

Tornado near Wokingham.

30th December 2006.

Around 1545 GMT on the 30th December 2006, a squall with intense rain crossed parts Wokingham. Damage was observed near the M4 bridge over the A329 Reading Road, where a tree was felled, demolishing a lamp standard. In the vicinity, on both sides of the motorway bridge, there were branch debris, and a wooden fence was flattened there too. A little further to the east, across the Reading to Wokingham railway, the roof of the British Legion hall was damaged, and two more mature trees were felled in a nearby field, in line with the first tree and hall. A preliminary look for damage further to the east revealed two bent lamp standards on the elevated section of the A329M at the clover-leaf interchange with the M4 (J10). Damage was also reported near the A321 Wokingham to Twyford road, at Bill Hill Park, again close to the M4. I have since heard of tornado damage from the same storm at Holyport, near Maidenhead, and this could conceivably have been the same tornado.

The data attached is from the AWS at NGR SU 798701, located about 600 metres SSE from the track of the tornado. It should be noted that the rainfall during this event was intense, with a maximum rate of 227 mm/hr recorded by the AWS. The associated reduction in visibility to less than 500 m precluded any chance of a sighting of the tornado funnel.

