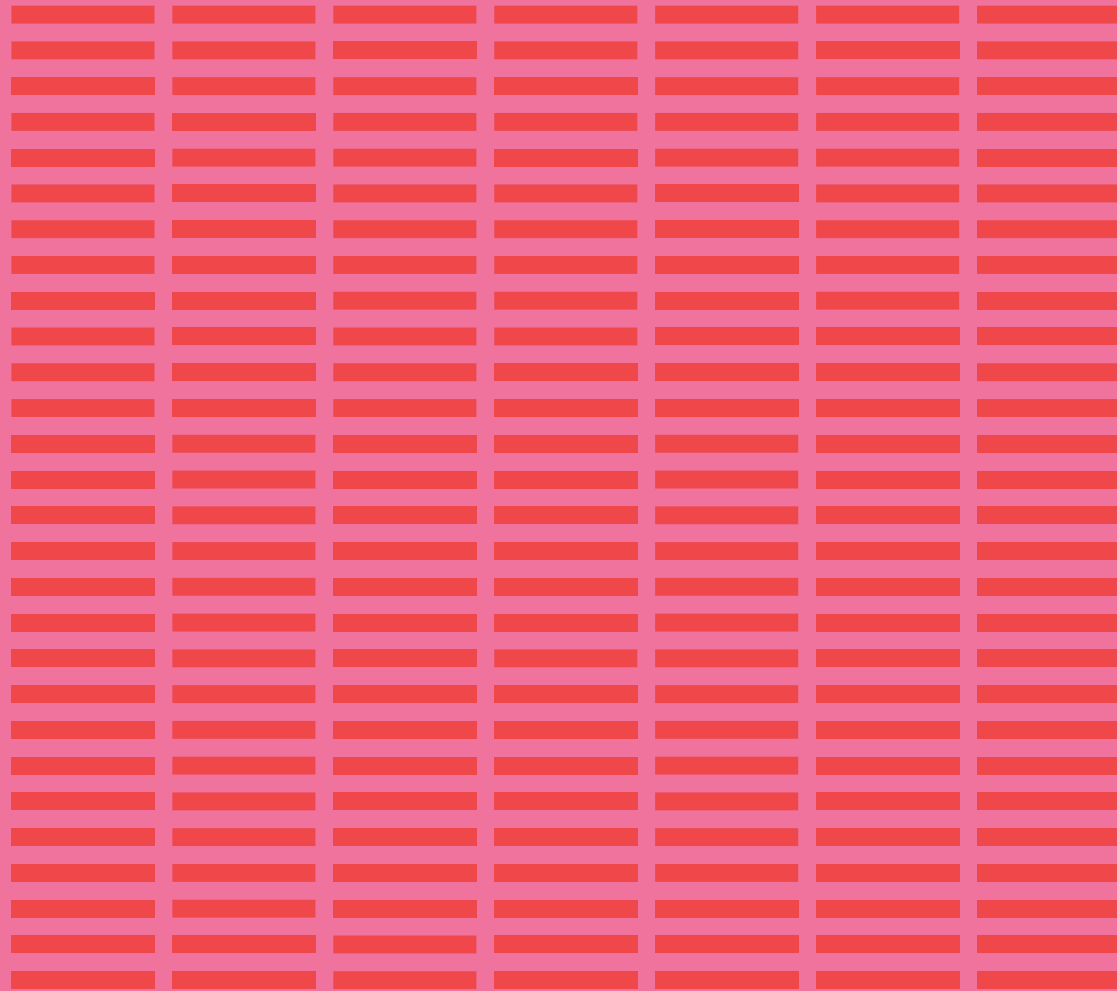


Managing construction in a changing climate

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**What changing
weather means for
construction — and
what we need to do
differently**



24 January: red warning for wind



A red warning was issued for Storm Éowyn, the UK's most powerful windstorm for over a decade.

Driest spring (March–May)



Yet by mid-February, the weather turned to settled and dry, causing England's driest spring since the late Victorian era. The UK recorded its warmest, sunniest and sixth-driest spring (March–May).

4–6 August: Storm Floris



Storm Floris brought strong winds and heavy rain to northern parts and was one of the most severe windstorms to affect Scotland in the summer months in observational records.

Summer (June–August) droughts



March to August saw less than half the normal rainfall across southern and central England. The Environment Agency declared droughts, nearly nine million had a hosepipe ban and canals closed.

14 November: Storm Claudia



Storm Claudia (named by Spain's State Meteorological Agency) brought extensive heavy rain to England and Wales: in South Wales, Monmouth experienced severe flooding.

9–10 December: Storm Bram



Storm Bram brought strong winds and heavy rain to western and northern parts of the UK.

Climate change is an issue for construction today

- Weather is becoming more unpredictable.
- Extreme events are affecting sites now.
- Delays have a direct financial impact.
- Worker welfare and safety are increasingly exposed.

The numbers tell the story

What is happening?

70%+

of UK
construction
managers
experienced
major weather-
related delays
in 2024

39%

said those
delays led to
financial
penalties

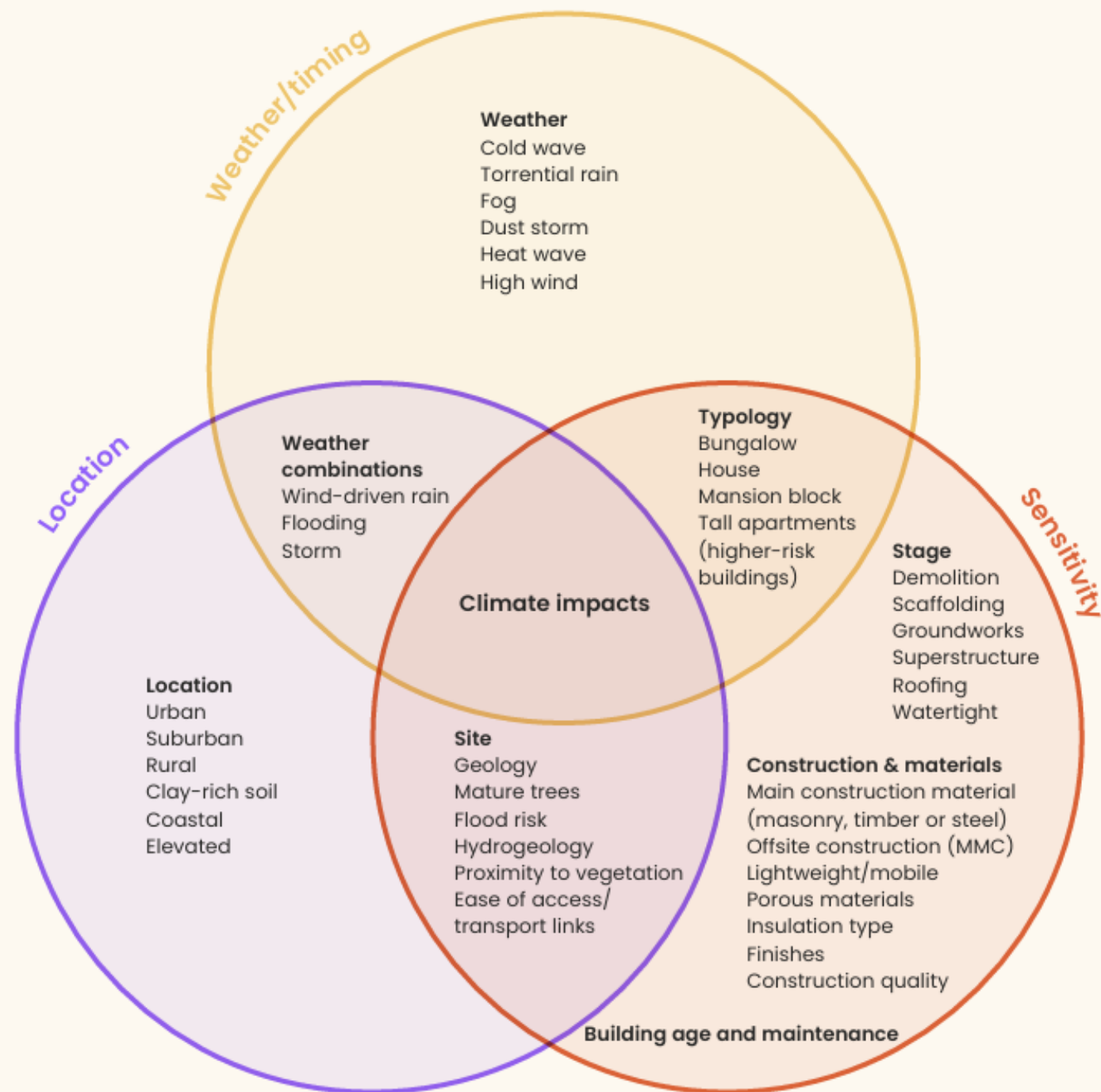
67%

reported
concerns about
heat affecting
their health

44%

had experienced
a heat-related
illness at work

Weather
+
construction
=
vulnerability



What does bad weather do to construction?



Heat is the new construction risk



The human impact

Climate resilience in the construction process is also worker resilience

Extreme weather can mean:

Heat stress

Cold stress

Dehydration

Fatigue

Slips and falls

**Reduced
concentration**

**Long term
health impacts**

Comfortable workers perform better.

From predictability to managing uncertainty

Wettest 18 months to December 2024



Wettest 18 months on record for England.

29 December–5 January: very wet



Widespread windy and very wet weather with significant disruption from flooding and snow across high ground.

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Prepare before the weather arrives

A proactive approach

1

Understand the site

- Location
- Topography
- Exposure
- Flooding
- Vegetation

2

Understand the work

- Materials
- Construction stage
- Temporary works

3

Understand the forecast

- Long-range
- Local
- Daily
- On-site monitoring

4

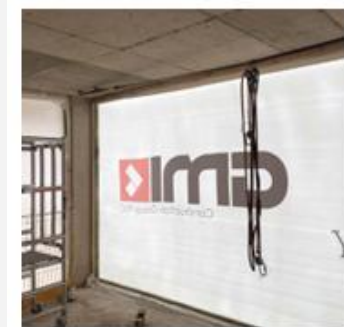
Have a response plan

- People
- Safety
- Programme
- Assets
- Communication

Resilient construction practices

Areas of opportunity

- Forecasting and AI
- Behaviour change
- Flood and pollution control
- Construction monitoring
- Protection and support
- Construction techniques and protection



What should we do differently?



- **Plan for uncertainty**
don't rely solely on historic seasonal patterns.
- **Use local data**
understand the specific site and its exposure.
- **Put people first**
build worker welfare into weather planning.
- **Build flexibility in**
have alternative activities and response plans.

The challenge for the industry



- We know the risks.
- We have many of the solutions.
- The challenge is mainstream adoption.

Final thought

**The question is
no longer:**

**Will the weather
disrupt construction?**

**Instead, the
question is:**

**How resilient is our
construction process
when it does?**

NHBC Foundation publications

Maintaining quality in the design and construction of 1.5 million homes

MMC in Practice

October 2026

Timber in Construction

Q1 2027

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Thank you

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