

Severe Weather Scheme criteria and weather station locations

Severe Weather Days

A network of 9 primary weather stations in Scotland and 16 primary stations in England and Wales (see Table 1) are used to assess the extent of freezing weather. If no data are received from a primary station, data from an assigned nearby secondary station are used.

Note that, in the Severe Weather Scheme, Scotland is evaluated separately to England and Wales. Scotland's frozen weather days and Severe Weather Day counts are entirely separate from those of England and Wales. A voluntary restraint or statutory suspension could be applied exclusively to Scotland, exclusively to England and Wales, or across all three countries, depending on the extent of freezing weather.

A weather station is recorded as frozen if the previous day's minimum temperature values are lower than +1°C air temperature and -2°C grass temperature. If there is snow cover insulating the ground, the grass temperature can exceed the air temperature. If this is the case, data from the secondary weather station will be used. If the grass temperature also exceeds air temperature at the secondary station, then the primary station is declared frozen if the air temperature is lower than +1°C.

A Severe Weather Day is recorded if **more than half** of the weather stations in Scotland or in England and Wales are frozen. If half or fewer of the weather stations are frozen, it is recorded as a thaw day.

The number of Severe Weather Days increases by one with each recorded frozen day. For fewer than three consecutive thaw days, the Severe Weather Day count does not change. On the third consecutive thaw day, the Severe Weather Day count is reset to zero.

Voluntary Restraint

When the Severe Weather Day count reaches **day seven**, the relevant Country Nature Conservation Bodies (CNCBs) consult with the British Association of Shooting and Conservation (BASC) on a period of voluntary restraint.

Statutory Suspension

When the Severe Weather Day count reaches **day thirteen**, a case is presented by the CNCBs to the Secretary of State requesting a suspension on waterfowl shooting due to severe weather.

Weather station locations

Table 1 provides a summary of the network of primary and secondary weather stations in Scotland and England and Wales.

Table 1. Primary and secondary stations used in the Severe Weather Scheme (January 2025).

Country	Region	Primary Station	Number	British National Grid Reference	Secondary Station	Number	British National Grid Reference
Scotland	West	Aultbea No 2	03034	NG 84581 91274	Harris Quidnish	99168	NG 08995 87235
Scotland	West	Tiree	03100	NL 99782 44871	South Uist	03023	NF 76319 42501
Scotland	West	Islay (Port Ellen)	03105	NR 32959 51275	Machrihanish	03111	NR 66270 22539
Scotland	West	Prestwick, Gannet	03136	NS 36902 27653	Auchincruive	99088	NS 37981 23341
Scotland	West	Dundrennan	03153	NX 71033 47233	West Freugh	03132	NX 11696 55535
Scotland	East	Edinburgh – Gogarbank	03166	NT 16100 71400	Edinburgh Royal Botanical Garden No 2	99180	NT 24422 75503
Scotland	East	Wick Airport	03075	ND 36490 52230	Tain Range	03062	NH 83272 82720
Scotland	East	Aberdeen (Dyce)	03091	NJ 87695 12695	Inverbervie No 2	03088	NO 83879 73416
Scotland	East	Lossiemouth	03068	NJ 21249 69822	Kinloss	03066	NJ 06774 62804
England & Wales	North West	Walney Island	03214	SD 17889 70625	St Bees Head No 2	03210	NX 95570 14806
England & Wales	North West	Crosby	03316	SD 29936 00581	Rhyl No 2	03313	SH 99448 74652
England & Wales	North West	Valley	03302	SH 30885 75849	Aberdaron	03405	SH 15240 24780
England & Wales	North West	Gogerddan	99150	SN 62733 83509	Porthmadog	99163	SH 54991 37417

Country	Region	Primary Station	Number	British National Grid Reference	Secondary Station	Number	British National Grid Reference
England & Wales	South West	Milford Haven Conservancy Board	03604	SM 89143 05536	Aberporth	03502	SN 24148 52143
England & Wales	South West	St Athan	03716	SS 99883 68365	Pembrey Sands	03605	SN 36544 04400
England & Wales	South West	Isle of Portland	03857	SY 67798 69251	Swanage	99159	SZ 03016 79332
England & Wales	South West	Chivenor	03707	SS 49625 34401	Cambourne	03808	SW 62721 40678
England & Wales	South West	Culdrose	03809	SW 67096 25560	Plymouth, Mountbatten	03827	SX 49216 52710
England & Wales	South West	Thorney Island	03872	SU 76008 02247	Bournemouth (Hurn)	03862	SZ 11644 97778
England & Wales	South East	Herstmonceux, West End	03882	TQ 63024 12721	Manston	03797	TR 32370 66108
England & Wales	South East	Shoeburyness, Landwick	03693	TQ 96079 87772	Manston	03797	TR 32370 66108
England & Wales	South East	Cromer	99122	TG 21263 42419	Holbeach No 2	03469	TF 44029 32784
England & Wales	North East	Wainfleet No 2	03392	TF 52182 56981	Bridlington MRSC	03292	TA 19398 67991
England & Wales	North East	Loftus	03275	NZ 73585 19217	Scarborough	99142	TA 02812 87497
England & Wales	North East	Boulmer	03240	NU 25338 14178	Albermarle	03238	NZ 07664 69478