

# Daily Hazard Assessment User Guide

## Working together

### The Natural Hazards Partnership

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### THE NATURAL HAZARDS PARTNERSHIP

The Natural Hazards Partnership (NHP) provides information, research and analysis on natural hazards for the development of more effective policies, communications and services for civil contingencies, governments and the responder community across the UK. The focus is on natural hazards that disrupt the normal activities of UK communities or damage the UK's environmental services.

Through the consortium of public bodies that form the NHP (mainly government departments and agencies, trading funds and public sector research establishments) one aim is to provide a timely, common and consistent source of advice to government and emergency responders for civil contingencies and disaster response.

To enable this, a Daily Hazard Assessment is produced providing an at a glance summary of a range of natural hazards that could affect the UK. This is available to UK government and all Category 1 and 2 responders for use in planning decisions.



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## DAILY HAZARD ASSESSMENT SECTIONS EXPLAINED

### Hazards Five Day Summary

This section provides a headline summary of the key hazards over the next five days including the current colour state that has been assigned.

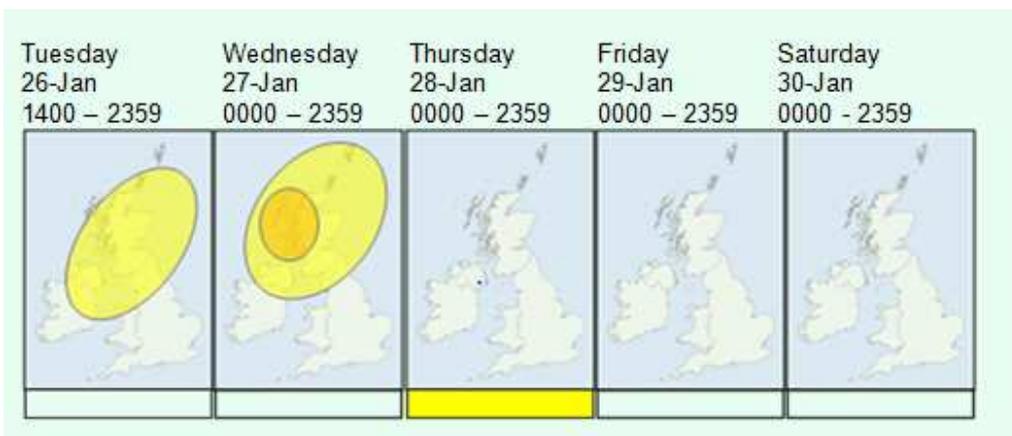
### Hazards Five Day Summary Maps

The Five Day Summary maps are designed to alert the user to the presence of a hazard within their geographic area of interest. The hazard areas depicted on the maps are indicative only; for more detail, the reader should refer to the Hazard Five Day Summary text below the maps and visit the appropriate links.

Areas where a natural hazard could occur, or has occurred, are depicted on the maps using an ellipse or ellipses (see Figure 1) to indicate the approximate region or regions at risk.

If there are no natural hazards forecast (i.e. all alert levels are Green), a blank UK map for each of the five days (with blank boxes underneath) will be included in the DHA.

Figure 1: EXAMPLE



An ellipse, or ellipses, will be drawn over the relevant UK map(s) in the colour for the alert level it represents (Yellow, Amber, Red).

Where a number of natural hazards are possible in one area, only the highest level will be shown.

For example, in Figure 1, a yellow risk of gales is depicted across the whole of Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England on Tuesday but, on Wednesday, there is also an amber risk of severe gales for northwest Scotland. In that case, the amber ellipse is overlaid.

If no natural hazard events have occurred or are likely to occur (i.e. all alert levels are Green), the UK map for each of the five days will not show any coloured ellipses. (See Figure 1 Friday and Saturday).

For some of the natural hazards covered in the Daily Hazard Assessment, it is not possible to depict the area affected, or potentially affected, by the hazard. This occurs where the impacts from a natural hazard are very localised, such as a landslide, or where it is not possible to be more specific about which areas of the UK are

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likely to be affected, such as space weather, volcanic ash, space object re-entry and earthquakes. In these cases, the box *underneath* the UK map will be coloured at the appropriate risk level (see Figure 1, Thursday).

## Hazards Five Day Summary Detail

Further detail about the hazard risk over the next five days can be found here including links to the organisations who take the lead on each hazard. More information can be sought from these organisations as required.

## Ongoing Issues

Information about any hazards of an ongoing nature can be found here, eg. drought. Drought will be notified on the Assessment on day one but, in subsequent issues, it will move to the “ongoing issues” section of the document and will only be reported again if there is any significant change in the hazard risk.

## Summary of Recent Events

Actual events that occurred over the previous 24 hours are included here if information becomes available and may include details of the observed impacts of any hazards that have occurred. Note that this is based on information provided by partner organisations or reports available through reputable news channels. It will not be a comprehensive summary of all hazard impacts throughout the UK.

## General Weather Outlook

This section provides an overview of the general trends in the **weather** conditions that are expected to affect the UK over the next 30 days.

## Additional Graphics

This section may be used to highlight any graphical information of particular interest.

## Hazard Colour State Matrix

The matrix shows the full range of hazards that may be included in the assessment and the criteria used to determine the colour state of each hazard.

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q) What is the Natural Hazards Partnership Daily Hazard Assessment?**

- A) The Daily Hazard Assessment is a high level national summary of a range of natural hazards that could affect the UK, helping users assess the risk of hazard events occurring.

### **Q) What time period does the Assessment cover?**

- A) The Assessment is issued every day covering the next five days, some hazards are restricted to a shorter time period where stated. There is also a “general outlook” for weather conditions over the next 30 days within the Assessment.

### **Q) Who produces the Assessment?**

- A) The Assessment is created from information provided by members of the Natural Hazards Partnership. The lead organisation for each hazard is responsible for providing information about that hazard. This information is then collated and assessed by the meteorologists in the Met Office Hazard Centre before issuing.

### **Q) When and how is the Assessment issued?**

- A) The Assessment is issued as a PDF daily at 2pm. It is available on Hazard Manager, which can be set up to automatically email the PDF to your inbox. Updated assessments are issued if either of the following circumstances occur:-
- a. There is a significant change in the status of the hazard which causes the colour state to be amended.
  - b. A hazard for which forecast/prediction capability is not available (e.g. earthquake) occurs.

### **Q) Can I tailor the way I receive the Assessment to my own preferences?**

- A) Through your Hazard Manager account you can choose:
- to receive the Assessment daily or only when there is activity on your chosen Hazard.
  - to receive the Assessment via email.
  - to receive an SIMS alert to advise you that an Assessment has been issued.

These preferences can be set on your Hazard Manager account.

### **Q) What geographical area does the Assessment cover?**

- A) The Assessment covers all listed hazards for all parts of the UK except where stated otherwise.

### **Q) How can I assess the magnitude of a particular hazard?**

- A) Each hazard will be given a ‘Red’, ‘Amber’ or ‘Yellow’ colour state depending on the threshold level breached. A matrix outlining these thresholds is included at the end of the document. If none of these colour states apply then the Hazard is assumed to be ‘Green’ and it will not be explicitly mentioned.

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## **Q) Is the Assessment available regionally?**

- A) The Assessment provides a high level national summary and, although it will highlight the affected regions, you cannot receive the Assessment just for your chosen region.

## **Q) How can I tell if there is an increased alert level for a hazard forecast for my area of concern?**

- A) For each day, a Hazard Summary map will be annotated with an indicative ellipse, in the appropriate alert colour (Yellow, Amber, Red). More detail is available from the Hazard Five Day Summary Text and from the links provided to the responsible organisation for that hazard.

Certain hazards are non-area specific. An enhanced alert level of any of these hazards will be shown by a coloured box under the UK map of the relevant.

## **Q) How can I tell if there is more than one type of hazard forecast for my area of concern?**

- A) For each hazard level, an ellipse will be inserted over the appropriate region. If your region is expected to be at risk from two or more co-incident hazards, there will be just one ellipse over the region. If they are of the same alert level, the ellipse will take the colour which depicts that alert level. If one hazard is Yellow (and one Amber), the highest alert colour will be inserted over the region.

Certain hazards are non-area specific. An enhanced alert level of any of these hazards will be shown by a coloured box under the UK map of the relevant.

## **Q) Can I just receive information about specific hazards?**

- A) The Assessment will outline all the hazards reported in the UK for that period. However, you can opt to receive the Assessment only when there is activity on your specific hazard interest. These preferences can be set on your Hazard Manager account.

## **Q) Should I make operational decisions based on the Assessment?**

- A) The Hazard Assessment only provides a top level summary of the hazards. Further information should be sought from the links provided before operational decisions are made.

## **Q) Will an ongoing hazard continue to be reported on the Assessment?**

- A) Hazards of an ongoing nature will be notified on the Assessment on day one, following which they will move to the “ongoing issues” section of the document. They will only be reported again if there is any significant change in the hazard risk. These significant changes are defined as:

- Time change i.e. a warning is extended or reduced
- Geographical change i.e. the hazard is expected to affect additional/different area of the UK
- Change in the level of risk (i.e. reducing the colour state from yellow to green). In this instance, a Green hazard colour state is recorded within the “Five Day Summary” and also within the “Ongoing Issues” section of the Assessment.

Hazards that are handled in this way are indicated on the colour state matrix at the end of the

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document.

**Q) Will the Assessment advise when there is no threat/activity for a particular hazard type?**

A) No, the Hazard Assessment will only include details of hazard activity.

**Q) What if there are no hazards expected within the next 5 days?**

A) An Assessment will still be produced and available on Hazard Manager or via email if you select to receive the Assessment on a daily basis. If there are no hazards expected within the next 5 days, the Assessment will still include information within the “General Outlook for the next 30 days” and may also contain information on “Ongoing Issues” and “Summary of Recent Events”.

**Q) How do I update my Hazard Manager account preferences?**

A) Log in to Hazard Manager and click “My Account” in the top right corner.

- Select the “My Account” tab, then the “Delivery Details” button.
- In the drop down list, select NHP Daily Hazard Assessment.
- Amend the delivery details and preferences as appropriate, ensuring the “Receive alerts” box remains ticked if email or SMS delivery is required.
- Click the “Save” button.

**Q) What if I forget my password?**

A) Go the Hazard Manager home page, navigate down to the section of the page called “Forgotten password or username” and select the link to the “change password page”. Follow the instructions to reset your password (passwords must be different to your username).

**Q) What if I forget my username?**

A) Go the Hazard Manager home page, navigate down to the section of the page called “Forgotten password or username” and select the link to “contact us”. This will take you to a page giving details of methods of contacting the Met Office Customer Centre who will be able to reactivate your account and reset your username. Met Office Customer Centre can be contacted by phone on 0870 900 0100 or +44 (0)1392 885680.

**Q) Who do I contact if I have any other technical problems?**

A) Contact the Met Office Customer Centre on 0870 900 0100 or +44 (0)1392 885680 who will be able to assist or put you in touch with the relevant technical team.