

National Severe Weather Warning Service (NSWWS)



Overview

The National Severe Weather Warning Service (NSWWS) is a Met Office developed warning service based on the impact of the UK weather rather than a threshold of the weather itself. Met Office Weather Warnings are exclusive to the Met Office, which is recognised by UK government as the national weather warning service for the UK. NSWWS has safety at the forefront of the service. It provides quality, consistent information, support, advice and guidance to help customers prepare for and respond to severe weather.

Met Office Weather Warnings are issued up to seven days ahead for eight different weather types:



Rain



Thunderstorm



Wind



Snow



Lightning



Ice



Fog



Extreme Heat

What does the NSWWS service provide?

The warning service is designed to allow users to plan and prepare for the event of severe weather impacts which have the potential to cause disruption, damage to infrastructure or a danger to life and make informed decisions to mitigate the forecast impacts. Met Office Weather Warnings provide consistent and robust severe weather messaging when it matters most. The National Severe Warnings Service utilises warnings data that is generated by Met Office Warnings Manager*.

The NSWWS will provide you with:

- Weather warnings, issued when rain, thunderstorms, wind, snow, ice, fog, extreme heat and lightning are possible and it is forecast that they may be severe enough in nature to disrupt routines or impact safety
- Weather warnings up to seven days ahead of the expected severe weather
- A clear description of the expected weather
- A clear description of the potential impacts the weather may cause
- An assessment of the level of impacts that may occur and the likelihood of those impacts occurring
- Updates when the forecast is changing
- Additional content to communicate the warnings and associated forecasts
- Supporting content which clearly explains NSWWS and how to use it

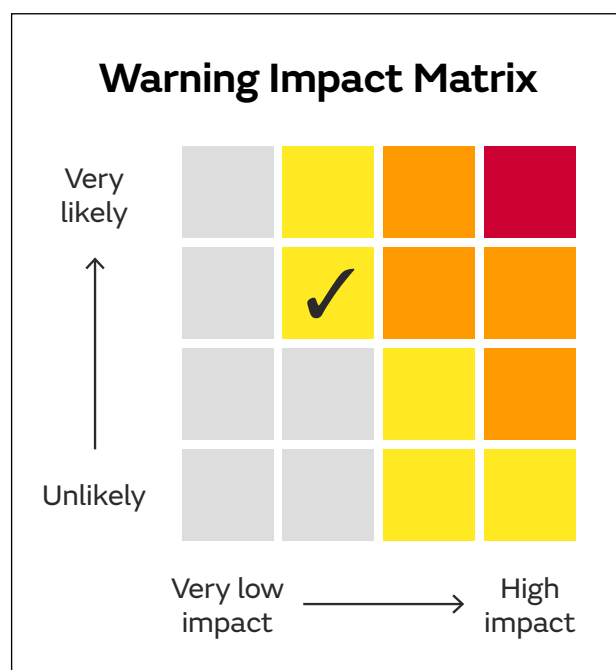
What do the warning colours mean?

Each warning is given a colour (yellow, amber or red) depending on a combination of both the impact the weather may have and the likelihood of those impacts occurring.

Yellow and Amber warnings represent a range of impact levels and likelihoods. This means it is important to read each warning to know what level of impact you can expect for your chosen warning area – and how likely those impacts are to occur.

These impacts can include damage to property, travel delays and cancellations, loss of water supplies, power cuts and, in the most severe cases, bring a danger to life.

We show this combination of impact and likelihood in a matrix, which can be seen in the Further Details section of our warnings. To understand how likely we think the forecast impacts are, always check the matrix to see which box has been ticked.



*'Warnings Manager' is an internal Met Office Operations tool hosted on Amazon Web Services, used by Met Office Chief and Deputy Forecasters to create, update and disseminate Met Office Weather Warnings.

Yellow Warning: Yellow warnings can be issued for a range of weather situations. Many are issued when it is likely that the weather will cause some low-level impacts, including some disruption to travel in a few places. Many people may be able to continue with their daily routine, but there will be some that will be directly impacted and so it is important to assess if you could be affected. Other yellow warnings are issued when the weather could bring much more severe impacts to the majority of people but the certainty of those impacts occurring is much lower. It is important to read the content of yellow warnings to determine which weather situation is being covered by the yellow warning.

Amber Warning: There is an increased likelihood of impacts from severe weather, which could potentially disrupt your plans. This means there is the possibility of travel delays, road and rail closures, power cuts and the potential risk to life and property. You should think about changing your plans and taking action to protect yourself and your property. You may want to consider the impact of the weather on your family and your community and whether there is anything you need to do ahead of the severe weather to minimise the impact.

Red Warning: Dangerous weather is expected and, if you haven't already done so, you should take action now to keep yourself and others safe from the impact of the severe weather. It is very likely that there will be a risk to life, with substantial disruption to travel, energy supplies and possibly widespread damage to property and infrastructure. You should avoid travelling, where possible, and follow the advice of the emergency services and local authorities.



Cost

This service is free of charge.



Frequency of Issue Warnings

As required.



Format of Output File

GeoJSON via an application program interface (API) using an API Key.



Domain

UK – Regions and sub-regions (based on unitary authority boundaries).



Delivery Method

Application program interface (API)

Useful Links

Get started: [Met Office NSWWS Public API](#)

Style Guide: [nswws-style-guide-apr-2021-v1.1.1.pdf \(metoffice.gov.uk\)](#)