

West Berkshire Countryside Society

Adverse Weather Protocol

There are 2 sources of alerts governing adverse conditions. Weather alerts can be found on the Met Office website and Health Alerts on the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) website. Both use a Red/Amber/Yellow (Green) warning system to advise of predicted extreme conditions.

WBCS has put the following guidance in place.

Red warning

The task will be cancelled

Amber/Yellow

Options: Continue with the task, Modify the task or Cancel

The decision will depend on the weather event type and the specific task.

Considerations:

Heat: Is it a site that offers some shade respite, can we bring the start time forward, can we shorten the day and still have a meaningful task.

Wind: Predicted gusts of >45/50 mph to be used as a guideline for cancellation. Location should be taken into account.

Rain: Is parking compromised? Will we do more harm than good? is there a risk of lightning.

Snow/Ice: Is parking compromised? Will we do more harm than good? Travel to and from task needs to be considered, has there been advice for non-essential travel to be avoided? If the ground is frozen then the task may not be physically possible.

Where the event is predicted far enough ahead, it is suggested that a preliminary email exchange occurs ASAP between the task leader and 2 committee members. In all cases a final discussion and decision should occur by Sunday evening allowing time for volunteers to be notified ahead of the Tuesday task..