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Conference on European Tornadoes and Severe Storms

A revised U.K. tornado climatology, 1960-1989

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It has been nearly 15 years since the last tornado climatology of the United Kingdom was produced and, with new events and corrected or otherwise updated information to hand, there has been a need for such a revision for some time. This paper presents some of the results of a larger research project undertaken by the writer, which fulfil the requirement for an accurate and up-to-date British tornado climatology; consequently, this climatology supersedes all those on British tornadoes which have gone before it. The various findings are also occasionally contrasted with earlier climatological studies from both the United Kingdom and the United States. The research was undertaken at the University College of Swansea throughout the 1990s and is based primarily on the 30 year period of 1960 - 1989.

It is now intended that a comprehensive tornado climatology for the United Kingdom will be produced by TORRO every decade, some five years after the relevant 30 year period has elapsed. In addition for the time required to undertake such an analysis, this also allows for late data to be included in the climatology. This first decadal climatology has taken a longer period of time to complete due to the lengthy and time-consuming process of computerising the tornado database, followed by a thorough validation and verification of the information.

Now those major tasks have been completed, it is a far more straight forward and quicker task to maintain the database.

