

Ian Westaby's garage in Newbold Verdon after a mini tornado hit it.

Jack's horror as tornado hits

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A TORNADO tore through Newbold Verdon ripping a garage roof clean off while a terrified teenager was in the house.

Jack Westaby was sat at home in Pasture Lane when high winds struck, lifting off the roof of the garage and dumping it further down the street. It also demolished the side wall.

His mum and dad Jo and Ian came home to see the brickwork strewn across the garden while their neighbour Mick Alcock, who also lost the roof of his adjoining garage, found a tile had crashed through the bathroom window.

Bizarrely a garden dining table and chairs in the Westaby's garden was left untouched.

Jack, 18, said: "It was the noise of the wind which was everywhere. Tiles were being thrown about. It was amazing. I thought our cats were going to get blown away."

As soon as he realised what had happened, he was speaking to his grandparents at the other end of the village where they had had no damage.

Dad Ian, 46, said: "Some of the roof landed on my neighbour's house, some of it landed 100 or 200 yards down the road. The wall had collapsed, everything was just over the garden.

"The chairs didn't move but that [the roof] was taken. It just shows how localised, how focused it was."



Jack and Ian Westaby, of Newbold Verdon, next to their garage damaged in the tornade that struck the area.

Mick said that there was glass and rubble all over the bathroom.

"We're very lucky nobody was in," he said. "They would have been dead [if they were in the bath at the time]."

A spokesman for the Met Office said: "I wouldn't be surprised if there was a tornado in Leicestershire. The atmospheric conditions were perfect for tornadoes and tunnel clouds."

They added that when the air starts to swirl around that is when you get tornadoes or tunnel clouds dropping from thunder clouds.

"In this country, they can be very localised," they added. "You can get a lot of damage in very small area while something not that far away can not be touched at all."