

Subject **The Beaufort Scale for Measuring Wind Speed**

The wind is a natural resource that is available everywhere. As a general rule the wind blows for between 8 to 10 hours per day, at a speed that is useful for the windmill. This can happen at any time of the day or night - we don't always see the wind.

The following table is called the Beaufort Scale, and is used to assess local wind conditions.

Force	Name	Definition	Speed Range	Speed Range
			(M/s)	(KPH)
0	Calm	Smoke rises vertically	0	0
1	Light air	Direction shown by smoke, but not vane	1	7
2	Light breeze	Wind felt on face, leaves rustle	2-3	14-21
3	Gentle breeze	Leaves, small twigs, & flags in motion	4-5	28-35
4	Moderate	Raises dust and paper, small branches move	6-8	42-56
5	Fresh breeze	Small trees in leaf sway	9-11	63-77
6	Strong breeze	Large branches move, wires whistle	11-14	77-98
7	Near gale	Whole trees move, walking slightly impeded	14-17	98-119
8	Gale	Breaks twigs off trees, walking difficult	17-20	119-140
9	Severe gale	Slight structural damage	21-24	147-168
10	Storm	Trees uprooted, considerable damage	>25	>175

Although this is only a subjective measure of the speed of the wind it provides a ready reckoner that can be used in the field. It gives evidence that wind exists, and that it has power. Being visual it is only useful during the day; it is important to remember that the wind also blows at night.