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Ophelia keeps her name

If a hurricane arrives from the Atlantic, it is not given a fresh name from the UK list.

The official method is almost courtly. If the remnants of a tropical storm or hurricane move across the Atlantic, they are referred to as, for example, "ex-hurricane Ophelia." If that system then reaches the criteria for naming a storm in the UK because of the possible impacts, "the name would not change but it would be known as 'Storm Ophelia'." Only names officially designated by the National Weather Service in the US are used in that way.

A different official list, over the Atlantic

Atlantic tropical cyclones have a list of their own, published by the National Hurricane Center and maintained by a WMO committee. Since 1953, Atlantic tropical storms had been named from lists originated by the National Hurricane Center. The 2026 list runs from Arthur to Wilfred: Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Leah, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, Wilfred. The six lists rotate, and the 2026 list will be used again in 2032, unless a name is retired.

A name is retired "if a storm is so deadly or costly that the future use of its name for a different storm would be inappropriate for reasons of sensitivity." If more than twenty-one named tropical cyclones occur in the Atlantic basin in a season, any additional storms take names from an official alternate list approved by the WMO.

Force 10 is already called "Storm"

On the Met Office's Beaufort wind force scale, Force 10 (48–55 knots) is officially called "Storm." That marine-forecast language is not the rule for giving a weather system a name from the annual list. A weather system is named because of the disruption it may cause, not because a mean wind has reached 48 knots.

At the top of the scale, Force 12 is printed as "Hurricane." In warnings, the Met Office's marine-forecast glossary uses the term "hurricane force." "The term 'hurricane' on its own means a true tropical cyclone, not experienced in British waters."

A short quiz

1. If the remnants of hurricane Ophelia reached the UK naming criteria, what would it be called?
2. When will the 2026 Atlantic list be used again, unless a name is retired?
3. On the official Beaufort scale, what is Force 10 called?

Answers. 1. Storm Ophelia, keeping the name it already had. 2. 2032. 3. Storm — a marine-forecast term, not the naming threshold.

Sources, checked 17 November 2026: the UK Storm Centre (the official Ophelia example), the National Hurricane Center tropical cyclone names page, and the Met Office Beaufort wind force scale. This typographic sheet has no photographs. named.storms.im is independent of the official services. Live warnings belong on the official pages.
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