OTAS LIVE

Supporting Events and Professionals at Every Stage

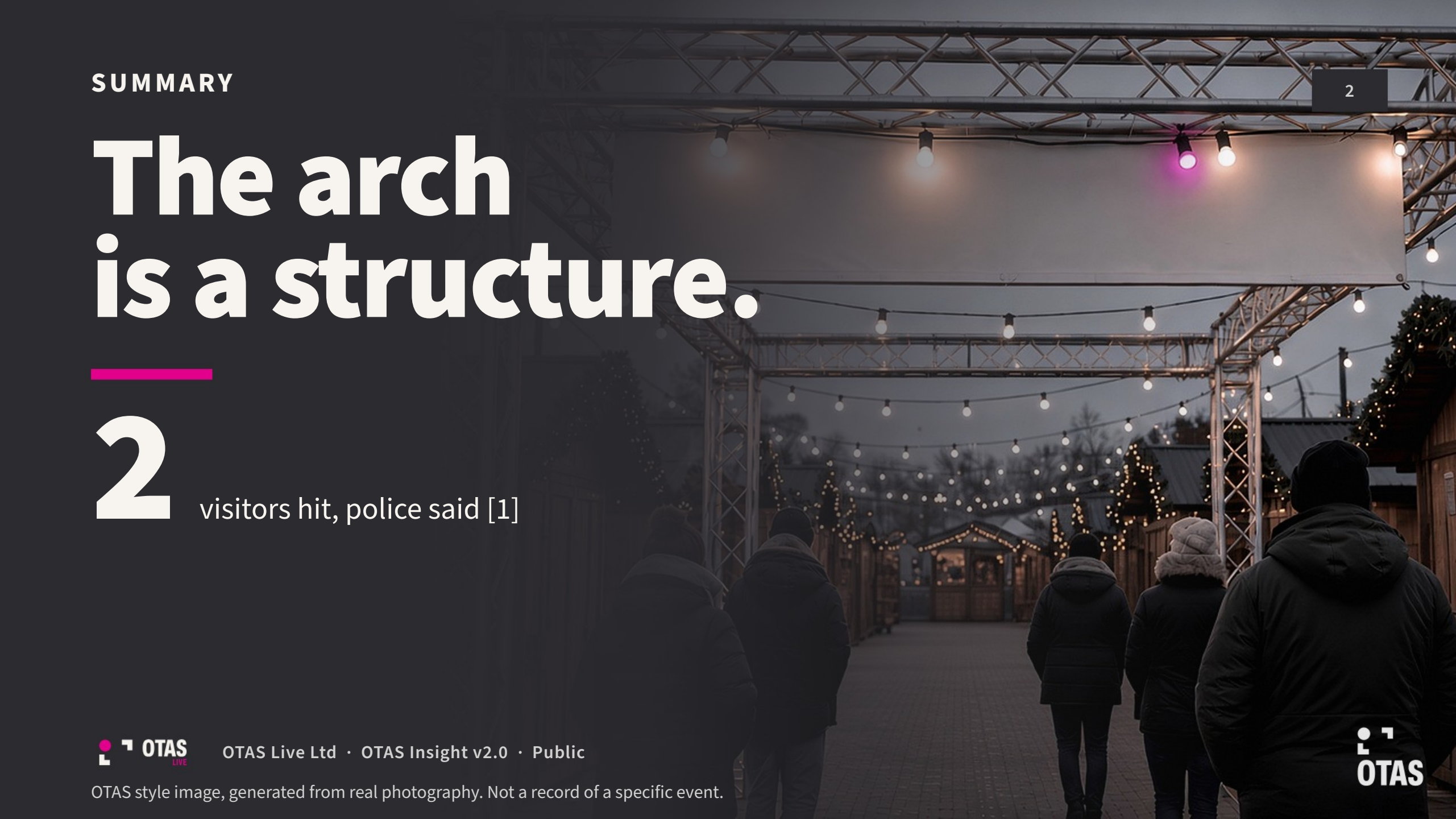
Overhead banners and arches at winter markets

A banner truss over the way in to a seasonal market came down in the wind. What happened, what UK guidance says, and a wind plan for every item over your crowd

Correct as of 9 November 2026

The arch is a structure.

2 visitors hit, police said [1]



OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

The facts, as reported

2

visitors hit, police said [1]

75

km/h: highest warned storm gusts [2]

1

evening lost, open next day [1][3]

What happened

THE INCIDENT

Truss with a banner over the way in [1]

Came down, probably in a gust [1]

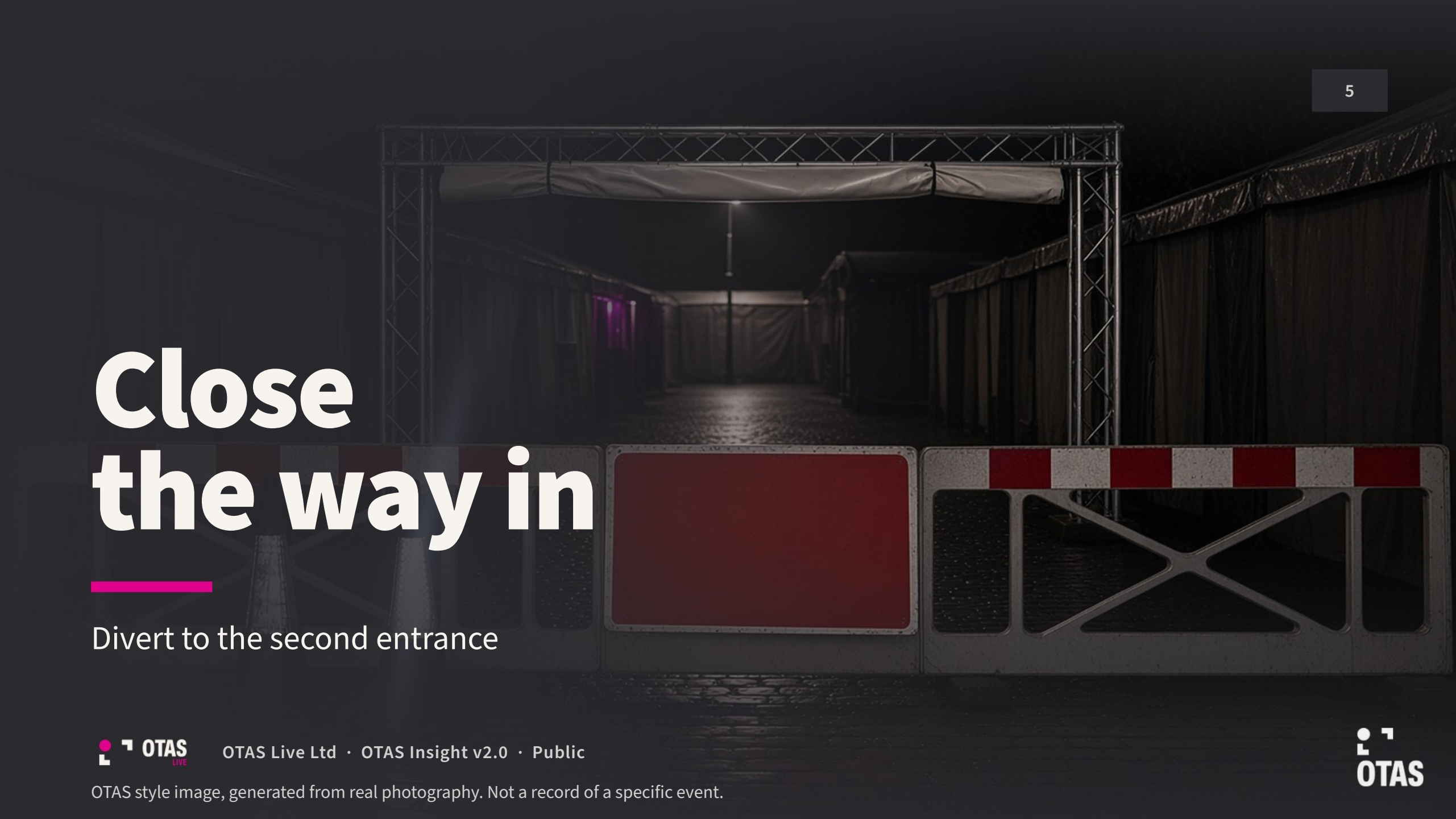
Two visitors hit [1]

THE RESPONSE

Crisis team set up [1]

Evening ended, truss seized [1]

Open as normal next day [3]



Close the way in

Divert to the second entrance

OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

Where the reports differ

AGREE	DIFFER
A truss with a banner [1][2]	Scaffolding at first [2]
Two visitors hit [1]	Path or entrance portal [1][4]
Open the next day [1][3]	Cause only probable [1]

03

What UK guidance says

STRUCTURES	WEATHER
Secured to wind ratings [5]	Monitor the forecast [6]
Wind read with an anemometer [5]	Read each warning [9]
Signed handover [5]	Collapse is a crowd hazard [7]



Measure close to it

An anemometer at height [5]

OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

Engineering guidance

THE ISTRUCTE
Guidance on design and use [14]
Covers towers and masts [14]
Supported by HSE [14]

ONE UK COUNCIL
Wind plan for each structure [15]
Act at 60% and 80% of wind load [15]
Signs secured or ballasted [15]

05

Using Met Office warnings

THE MET OFFICE	OTAS PRACTICE
Impact and likelihood [9]	Check morning and afternoon
Read each warning [9]	Read the box, not the colour
Matrix changed in October [9]	Your own readings decide

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The wind plan for an overhead item

1 Check the forecast

2 Measure the wind

3 Route cleared, banner off

4 Close the route and divert

5 Inspect before reopening

OTAS professional practice, drawing on the Purple Guide [5][6] and the Met Office [9].



Check the base daily

And after any vehicle strike

OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

07

A banner is a sail

WHAT CHANGES	WHAT TO DO
More wind load	Mesh or wind slots
Design must allow for it	Route cleared, then banner off

08

Ask your supplier

THE ITEM	THE PAPERWORK
Design with the banner on?	Signed handover? [5]
Operating and action speeds?	Who is on call?
Ballast and daily check?	Answers kept with the register

Signs an overhead item needs action

Signs 1 to 3 come from UK guidance.
Signs 4 and 5 are OTAS practice.

01 **The wind is rising**

02 **A warning is in force**

03 **People climbing on it**

04 **Ballast or fixings moved**

05 **The banner is straining**

Five decisions for every overhead item



STAGE 1

Register

On the register

STAGE 2

Limit

Two wind speeds

STAGE 3

Measure

Every 30 minutes

STAGE 4

Act

Route cleared, banner off

STAGE 5

Sign off

Handover signed

From the plan in this Insight. OTAS guidance.

Above the limit, lower it

Nobody under it

OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

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Thresholds

READINGS	ACTIONS
Every 30 minutes [5]	First: route cleared, banner off
Every 15 with a warning	Action: close and divert
At height, close to the item	Above limit: lower or remove

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Four roles

STRUCTURE	WEATHER AND ROUTES
Site manager: register	Weather lead: readings
Supplier: inspect again	Safety officer: close, reopen

What to do at each level

Operational

Know the signs

Radio it

Help cone and divert

Tactical

Read the wind

Close the route

Run the daily checks

Strategic

Register every item

Wind limits in contracts

A second way in

The checklist

BEFORE OPENING

- Every item registered
- Wind limits from supplier
- Handover signed [5]
- Second way in signed

EACH DAY

- Ballast and fixings checked
- Forecast twice a day [6]
- Readings logged [5]
- Route cleared, banner off at first threshold

“

Wind conditions should be monitored using an anemometer (wind speed device) and action taken if there is any risk of them being blown over.

The Purple Guide, temporary demountable structures [5]

Where the facts come from

1	**Police headquarters, Koblenz, follow up release on an accident at an autumn market, Presseportal, in German, 23 October 2026**	presseportal.de
2	**SWR Aktuell, public broadcaster, metal frame falls over at an autumn market, in German, 24 October 2026**	swr.de
3	**SWR Aktuell, public broadcaster, autumn market goes on after a serious accident, in German, 24 October 2026**	swr.de
4	**Rhein-Zeitung, how the town and district responded to the accident, in German, 25 October 2026 (subscription, opening only read)**	rhein-zeitung.de
5	**The Purple Guide, temporary demountable structures, chapter summary, 26 January 2026**	thepurpleguide.co.uk
6	**The Purple Guide, weather, chapter summary, 26 January 2026**	thepurpleguide.co.uk
7	**HSE, crowd management, assess crowd safety risks and identify hazards**	hse.gov.uk

Where the facts come from

8	**HSE, event safety, temporary demountable structures**	hse.gov.uk
9	**Met Office, weather warnings guide, read 2 November 2026**	weather.metoffice.gov.uk
10	**Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, section 22, prohibition notices, legislation.gov.uk**	legislation.gov.uk
11	**Police headquarters, Koblenz, follow up release, the 72 year old visitor has died, Presseportal, in German, 6 November 2026**	presseportal.de
12	**BEN-Kurier, regional news site, 72 year old dies after the accident at the autumn market, in German, 6 November 2026**	ben-kurier.de
13	**FAZ, dpa report, 72 year old dies after an accident at a fair, in German, 6 November 2026**	faz.net
14	**The Institution of Structural Engineers, Temporary demountable structures: guidance on procurement, design and use, fourth edition, 1 May 2017**	istructe.org

Where the facts come from

15	**Bute Park event guide, Cardiff Council, temporary demountable structures, first published 4 February 2020**	bute-park.com
16	**Met Office, Beaufort wind force scale**	metoffice.gov.uk
17	**Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, section 3, duties to persons other than employees**	legislation.gov.uk
18	**Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, regulation 3, risk assessment**	legislation.gov.uk
19	**HSE, set clear roles and responsibilities, updated 4 April 2025**	hse.gov.uk
20	**HSE, managing crowds safely**	hse.gov.uk
21	**The Purple Guide, crowd management**	thepurpleguide.co.uk

Where the facts come from

22 **HSE, event safety, put crowd controls in place** hse.gov.uk

Web sources opened 9 November 2026 and labelled with their publisher. German sources in OTAS translation. Some source web addresses include the town or event name. We do not use those names in the text.

OVER TO YOU

If the wind rose at your way in tonight, who would close the route under the arch?

If you need support with a structures register or a wind plan for your market, reach out to us to see how we can support you.

OTAS Live Ltd.

OTAS LIVE