

Extreme weather hazards



Glossary

Adapt – to overcome obstacles presented by change.

Administrative region – a region used by government for statistical purposes.

Climate change – a sustained shift in the average value of any climatic element (e.g. rainfall, storminess).

Climate projections – a prediction of the response of the climate system to a given emissions or atmospheric concentrations scenario.

Extreme weather event – a weather event that is either unusual or of a high degree of severity.

General circulation model (GCM) – a simulation of the large-scale features of the atmosphere using mathematical equations.

Greenhouse gas – an atmospheric gas that traps outgoing radiation, thus increasing atmospheric temperature.

Hazard – an extreme event in the natural environment causing harm to people or property.

Infrastructure – services and amenities in society such as public services, transport and telecommunications.

Medium, low, high projections – climate projections based on scenarios of high, medium and low levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

Scenario – a plausible future pathway of emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants which can affect climate.

Supercomputer – a computer at the frontline of current processing power, particularly speed of calculation.

UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09) – the latest climate predictions for the UK up to the end of the century.