

The causes and prevention of wildfire on heathlands and peatlands in England (NEER014)

Appendix 6: England & Wales Wildfire Forum and wildfire response planning

First edition – July 2020

www.gov.uk/natural-england



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England & Wales Wildfire Forum (EWWF)

The forum is a voluntary strategic body, independent of government, created to expand knowledge and understand of wildfire, with the overall purpose of reducing the harmful impact of wildfires by promoting joint working and collaboration.

The forum website is hosted by Northumberland County Council:
<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Fire/Wildfire.aspx>.

The EWWF is currently managed by a chair, vice-chair and secretariat:

- Chair: Simon Thorp
- Vice-chair: Dewi Rose, assistant chief fire officer at South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Secretary: Robert Stacey, wildfire project officer at Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service.

The EWWF is governed according to the following key principles:

Legal status

The forum will hold no legal status. Members agree to work together to deliver the forum's aims and address wildfire issues.

Chair

The forum will be chaired by a senior officer of a member organisation. The role of chairperson shall be reviewed annually.

Vice chair

The vice chairperson of the forum shall be a senior officer of a member organisation and shall deputise for the chair as required. The role of vice chairperson shall be reviewed annually.

Membership

Member organisations shall nominate a standing representative but may if necessary send a replacement representative to forum meetings. New members, either by invitation or on application, shall be admitted at the discretion of the existing forum members. Additional representatives from member organisations shall be co-opted at the discretion of the forum members.

Meetings

Forum meetings will be held at least annually, as agreed with members. Additional meetings to address specific matters may be held when necessary. An invitation to attend to discuss specific items of business may be extended to other organisations and individuals. Forum members will host meetings of the forum as appropriate.

Work groups

Work groups will be established to undertake tasks of a specific nature as identified by the forum. Membership of work groups will comprise of representatives with expertise or interest in the identified task(s) who shall nominate a group leader. Work groups will report back to the wider forum membership.

Administration

The administration function associated with the work of the forum will be undertaken by the chairperson (and/or vice chairman) and an appointed secretariat.

Budget

Membership of the forum is on a voluntary basis, but member organisations are asked to make a small annual contribution to the running costs of the forum. Any additional funding requirements identified will be progressed through partnership arrangements amongst forum members and other bodies as appropriate.

Voting

Every effort will be made to reach decisions by consensus but where a vote is required, the quorum will be six. Each forum member organisation will have one vote and decisions will be taken on the basis of a simple majority.

For the avoidance of doubt, decisions taken by the forum will not be binding upon forum members, albeit members will be expected to support the forum's deliberations in accordance with their commitment. Where it is necessary to take a vote in-between meetings, a vote can be taken by electronic means.

Reporting

The forum will produce reports for public circulation as appropriate, related to progress matters relevant to its remit.

Relationship with other groups

The forum will establish and maintain close working links with the CFOA Wildfire Group and the Scottish Wildfire Forum. In addition, the forum will promote new and existing relationships with other groups and forums operating in the wildfire arena.

Recognition

The forum members agree that in conducting the forum and in publicising its work, full recognition will be given to the support of each member.

Withdrawal from the forum

Any member will be entitled to withdraw from the forum after giving written notice to the chairperson (or vice chairperson).

Review

The forum will review progress on delivery of its aims and objectives on a regular basis.

Members of the EWWF represent a number of key groups and organisations.

The EWWF is open to new members and people are encouraged to contact the secretary should they wish to become more involved with the Forum.

The EWWF holds meetings at least two times per year to discuss wildfire issues of national importance. All members are invited to attend, provide briefings and contribute agenda items for discussion.

The forum also invites non-members to attend meetings to deliver presentations and participate in specific discussions. If you would like to attend a future meeting of the EWWF, please contact the secretary. Dates of meetings can be found on the Forum webpage.

The EWWF aims to produce a number of newsletters each year to help inform the UK wildfire community about key wildfire activities and events. It is intended that that these newsletters will

encourage the sharing of information from those involved in wildfire planning or responses, to share information about experiences, events and projects.

Grouping	Organisation
Governmental	Home Office (Lead government department for wildfire) Civil Contingencies Secretariat, Cabinet Office Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Welsh Assembly Government
Representative organisations	Country Land & Business Association (CLA) Fire Brigades Union (FBU) Heather Trust Moorland Association Scottish Wildfire Forum
Fire & rescue service	National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC) Wildfire Group Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation (DFRMO) Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Government agencies	Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation (DFRMO) Forestry Commission England Met Office Natural England Natural Resources Wales Network Rail
National parks and local authorities	English National Park Authorities Dorset County Council Local Government Association (LGA) Peak District National Park Authority
Charity organisations	Woodland Trust (pending)
Research institutions	Manchester University Royal Holloway University of London
Special interest groups	Lancashire Fire Operations Group (FOG) Northumberland Fire Group (NFG) Peak District Fire Operations Group (FOG) South East England Wildfire Group (SEEWG) Urban Heaths Partnership

Case Studies

The EWWF has collected a number of case studies of wildfire incidents and good practice and can be downloaded.

Case Studies from Northumberland:

- [Northumberland Fire Group](#)
- [Northumberland Collaborative Burning Project](#).

Case Study from South Wales:

- [South Wales Fire and Rescue Service - Wildfires 2017](#)
- [South Wales Fire and Rescue Service - Appendix to Wildfires 2017](#).

Case Study from Dorset:

- [Urban Heaths Partnership](#).

Case Study from South East England:

- [Marlow Wildfire - July 2018](#).

Case Study from Staffordshire:

- [Dimmingsdale Wildfire - July 2018](#).

The EWWF maintains close links with a number of other key wildfire stakeholder groups and projects around the UK, including:

- [National Fire Chief's Council \(NFCC\) wildfire group](#)
- [Knowledge for Wildfire project \(KwF\)](#)
- Scottish Wildfire Forum
- Northern Ireland Wildfire Stakeholders Forum.

The EWWF also maintains close links with international partners, including colleagues in the Republic of Ireland, the Pau Costa Foundation (Spain) and the Netherlands National Wildfire Project.

To facilitate and drive national activities related to wildfires, the EWWF liaises closely with regional and local wildfire groups. The key purpose of maintaining these links is to look for and promote cooperation, collaboration and synergy on wildfire issues across England and Wales.

There are at least 16 local/regional groups in England and Wales that are currently addressing wildfire issues, including:

- [Northumberland Fire Group](#)
- [Peak District Fire Operations Group](#)
- [Urban Heaths Partnership](#)
- [Cumbria Fire Group](#)
- Commons Vision/Gower Wildfire Group
- Durham and Darlington Wildfire Group
- Healthy Hillside Project, Wales
- Home Counties Wildfire Group
- Lancashire Fire Operations Group
- North Yorkshire Wildfire Group
- North York Moors Fire Liaison Group
- Pembrokeshire Wildfire Group
- Pennine Wildfire Working Group
- Sky Lantern and Balloon Releases in Dorset Working Group
- South East of England Wildfire Group
- South East Wales Upland Resilience Project
- South Pennines Fire Operations Group.

The EWWF can provide advice and support to existing local wildfire groups. Please contact the secretary for further information (see below).

Help and support for creating new local wildfire groups

Local wildfire groups perform a key role in bringing together a variety of stakeholders to address wildfire risk and issues at local level. The EWWF can provide help, advice and support for anyone looking to create a new local wildfire group. Please contact the secretary for further details (see below).

Wildfire events and conferences

The forum helps to organise and support wildfire awareness events. Details on forthcoming and past events are as follows:

Wildfires 2019 Conference – 20 and 21 November 2019

The EWWF supported the UK Wildfires 2019 conference was held at the Principality Stadium, Cardiff, South Wales. The topic of the event was “manage the fuel, manage the risk” and the event will be attended by a large number of stakeholders representing a wide number of sectors. Details are available from: <https://www.southwales-fire.gov.uk/ewwf-wildfire-conference-2019/>.

Workshop on the Key Lessons learned from the Wildfires in 2018 – 8 February 2019, Nottingham, England

The EWWF organised and facilitated a wildfire workshop on behalf of DEFRA on 8th February 2019. The workshop was held in Nottingham and involved wildfire stakeholders from around the UK. The aim of the workshop was to discuss and capture the key lessons learned from wildfire incidents that took place in 2018. The findings of the workshop are documented in the report:

[Final Report from the Wildfire Workshop on 8th February 2019.](#)

Wildfires 2017 Conference - 7 and 8 November 2017

The EWWF supported the highly successful UK Wildfires Conference 2017. The event was held on 7 and 8 November 2017 in Bath and focused on the theme of Wildfire Resilience in a UK Context.

Wildfires 2015 Conference - 10th and 11th November 2015

The EWWF supported the Wildfire 2015 Conference, an extremely successful event co-hosted by the Scottish Wildfire Forum and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The conference took place at the fire service’s training centre at Cambuslang, Glasgow, on 10-11 November 2015, bringing together wildfire practitioners and stakeholders from across the UK and from overseas.

Copies of the presentations delivered at the conference are available at:

<https://www.fireScotland.gov.uk/your-safety/wildfires/2015-uk-wildfire-conference-presentations.aspx>.

Wildfire Research and its Impact on Policy, Planning and Operations: the Swinley Forest Fire - 10th April 2015

The EWWF supported a one day seminar held at the University of Greenwich, London which was organised by the University of Greenwich, Bracknell Forest Council, the Knowledge for Wildfire Project, University of Manchester, Forestry Commission England, the Fire Efficient Project and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. The event presented examples of wildfire research projects that have been completed since the Swinley Forest Fire in 2011. The event also facilitated discussions between a range of stakeholders on how research can and should impact wildfire policy, planning and operations in the UK.

Further information about the event is available at: <http://fseg.gre.ac.uk/ForestFire/index.html>.

Copies of presentations delivered at this event are available at:

<http://www.kfwf.org.uk/resources/presentations/>.

Wildfire Forum Contact

If you would like any further information and/or would like to join the England and Wales Wildfire Forum (EWWF), please contact:

Robert Stacey, Secretary of the England & Wales Wildfire Forum:

- **Telephone:** 01670 621167

- Email: robert.stacey@northumberland.gov.uk.

Sources of further information relevant to wildfires

National Operational Guidance for Wildfires:

<https://www.ukfrs.com/index.php/guidance/wildfires?bundle=section&id=14246>.

National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC): <http://www.cfoa.org.uk/12052>.

NFCC Wildfire Prevention Toolkit: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Fire/Wildfire-Prevention-Toolkit.aspx>.

Knowledge for Wildfire: <http://www.kfwf.org.uk>.

<http://theconversation.com/uk-wildfires-prevention-is-more-than-a-fire-service-issue-100127>.

Scotland Wildfire Operational Guidance: https://www.ukfrs.com/sites/default/files/2017-09/Fire%20and%20Rescue%20Service%20Wildfire%20Operational%20Guidance_0.pdf.

Uplands Management Group: <https://www.uplandsmanagement.co.uk/>.

Eurofire: <http://www.gfmc.online/eurofire/index-11.html>.



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Should an alternative format of this publication be required, please contact our enquiries line for more information: 0300 060 3900 or email enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk.

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