

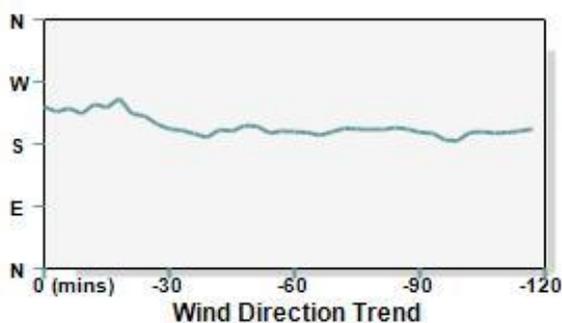
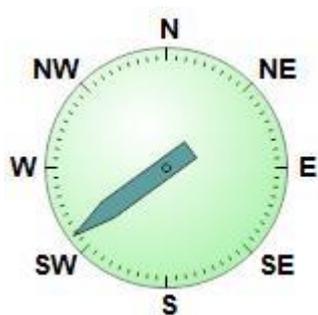
Kilkeel Weather Station and Aid to Navigation

Data can be viewed on the internet via the NIFHA web site www.nifha.co.uk . Click on the Kilkeel AiS system link or via direct AiS

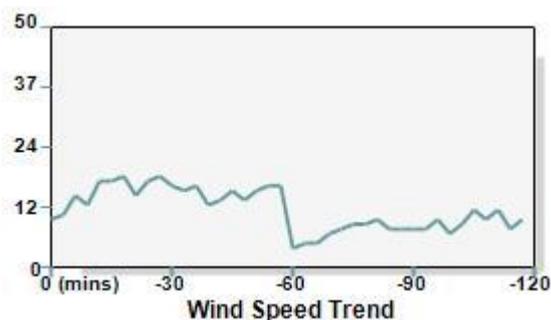
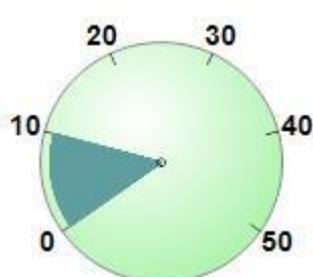
The web site displays the following information from the weather station and is updated every 3 minutes. The information displayed is for guidance only.

Information Displays

Current wind direction and trend over the preceding 2 hours along with current wind speed and trend and wind gust: samples below.



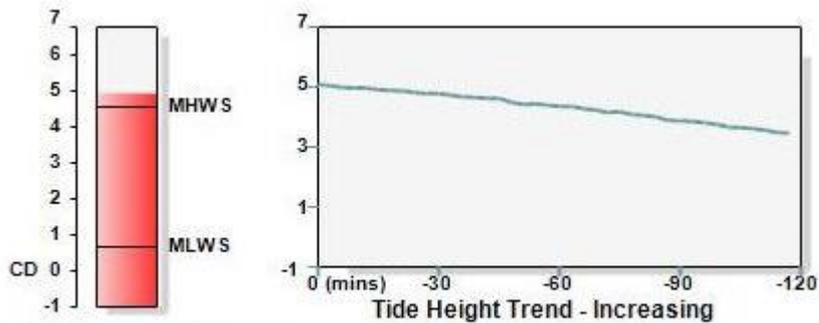
Wind Direction: 234°



Wind Speed: 10 kts

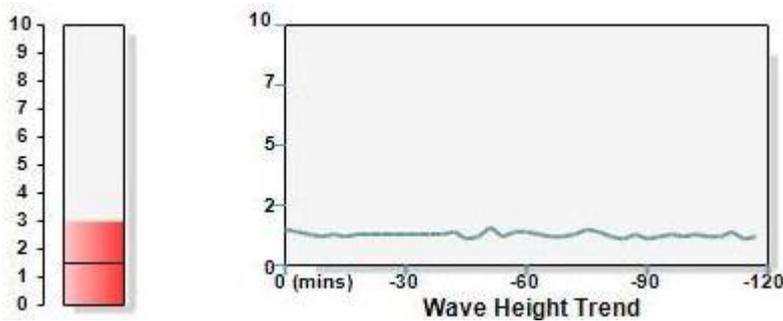
Wind gust: 12 kts

In addition the station provides information about the tide height and trend. The tide height given is relevant to the mean water level at the pier but cannot account for siltation so Masters must make allowance for loss of depth due to siltation and the effects of swell when considering entry: sample below, note that 0 is chart datum



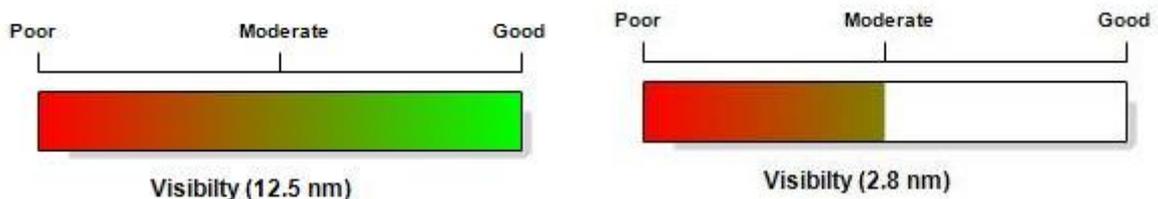
Tide Height: 5.10 mtrs

Peak Wave Height in metres is shown by the red bar. Significant Wave Height is also displayed as the black line, again with its trend over the last 2 hours. Please note that Significant Wave Height is an oceanographer's term and is basically the averaged wave reading over a 3 minute period. The waves experienced may be significantly larger.



Peak Wave Height: 3.00 mtrs
Significant Wave Height: 1.50 mtrs

The final display is the visibility which is displayed in nautical miles and also standard forecasting terminology,



Vessels/ port users can access the data by the following methods:-

1. Internet as per the Link above. www.nifha.co.uk

The information is updated regularly but there remains the possibility of delays in data transfer at the web site so information viewed on the internet should be regarded as indicative only. This information is accessible on any internet enabled device such as smart phones.

2. Direct AIS safety related message broadcast from the harbour base station.

Boats equipped with Class A transponders will receive an automated Safety Related Message when they approach Kilkeel harbour and are about 1NM off shore. The message will say "Welcome to Kilkeel", to get current weather details the vessel should then reply to the welcome message and the weather data will then be sent to advise them of the wind speed, direction, significant wave height and tide level. In addition vessels will be able to poll the information by sending any message from their AIS unit to the station and requesting a reply. This will work for vessels within AIS range which is around 20NM

3. Direct AIS weather data broadcast.

Weather data is broad cast directly from the weather station as a binary message (known as a Type 8 message) and can be displayed on vessels with suitable software/display. Some chart plotters may offer this but most do not. Vessel owners should check with the manufacturer/ supplier of their equipment. Alternatively if the vessel has a Windows based computer system on board then software is available to display the information. This requires a connector lead from the AIS transponder to the computer and the appropriate software. Appropriate software and leads are available from the link below, the individual to speak to is Mike Harrison. <http://www.dolphinmaritime.com/>

4. SMS text message

The data can also be received via text message by texting "weather" to +447717989994. A reply will then be sent to the users' phone, giving the last recorded conditions. Again data is updated every 3 minutes but will only be sent if request.