

THE BEAUFORT SCALE

	Knots	mph	Description	Effects at sea	Effects on land
0	0	0	Calm	Sea like a mirror.	Smoke rises vertically.
1	1-3	1-3	Light air	Ripples, but no foam crests.	Smoke drifts in the wind.
2	4-6	4-7	Light breeze	Small wavelets.	Leaves rustle. Wind felt on face.
3	7-10	8-12	Gentle breeze	Large wavelets crests, not breaking.	Small twigs in constant motion. Light flags extended.
4	11-16	13-18	Moderate wind	Numerous whitecaps.	Dust, leaves and loose paper raised. Small branches move.
5	17-21	19-24	Fresh wind	Many whitecaps, some spray.	Small trees sway.
6	22-27	25-31	Strong wind	Larger waves form. Whitecaps everywhere. More spray.	Large branches move. Whistling in phone wires. Difficult to use umbrellas.
7	28-33	32-38	Very strong wind	White foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks.	Whole trees in motion.
8	34-40	39-46	Gale	Edges of wave crests begin to break into spindrift.	Twigs break off trees. Difficult to walk.
9	41-47	47-54	Severe gale	High waves. Sea begins to roll. Spray may reduce visibility.	Chimney pots and slates removed.
10	48-55	55-63	Storm	Very high waves with overhanging crests. Blowing foam gives sea a white appearance.	Trees uprooted. Structural damage.
11	56-63	64-72	Severe storm	Exceptionally high waves.	Widespread damage.
12	63	73	Hurricane force	Air filled with foam. Sea completely white. Visibility greatly reduced.	Widespread damage. Very rarely experienced on land.

Note: The Beaufort Scale shown above is as applicable to Broads and coastal waters.

Frank Singleton's pages on www.rya.org.uk/weathertides/pages/weather.aspx include the above details.