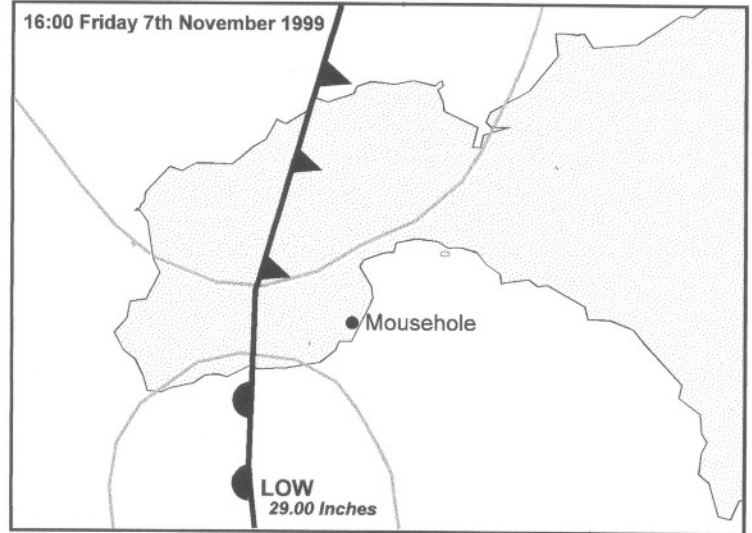


MOUSEHOLE FLOOD - 7th NOVEMBER 1997

On the afternoon of 7th November an active cold front moved into west Cornwall from the south west. A wave depression moving up this front gave around 2 hours of torrential rain to the far west of Cornwall

At my weather station in Penzance I recorded 53.1mm in the 24 hours ending 09:00 on the 8th. However, 38mm of this total fell in the 2 hours commencing 15:30 on 7th. During this 2 hour period the wind was generally SE, but swung into the west on a couple of occasions, indicating more than 1 shallow wave depression.



The area around Mousehole, 3 miles SSW of Penzance, was particularly badly hit. Rainfall totals here almost certainly exceeded 50mm in the 2 hour period. Flooding was extensive. The small stream flowing through the village became a torrent, pouring mud into properties, breaking garden walls, and rolling granite boulders through the village. It was not until the afternoon of 8th November that the main road through the village was cleared of mud & debris.