



The Government of Sark

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STORM AUSTEN PREPAREDNESS

Storm Austen is expected to reach the Channel Islands this evening. The Met Office has issued a red wind warning in advance of conditions deteriorating and winds beginning to strengthen.

Current forecasts indicate that the most severe part of the storm will pass over the Bailiwick during the early hours and morning tomorrow, between approximately 6am and 11am. Winds are expected to reach Force 10, with the potential for stronger gusts.

These conditions bring an increased risk of flying debris and fallen trees. Given the wind direction and the exceptionally dry summer, there is also an elevated risk of trees being uprooted.

While Storm Austen is not currently expected to be as severe as Storm Gorette earlier this year, the strongest winds are forecast to coincide with the start of the day when many islanders would normally be travelling around the Island.

Islanders are therefore encouraged to take sensible precautions and avoid unnecessary travel during the height of the storm, particularly tomorrow morning. This will help reduce risks to personal safety and ensure routes remain as clear as possible should emergency access be required.

We would also encourage residents to take steps to protect their property by securing loose outdoor items, such as garden furniture and equipment, and ensuring windows and doors are properly fastened. Owners of vessels and other marine equipment should check moorings and make any necessary preparations before conditions worsen.

If you do need to travel, please do so with caution and remain aware of the conditions around you.

Disruption to ferry services is possible and islanders planning to travel are advised to check directly with their travel provider for the latest information.

The worst of the storm is currently expected to have passed by around midday tomorrow, although strong winds may continue into the weekend.

We will continue to monitor the situation regarding the weather on Friday and on the weekend, and will provide updates as the situation progresses. The latest weather information can be found at [Guernsey weather forecast | Jersey Met](#).

For more information, go to gov.gg/StormAusten