

extrapolate (ik'stræpə,leɪt) vb **1 Maths.** to estimate (a value of a function or measurement) beyond the values already known, by the extension of a curve. Compare **interpolate** (sense 4). **2** to infer (something not known) by using but not strictly deducing from the known facts.

(Collins English Dictionary—21st CENTURY EDITION)

SAMPLE PROBLEM

To calculate possible worst-case-scenario rainfall amount for 24 hour period at Bellanaboy ie. average day in wettest month + exceptional 2-hour rainfall event

HISTORICAL DATA - known values

Belmullet - greatest daily total (24hours) (from monthly and annual mean and extreme values 1961-1990)	67.8 mm
Belmullet - Mean Annual Rainfall	1000-1200 mm
Bellanaboy - Mean Annual Rainfall (from 1961-90 Mean Annual Rainfall - contour map)	1400-1600 mm
Belmullet - wettest month total (October) (from mean monthly total 1961-1990)	132.9 mm
Days in October	31 days
Glengad 2003 - exceptional rainfall event (1.5 hours) (Peter Hynes, Mayo Co.Co. - Western People 15/10/2003)	101.6 mm
Shetland Islands event 2003 - (2 hours) (from Tobin Consulting Engineers report on Glengad)	79 mm

OH Doc No. 16 B. (1)

Recd From: John Monaghan

Date Recd: 24/4/07

EXAMPLES OF EXTRAPOLATION

eg.1 Belmullet v Bellanaboy

Belmullet mean	$(1000+1200)/2=$	1100 mm
Bellanaboy mean	$(1400+1600)/2=$	1500 mm
	$1500/1100*100=$	136%

eg.2 Projected greatest daily total for Bellanaboy (24 hours)

$67.8*136%=$	92.2 mm
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WORKED EXAMPLES

eg.3 Belmullet - mean daily total for October (24 hours)

$$132.9/31=$$

4.287 mm

Bellanaboy equivalent

$$4.287*136%=$$

5.83 mm

Combined exceptional rainfall event (24 hours)

$$\text{Shetlands data } 79+(5.83/24*22)=$$

84.3 mm

eg.4 : MCC data $101.6+(5.83/24*22.5)=$

107.066

EXTRAPOLATED WORST-CASE-SCENARIO

107.1 mm

CONCLUSIONS REGARDING STATED FIGURE

eg.2 factor $92.2/67.8=$

1.36

eg.3 factor $84.3/67.8=$

1.243

eg.4 factor $107.1/67.8=$

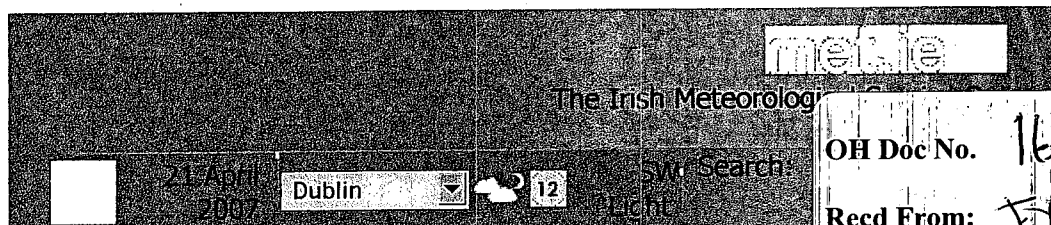
1.5796

These *extrapolated* calculations suggest the need (in these hypothetical cases) to increase the rainfall figure by **36%** in eg.2, by **24%** in eg.3 and by **58%** in eg.4.

The stated figure of 67.8 mm appears to be just plucked from the Belmullet data as is, rather than being "extrapolated".

Consequently, the worst-case rainfall situation for site drainage design (as previously stated by Dr. Peters for Shell) clearly **does not** adequately take account of a possible exceptional rainfall event as described.

NOTE: These calculations are simplistic, do not allow for variations in elevation, and do not specify either a safety factor or margin of error.



OH Doc No. 16B. (2).

Recd From: J. - Morgan

Home - Climate - 30 Year Averages - Belmullet

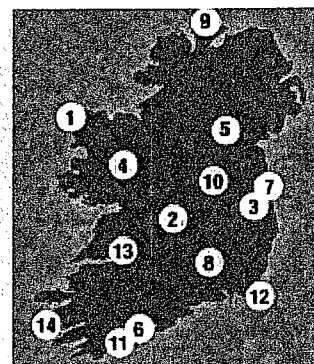
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Date Recd: 24/4/07.

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BELMULLET

monthly and annual mean and extreme values 1961-1990

TEMPERATURE (degrees Celsius)	jan	feb	mar	apr	may	jun	jul	aug	sep	oct	nov	dec	year
mean daily max.	8.2	8.3	9.7	11.6	13.7	15.7	16.8	17.2	15.7	13.4	10.3	9.0	12.5
mean daily min.	3.1	2.9	3.9	4.9	7.0	9.5	11.1	11.1	9.8	8.2	5.1	4.3	6.7
mean	5.7	5.6	6.8	8.2	10.3	12.6	14.0	14.1	12.8	10.8	7.7	6.6	9.6
absolute max.	13.0	13.8	19.4	23.3	26.0	27.0	28.7	27.4	22.4	22.1	15.2	13.5	28.7
absolute min.	-8.1	-6.3	-5.7	-2.6	-0.4	1.4	5.1	3.1	0.8	-0.7	-2.5	-5.2	-8.1
mean no. of days with air frost	5.0	4.3	2.1	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.3	3.1	16.7
mean no. of days with ground frost	10.5	9.5	7.3	5.4	1.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.7	5.5	7.8	50.3

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RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)														
<i>mean at 0900UTC</i>	85	84	82	80	78	81	85	85	84	85	85	85	85	83
<i>mean at 1500UTC</i>	81	77	75	73	73	77	80	79	78	80	80	83	83	78
SUNSHINE (hours)														
<i>mean daily duration</i>	1.47	2.41	3.29	5.27	6.14	5.36	4.29	4.63	3.65	2.63	1.74	1.08	1.08	3.50
<i>greatest daily duration</i>	7.9	9.8	11.2	14.0	15.6	15.8	15.4	14.0	12.5	9.8	8.1	6.7	6.7	15.8
<i>mean no. of days with no sun</i>	10	6	5	3	2	3	3	3	4	6	8	12	12	66
RAINFALL (mm)														
<i>mean monthly total</i>	123.5	80.1	95.8	58.1	68.0	67.3	67.6	93.7	108.0	132.9	127.7	119.9	119.9	1142.7
<i>greatest daily total</i>	32.2	23.6	25.9	20.4	26.5	35.2	44.9	57.3	56.1	67.8	56.4	40.5	40.5	67.8
<i>mean no. of days with $\geq 0.2\text{mm}$</i>	23	19	23	19	18	18	19	20	21	24	23	24	24	249
<i>mean no. of days with $\geq 1.0\text{mm}$</i>	20	15	18	13	14	12	12	15	16	19	19	19	19	193
<i>mean no. of days with $\geq 5.0\text{mm}$</i>	9	6	7	4	5	4	4	6	7	9	9	9	9	80
WIND (knots)														

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<i>mean monthly speed</i>	14.7	13.9	14.2	12.2	12.4	11.9	11.6	11.3	13.0	14.3	13.6	14.3	13.1
<i>max. gust</i>	91	93	88	67	69	73	67	60	84	85	76	89	93
<i>max. mean 10-minute speed</i>	58	61	58	43	47	47	45	44	57	58	50	60	61
<i>mean no. of days with gales</i>	5.5	4.2	3.3	1.1	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.8	2.3	3.6	3.4	4.5	30.5
WEATHER (mean no. of days with..)													
<i>snow or sleet</i>	4.6	4.4	4.0	1.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	2.6	18.1
<i>snow lying at 0900UTC</i>	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	2.3
<i>hail</i>	8.5	6.2	7.4	4.0	1.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	2.8	6.7	6.7	45.1
<i>thunder</i>	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.6	5.5
<i>fog</i>	1.1	0.6	0.7	1.7	1.3	2.0	3.3	2.4	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.6	16.6

MET ÉIREANN, Glasnevin Hill, Dublin 9, Ireland Tel: +353-1-8064200 Fax: +353-1-8064247

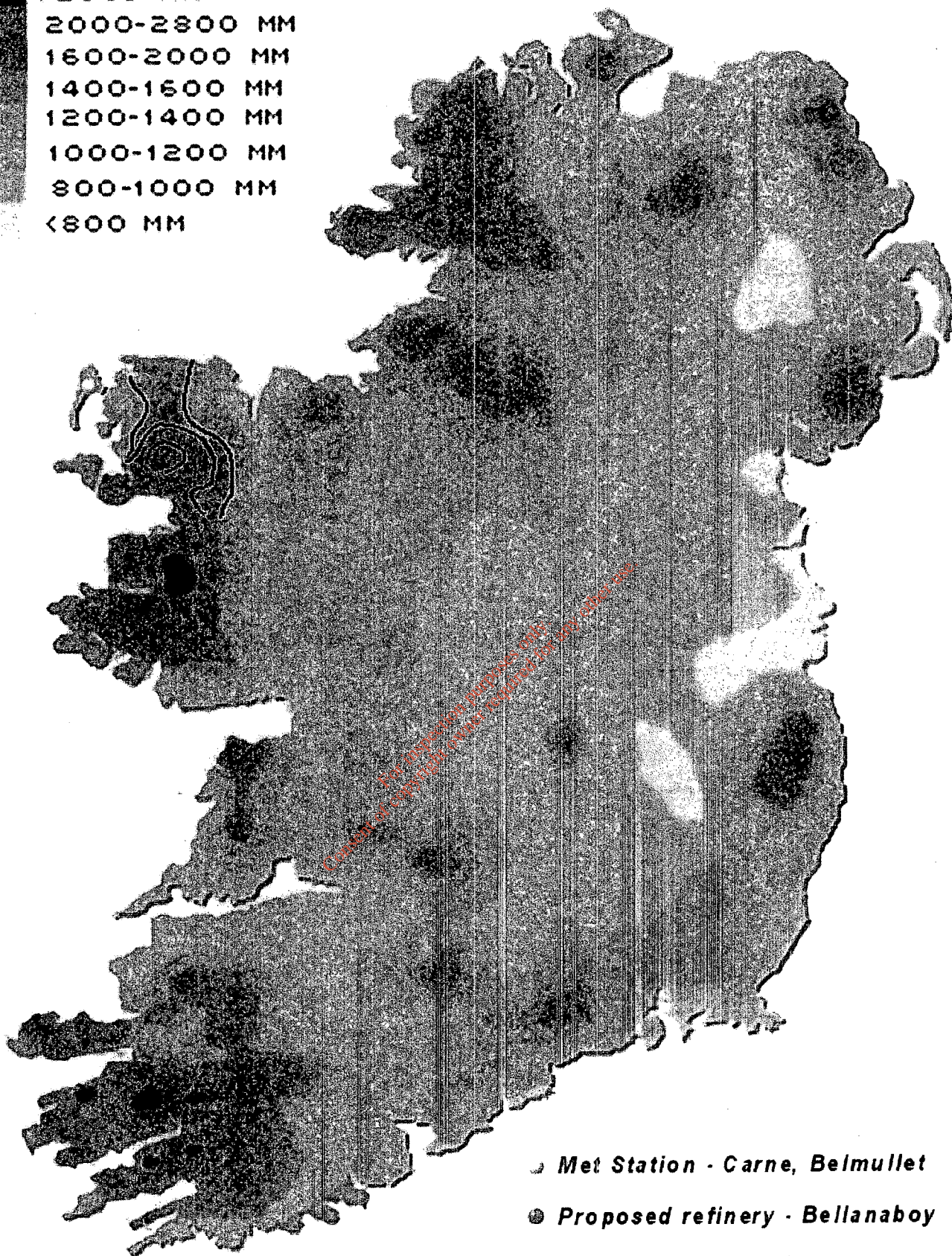
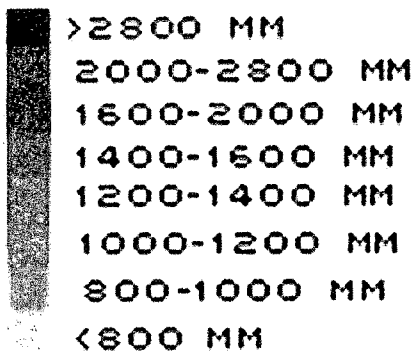
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1961-90 Mean Annual Rainfall (mm)

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Current Publication Date: 20/04/2007

Met Éireann to move weather station as urban sprawl affects Belmullet

By Fiona McGarry

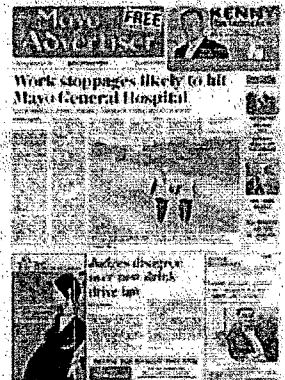
Met Éireann is to move its weather station in Belmullet from the site where it has operated for the last 51 years.

The weather observing station in Carne is less than a mile from Belmullet and has been in use by the meteorological service since the mid '50s.

A spokesperson for Met Éireann told the Mayo Advertiser that the service plans to automate a number of its stations, including the one at Carne. However, he said it would be a number of years before the process was complete.

The spokesperson also confirmed that Met Éireann is in the process of looking for a new site for the station. He said the area around the current observation point in Carne had become built up in recent years, and meant that it no longer gave the most accurate readings possible. He added that the process of securing a site was ongoing and that there would be a transition period during which the existing station would be phased out of use.

The Met station in Belmullet opened in 1956, when it replaced Blacksod Lighthouse. The lighthouse, which was run by the Sweeney family, was used as the observation point to determine the date of the D-Day landings in June 1944.

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Wednesday, October 26, 2005 :

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Tornado winds reported in Achill

A tornado was reported in Achill over the weekend. Locals contacted RTEs weather desk after sighting the vicious whirlwind on the island, writes Marian Harrison.

A spokesperson for Met Eireann confirmed that there were heavy thundershowers in the area with a tornado being a high possibility on the Mayo coast.

The spokesperson explained that heavy thunderstorms come from cumulous cloud, which go up to 40,000 ft into the atmosphere.

The tornado, a violently rotating column of air, extends from a thunderstorm to the ground. The violent spiral of air only lasts a mile or two but can have devastating effects. An investigation into the reported tornado is likely to be carried out in the coming weeks.

This is the second time in less than three months that a tornado has been reported on the Mayo coastline.

In August, the Western People reported that the Inver area of Erris had been struck by violent winds which left outbuildings in one home without a roof and also caused damage to a vehicle.

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number and then stealing the card off them.

To prove the point the female reporter stood close behind another woman in a queue and blatantly watched the woman keying in her PIN number. She said she had done it endless times and not once was she asked to stand back.

And to illustrate the fact that shop assistants now take little notice of the names on cards, a male and female swapped Chip and Pin cards and paid with them and not once was either of them asked why they had a card bearing the name of someone of the opposite gender. The sales people don't look at the cards at all. They don't need to anymore, now the shopper is liable for keeping the PIN secret as shops are no longer responsible for it's authenticity.

Bunnanadden goes hip-hop crazy

Our Bunnanadden correspondent John Leamy reports on a new craze sweeping the area in his community notes this week. John writes: The latest craze to hit the area is hip hop dancing. Classes for primary and secondary school pupils are being held in the community centre on Wednesday nights. The classes may be full up but check with Maura Kerins on 071-9183751. The feedback from the children is extremely positive. You can read more from John in the Community Notes pages.

Shepherd at the new roundabout

Our Rosses Point correspondent Albert Bree has often featured on this page due to his witty observations and his fondness for off-beat stories but your guess is as good as ours in trying to decipher this addition to Alberts community notes this week: **JOB OPPORTUNITY:** A reliable source told me that there could be a vacancy for a shepherd at the new roundabout on the Inner Relief Road at Caltragh. Contact the National Roads Authority or the City Hall, Sligo quoting Reference Baah. Is it some Rosses Point in-joke that the rest of us are not getting?

Tornado-spotting in Manorhamilton!

Alan Madden, Emma Crawley and Ronan Connaghan found themselves in the right place at the right time when heading home from work on the week before last. The trio witnessed what was later described by Dr John Tyrrell from the Department of Geography in NUI Cork as a rapidly-rotating funnel cloud, which had the potential to become a full-blown tornado if it had touched the ground. Alan, Ronan and Emma were heading home from work with the Health Service Executive in Manorhamilton when they captured images of the phenomenon. The event lasted an hour at most but the funnel was seen rotating by both Ronan and Emma.

According to Dr Tyrrell This fits with conditions in the atmosphere at the time. A cold front was heading into the area and was probably just over Sligo Bay. Ahead of it, and between 10-14,000ft, the edge of a jetstream was over inland County Leitrim and this would have provided a lot of the energy for the spin that produced the funnel cloud, enhanced by the fact that lower level winds were much slower and from a slightly different direction.

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Wednesday, September 07, 2005 :

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Mini tornado wreaks havoc in Erris village

A mini-tornado swept through Inver last month leaving one family fearing for their lives. The tornado, believed to have started out at sea, caused extensive damage to the Joyce family home at Inver Pier on the night of August 22.

The whirlwind forced pulled a roof from a shed before throwing it onto the house smashing windows, pulling lights from the kitchen ceiling and extensively damaging a parked car.

Bride Joyce was in the family home with her two brothers and sister in law, who were visiting, when the freak occurrence hit.

It came with such a force. Beforehand it was so calm but then came a clatter of a bang and before we knew it, it was all over, noted Mrs Joyces daughter in law, Bridie, who lives next door.

The violent storm only lasted for five minutes, first hitting at 11.45pm, but destroyed everything in its path.

It was terrible for my mother in law; it was very frightening and shell always be uneasy that it might happen again but thank God her grandson had gone home before the tornado hit, noted Mary Joyce.

The following day saw high winds of up to 70mph hit the Mayo coast breaking down the sea wall at Carne.

According to a report from Belmullet Met Eireann Office the tornado was a freak accident, with a similar incident occurring in Dublin earlier this year.

Mini tornados are not that unusual. Sometimes they might cause no damage but then on occasions obstacles lie in their path resulting in extensive damage, noted a spokesperson for Met Eireann.

An investigation by Met Eireann has allowed weather specialists to trace the tornados path out to sea.

Thank God nobody was hurt but now were left with the clean up, noted Mary.

In all August was an average month for rainfall, temperature and sunshine amounts in North Mayo.

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Little mention of landslides in Inspectors final report

PEAT STABILITY

On the morning of September 20th, 2003, as the residents of Glengad and Pullathomas came to terms with the tragedy that had befallen them, many people in Erris were already considering the long-term consequences of the devastating landslides of the previous evening.

There was a widely held view that the landslides had sounded the death knell for the proposed Corrib Gas terminal at Bellanaboy. The terminal site was only a few kilometres from Dooncarton Mountain, parts of which had tumbled to the ground in the most terrifying manner hours earlier. It seemed highly improbable that An Bord Pleanla would ever grant planning permission for a construction project that would involve significant excavation work on a blanket bog that was frighteningly volatile. On the morning of September 20th, 2003, many people in the Barony of Erris were openly proclaiming that the Corrib Gas project was buried beneath the rubble of Dooncarton Mountain.

Yet, surprisingly, the Dooncarton landslides earn only a passing reference in the report of Des R. Johnson. The Deputy Planning Officer makes reference to the landslides early in his report when he considers the material changes that have occurred since An Bord Pleanla previously considered an application for a gas terminal at Bellanaboy in 2002. But there is little mention of the landslides after that. The Deputy Planning Officer employed the services of Dr Trevor Orr, a chartered engineer at University College Dublin, to assess the potential dangers associated with the removal and transportation of such a large quantity of peat. It would appear from his report that Dr Orr was initially unimpressed by Shells Environmental Impact Statement which, he claimed, offered a very optimistic view of all the risks associated with the project and the design. The chartered engineer said the company had failed to take full cognisance of several scenarios and had given a negligible rating to the hazard of flooding caused by extended periods of wet weather.

This [negligible rating] seems far too optimistic considering the location of the site on a bog in the west of Ireland and considering the extreme rainfall event that caused bog slides at Pollatomish in September 2003.

It is the only time in his report that Dr Orr refers to the landslides at Pullathomas. He is largely positive in his overall assessment of the project. Indeed, he gives it a definite thumbs up after receiving additional information from Shell E & P Ireland on the issue of potential hazards.

Mr Johnson, meanwhile, follows Dr Orrs lead and makes little or no reference to the landslides of September 2003. He refers only briefly to a submission from the objectors in which it is claimed that landslides are still occurring in the area. The objectors cite the distortion of the line of stock-proof fences as proof of the continuing landslides.

Underneath the bog is a floating subsile of daub and the proposed excavation would lead to a quagmire eventually leading to damaging discharges to Carrowmore Lake. It

is argued that the proposal involves too much experimentation and a make-it-up-as-you-go-along approach.

Mr Johnson concedes that the objectors have made a strong case but he is swayed by Dr Orrs positive assessment of Shells plans to deal with the excavated peat.

I am strongly influenced by Dr Orrs views expressed in his two reports to the Board, and conclude that there are no convincing geotechnical reasons which would warrant refusal of permission.

It will come as a surprise to many that Mr Johnson and Dr Orr refused to dwell on the landslides of September 2003. Clearly the two men felt Shell E & P Ireland had provided sufficient detail in its Environmental Impact Statement to deal with such an eventuality if it ever occurred. Everyone in Erris will be hoping that such a worse case scenario never occurs.

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Wednesday, October 15, 2003 :

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Taoiseach asked to address issue of compensation for landslide victims

The issue of compensation for people who have lost their homes, land, property and livestock in the disastrous landslides at Pullathomas three weeks ago is to be raised with An Taoiseach and the Ministers for Finance, Local Government and Rural, Community and Gaeltacht Affairs.

This was agreed at a meeting of the county council in Castlebar where it was revealed that the cost of restoring the infrastructure of the area will be in the region of 3 million.

A special request is to be made to Mr Ahern to visit the disaster area when he comes to Mayo on October 24th next while a meeting is being sought with the three cabinet Ministers responsible as a matter of urgency.

The scale of the disaster which wiped out a hillside along a stretch of five miles on the exposed north Mayo coastline was spelled out to the members of the authority by the Director of Services for the area, Mr Peter Hynes.

Mr Hynes went to great lengths to make it clear that the disaster was the result of a spectacular downpour of rain which dumped four inches of rain on Glengad mountain on the eventful night of Sept 19 last.

The downpour lasted an hour and a half and, coming after the drought of a very dry summer, washed through cracks in the bog to lift the soil and carry it off down the mountain side.

The cascading slide swept away bridges, culverts, roads, a pier, a graveyard, outbuildings and cut water and power supplies.

The scale of the devastation was quite phenomenal, Mr Hynes told councillors. He said there was extensive damage to the local infrastructure while there was also devastating effects for private property with homes, farm buildings, land, livestock and fencing destroyed. An assessment of the damage was being carried out and was expected to be finalised in about ten days.

Fifty individual properties were involved in the devastation and there remained a number of homes that were at high risk because of huge chunks of unstable soil.

Mr Hynes paid tribute to the emergency services, the council staff, the public representatives and the media for the magnificent response there was to the calamity.

Things were restored to as near as normal as soon as possible.

There was a huge humanitarian cost to the event and for some people the prospect of returning to their homes and being confident in their environment was a daunting one. They would require the support of the various agencies associated with such work.

Emphasising the point that the landslides were the result of the sudden heavy downpour, Mr Hynes added that there was a similar occurrence in the Shetland islands around the same time. He stressed that the occurrence had nothing to do with traffic in the vicinity of Glengad or with the presence of the radar tower on Glengad. He added that the situation required ongoing monitoring by the Office of Public Works, the council and the local community who had acted heroically and with great

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Mini-tornado leaves trail of damage in Omagh

Friday, 22 March 2002 17:51

A trail of damage was left near Omagh in County Tyrone last night by what is described as a mini-tornado. Fierce winds battered buildings and cars during the brief but violent storm, which struck the outskirts of Omagh.

No one was injured during the freak weather, but some people were forced to make a dash for safety as gusts of wind reached more than 70 miles an hour.

There were reports of at least three cars being scooped up off the ground. Jason McMinn, who works at Kelly's Inn Bar in Garvaghy, said: "People were trying to rush to get inside, but when I was inside the shop it was very hard for the person working in the shop to keep the doors closed the wind was that strong."

Advertisement

"Cars in the forecourt were just getting blown against each other. There were more broken windows and part of the roof of our premises was blown off."

A Meteorological Office spokesman said that while funnel clouds which do not touch the ground are often mistaken for tornadoes this bore all the hallmarks of the real thing.

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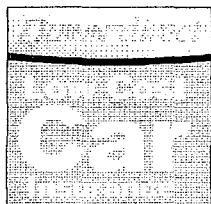
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Tuesday, August 21, 2001 :

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Tornado could have wreaked havoc

By Caroline O'Doherty

A CLIMATOLOGIST, investigating the 100mph wind which hit Dublin last Friday, says luck prevented it from causing severe damage.

After meeting with eye witnesses yesterday, Dr John Tyrrell believes the tornado measured at least 25 metres across and carried winds whirling at up to 100mph.

By contrast, a tornado just 10 metres across devastated an empty caravan park in Youghal in the winter of 1995.

"By Irish standards, this was a medium-to-large one; at least 25 metres wide. That's the length of a large bungalow, and if you saw a large rotating bungalow extending up into the sky, you'd think it was pretty impressive."

The tornado was the sixth recorded in Ireland this year, but Dr Tyrrell, a climatologist from University College Cork, believes there may have been others. The reason they don't always make headlines is due to a fluke combination of factors.

"Many of our structures are built to withstand very high winds, anyway, because we can get stormy weather at any time of year, whereas in the midwest of the United States in Tornado Alley, the buildings tend to be relatively flimsy.

"What has also protected us is that much of Ireland is empty and tornadoes have tended to hit places where there were very few houses.

"What saved us on Friday was the fact that it came ashore on the beach. Otherwise, it had the potential to do an awful lot of damage."

The tornado came ashore at around 4.30pm, making landfall at Dollymount Strand and crossing Bull Island towards the highly populated suburb of Raheny, where it blew itself out.

Along the way, it flipped over a jeep on the beach. Dr Tyrrell spent yesterday trying to find the exact spot where it hit land so that he could track its course and estimate its size and intensity by damage or disturbance left behind.

Typically, tornadoes happen during thundery conditions, starting in a thunder cloud and growing downwards. "The winds feeding into the cloud from outside come from different sources. Some are warm and wet and others cold and dry. The mix creates conditions that produce a rotating column of air. Like rubbing plasticine between your hands, it will start to come out the bottom.