



## **Radar and satellite measurements of the Boscastle flash flood**

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The occurrence and extent of flash floods in the United Kingdom are relatively uncommon events, but are often on a scale to match those elsewhere in Europe. On 16 August 2003 a flooding event occurred on the north coast of Cornwall causing significant damage to several coastal communities, including Boscastle. More than 200 mm of rain fell in the 24 hours period, of which much fell within a few hours, producing rainrates up to  $300 \text{ mmh}^{-1}$ . This paper examines the background to this flash flood and draws upon remote sensed data sets to assess the usefulness of such information. Surface radar data collected at 2 km 5 minute results are analysed, together with satellite data from passive microwave instruments, the Special Sensor Microwave/Imager and the Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer, and visible/infrared data from the Meteosat Second Generation SEVIRI instrument.