared to be blassed. Good luck simply grew	h better tunes came, and only l	ast month I was the ri	chest lariner in the c	
language Region	* *	Evening Express (Fourth Edicion)	31st March 1894	Neues	p.4	2,334 words
Bustration Type	*	The Flood. The Flood. 11° I am called Louis Goodwin. I am sever years I struggled with the ground, to win my clairy brea				
Clear Selections		round. My house appeared to be blessed. Good luck si Evening Express (Special Edition)			harvest	2.152 words

Figure 5.2 | Example page of the main search page within the WNO database following a search for the word 'flood' between 1870 and 1900 (NLW, 2016b).

(Grady, 2016 MSc thesis, Aberystwyth University)



Figure 6.1 | Number of individual flood events (top) and number of reports of flooding (bottom) uncorrected (blue and orange) and corrected (green and red) using Equation 1 across the study period.

(Grady, 2016 MSc thesis, Aberystwyth University)

Table 5.2 | Significance matrix for assessing the impacts of flooding events in Wales.

[†] See Figure 5.3 for full interpretation of these regions extent.

		Significance score				
	1	2	3			
Extent [†]	Isolated event (Affects few people – confined to 1-3 nearby localities within 1 region or extends across in cases with towns straddling a border)	Regional/local event (Affects <1% of people – extends across 1-5 neighbouring regions within a maximum of 2 greater regions)	Multi-region/National coverage (Affects many/most people – over 5 regions or impacts across multiple non-neighbouring regions/greater regions)			
Severity	Unusual weather Limited affect on health/local functioning Mild inconvenience caused	Considerable damage Significant injuries Working days lost	Loss of human life Loss of basic services Complete destruction Stranded/rescue required			
Duration	Impact confined to a single day	Impact lasts 1-3 days	Impact is prolonged (>3 days)			

(Grady, 2016 MSc thesis, Aberystwyth University)

Brook overflows its banks blocking a nearby road, for one day, with no human injuries caused:

Significance score = 1 (Extent) x 1 (Severity) x 1
(Duration) = 1 (low)

Heavy rainfall across most of Wales, causing widespread flood events with substantial damage to property and businesses, over the course of a week:

Significance score = 3 (Extent) x 2 (Severity) x 3 (Duration) = 18 (high)

(Grady, 2016 MSc thesis, Aberystwyth University)



Figure 6.3 | Number of low, medium and high significance flood events per year, with the fraction of low, medium and high events for the entire study period (1870-1900) displayed by the inset chart. Refer to the inset legend for full interpretation of the colour classification for low, medium and high significance events.

TEMPEST – Tracking Extremes of Meteorological Phenomena Experienced in Space and Time

Weather Enc. process. Take	Extreme Weather in the UK The TEMPEST Database					
The Database	Search	Results	Mapped Results	Help		
There are 13 records of events which match your search criteria. Summary details of the records are listed chronologically below.						
Records of events are shown as the date and location(s) of the event, the class mark of the document in which the event is recorded and the repository which holds the document. If known, the author of the document will also be listed. Clicking on the date will trigger a pop up window with full details of the event. Clicking on the classmark gives more information about the document itself. Clicking on the author gives biographical information about that individual.						

vn as markers on the map d

Record 1 Event recorded - 1714 at Sherwood Forest Document - 'DD/FJ/10/9/7/27' in repository Nottinghamshire Archives Author - William Lowndy

Record 2 Event recorded - 1714 at Sherwood Forest Document - 'DD/FJ/10/9/7/29' in repository Nottinghamshire Archives Author - Thomas Hewett

Record 3 Event recorded - 1714 at Sherwood Forest Document - 'DD/FJ/10/9/7/30' in repository Nottinghamshire Archives Author - Thomas Hewett

Record 4 Event recorded - 1714 at Sherwood Forest Document - 'DD/FJ/10/9/7/31' in repository Nottinghamshire Archives Author - Thomas Hewett

Record 5 Event recorded - 1st February 1714 at Norfolk Document - 'MC 64/11' in repository Norfolk Record Office Author - Charles Boardman Jewson

Record 6

Event recorded - 1st February 1714 at Old Bolingbroke (Formerly Bolingbroke) Document - 'OLD BOLINGBROKE PAR/1/2' in repository Lincolnshire Archives Author - Old Bolingbroke parish authorities







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Map adapted from Mayes, 2013

1762-1795





Llysdinam Estate, Newbridge on Wye

Diaries of Richard Venables (1808-1857), **Richard Lister Venables** (1828-1893), George Stovin Venables (1828-1883), Mary Hannah Venables (1809, 1813, 1820, 1834)



Richard Lister Venables (1809-1894)



Painting by Lowes Cato Dickinson, 1871 original at the Judges Lodging, Presteigne. Distributed under a CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 licence



Image of a Llysdinam diary. Image cannot be shared because of copyright restrictions.



November 11th 1878

'...the flood has made the bridge over the Wye at Whitney impassable and the traffic between Hay and Hereford is stopped... All the people about Newbridge seemed to agree that the Wye yesterday was higher than had been since the bridge was taken down in Nov 1831. The Ithon they said had never been so high. I went after even^s. I suppose it had fallen. It was over the field at Woodcastle and Dol(fawr) but I believe it had been as high in July 1875...'



Image of a Llysdinam diary. Image cannot be shared because of copyright restrictions.

Clyro, March 14th 1867: RLV to GV

"I have now 10 inches of level snow in front of the windows. It is snowing heavily at 1.30pm... the therm is about 30°"



Llysdinam Hall http://powysenc.weebly.com/venables--visdelou.html

Beaufort number	Descriptio n	Wind speed	Land condition
0	Calm	< 1.1 km/h	Calm. Smoke rises vertically.
1	Light air	1.1–5.5 km/h	Smoke drift indicates wind direction. Leaves and wind vanes are stationary.
2	Light breeze	5.5–11.9 km/h	Wind felt on exposed skin. Leaves rustle. Wind vanes begin to move.
3	Gentle breeze	11.9–19.7 km/h	Leaves and small twigs constantly moving, light flags extended.
4	Moderate breeze	19.7–28.7 km/h	Dust and loose paper raised. Small branches begin to move.
5	Fresh breeze	28.7–38.8 km/h	Branches of a moderate size move. Small trees in leaf begin to sway.
6	Strong breeze	38.8–49.9 km/h	Large branches in motion. Whistling heard in overhead wires. Umbrella use becomes difficult. Empty plastic bins tip over.
7	Near gale	49.9–61.8 km/h	Whole trees in motion. Effort needed to walk against the wind.
8	Gale	61.8–74.6 km/h	Some twigs broken from trees. Cars veer on road. Progress on foot is seriously impeded.
9	Strong gale	74.6–88.1 km/h	Some branches break off trees, and some small trees blow over. Construction/temporary signs and barricades blow over.
10	Storm	88.1– 102.4 km/h	Trees are broken off or uprooted, structural damage likely.
11	Violent storm	102.4– 117.4 km/h	Widespread vegetation and structural damage likely.
12	Hurricane force	≥ 117.4 km/h	Severe widespread damage to vegetation and structures. Debris and unsecured objects are hurled about.



Terminology used to identify High wind events

Lower spectrum

Higher spectrum

Exceptional

Key words:

Gale Fresh gale Strong wind High wind Violent wind Heavy wind Strong gale Storm Blows strong Heavy gale Strong gale Violent gale Strong gusts Very high wind High gale Stiff Gale

Key words:

Blows hardViolent stormHard galeTremendous galeWhole galeTremendous windTempestVery high galeFurious storm

Key words:

Hurricane Typhoon

Any description of:

Small trees blown down Structural damage Chimney pots removed Winds between 61.8-88.1km/h

Any description of:

Uprooted trees Important structural damage Widespread damage Winds between 88.1-117.4km/h

Any description of:

Widespread damage and devastated countrysides

Winds over 117.4km/h

14 October 1881 – S.W. **Furious storm** continuing. Great destruction of trees all over England. **Several blown down here**. [...] Much mischief done by the gale. Two handsome oaks across the drive within 80 yds of the house [...]

Richard Lister Venables diary entry	Equivalent Beaufort scale	On 4 pt. scale (0-3)		
January 24, 1840 Most remarkable & Tremendous storm of wind S.W. and rain. Wind abated about 1P.M. rain wh[ich] was most violent abated about 2P.M. very high floods in Wye & Ithon at the greatest height of 4P.M. hail at night	11 – Violent storm	3		
June 7, 1843 W. Sends of rain Heavy rain at night and high wind	8 - Gale	2		
September 15, 1847 W. Fine . cool & cloudy P.M. Tremendous gale at night	11 – Violent storm	3		
Triangulated with instrumental data from Churchstoke weather station 1876-1893				

METEOROLOGICAL	SOCIETY.	Height of elstern of Barometer above sea level 550 feet.
Meteorological Observations taken at Churchsteike , during Outstor	18 or . {Latitude 52 31 N Longitude 3 5 W	" " Hain Gauge { " " " " 540 feet.
$\frac{1}{2} \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2} \int_$	18.4* Longitud: 3. 3 * # Image: Control of the state of	The second secon



14 October 1881 – Churchstoke At 9am Direction SW Force (0-12) 10 At 9pm Direction WSW Force (0-12) 4 Remarks: Gale from S.W. from 4am -1-2pm a good deal of damage to lumber especially softwood, poplar, etc. Severn rising rapidly

High wind event = BF10

Date of	Historical Data	Weather Stations (distance from Llysdinam)				
recorded event*	Llysdinam	Churchstoke (50 km)	Carmarthen (80 km)	Hereford (60 km)		
11/10/1876	1	0	0	0		
29/01/1877	1	0	0	0		
14/10/1877 [#]	1	1	0	0		
02/03/1880	No data	1	0	No data		
18/01/1881	0	0	1	No data		
08/02/1881 [#]	1	1	1	No data		
03/03/1881	No data	1	0	No data		
19/03/1881	0	1	0	No data		
14/10/1881 [#]	1	1	1	No data		
01/11/1881	0	1	0	No data		

Extreme events identified and triangulated with other qualitative and quantitative records

Potential for reconstruction of a range of meteorological variables



Image cannot be shared because of copyright restrictions.

William Bulkeley of Brynddu, Llanfechell, Anglesey (1691-1760)

Photo: Vince Jones, C3W / Whole Picture

Gaeafau Oer Cold Winters



Frost data collated by Oliver, 1955

Summary



- Welsh (and particularly Welsh language) sources have begun to be explored
- Specific challenges with language evolution, regionally specific terms and deconstructing into a series of indices
- Valuable as represent areas poorly represented by existing datasets present within the UK (e.g. Central England Temperature Series)









Newid Hinsawdd a Threftadaeth yr Arfordir Climate Change and Coastal Heritage Athrú Aeráide agus Oidhreacht Chultúrtha

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