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| Extreme Weather in the UK |

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| * An account of a tornado |

**Date:** 12th May 1811

**Places:** Derbyshire, Wirksworth, Darley Dale, Kirk Ireton, Callow, Bonsall, Hopton

**Types of event:** Thunder, Rain, Hail, Tornado, Whirlwind, Storm

**Summary description:** Devastating whirlwind or tornado accompanied by storms of thunder, rain and hail.

**Summary Impacts**:

Damage to homes and outbuildings, corn and hay stacks, trees torn up, church roof torn off. In the space of two minutes, the streets were filled with ruins, most of the Houses, Barns and Outbuildings were unroofed, and many totally thrown down, the Windows burst in; Corn and Hay Stacks carried up and dispersed; Trees torn up by the roots; some broken off and carried to a considerable distance; the Lead upon the Church turned up in an astonishing manner and a Piece above half a Ton weight carried into an adjoining Field. All the Inhabitants, expecting each moment to be their last, was struck with a grateful sense of wonder and astonishment, to find that no Lives were lost, nor any Person materially hurt, nor any Cattle killed or much hurt, though several were completely covered with ruins; and many Families were miraculously preserved from the peculiar manner in which the Timber had fallen.

The TORNADO continued its course to CALLOW and HOPTON, which instantly presented a similar awful scene of Devastation; the Ruins of Buildings, a Plantation almost destroyed, large Timber Trees 10 and 12 feet in circumference, lying in all directions; some broken and twisted to pieces; others torn up by the roots, with an immense weight of earth hanging to them. From thense it proceeded over HOPTON-MOOR, by the upper part of BONSALL and DARLEY, venting its Rage with unabating violence, in a course of about Eight Miles, (in a Northwardly direction) and extending from 300 to 400 Yards in width - Throughout its course the most extraordinary interposition of Providence, in the preservation of the lives of both Men and Cattle has been wonderfully manifested.

A Gentleman of Bonsall-Dale who witnessed the TORNADO there, gives the following description of its progress:

"I was situated," says he, "in a Dale during the Tempest, and could not see its grandeur to describe it properly; but what I saw of it was truly terrific. Its appearance was that of a dark black-looking cloud, of a screw-like figure sometimes approaching the earth, and in an instant rising considerably above it. The clouds had for a great distance the appearance of vast volumes of black smoak rapidly whirling up in a north-westwardly direction. It tore the roof quite off a Cottage at Okerside, and broke the slates into atoms the same as if they had been beat with a hammer, and took out of the roof a Bed and Blankets, and conveyed them to a considerable distance, and left them on the top of an Ash Tree. It passed through the Derwent in Darley-Dale, and divided the River into two parts, so that the bed of the River was quite dry for a considerable space. A cow belonging to George Woolley (Mr Evan's Carter) was taken out of a Field by it, and conveyed over two fences into a distant field. It tore up numbers of Trees, split several in shivers, removed fences of every kind, Corn Stacks, Hay Ricks; and Buildings."