

SEEWG

South East England Wildfire Group

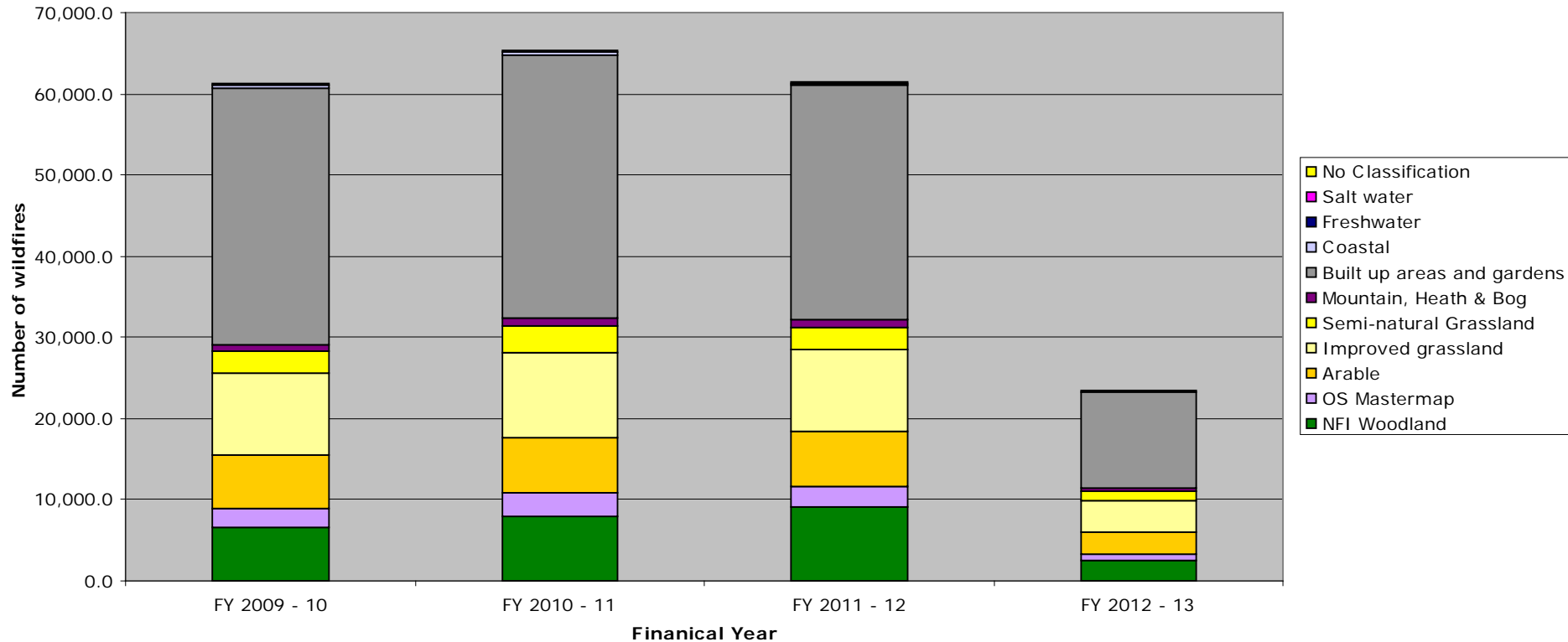
eFIREcom

**Risk governance, the example of the
wildfire groups as a tool for
communication for social organisation**

Rob Gazzard

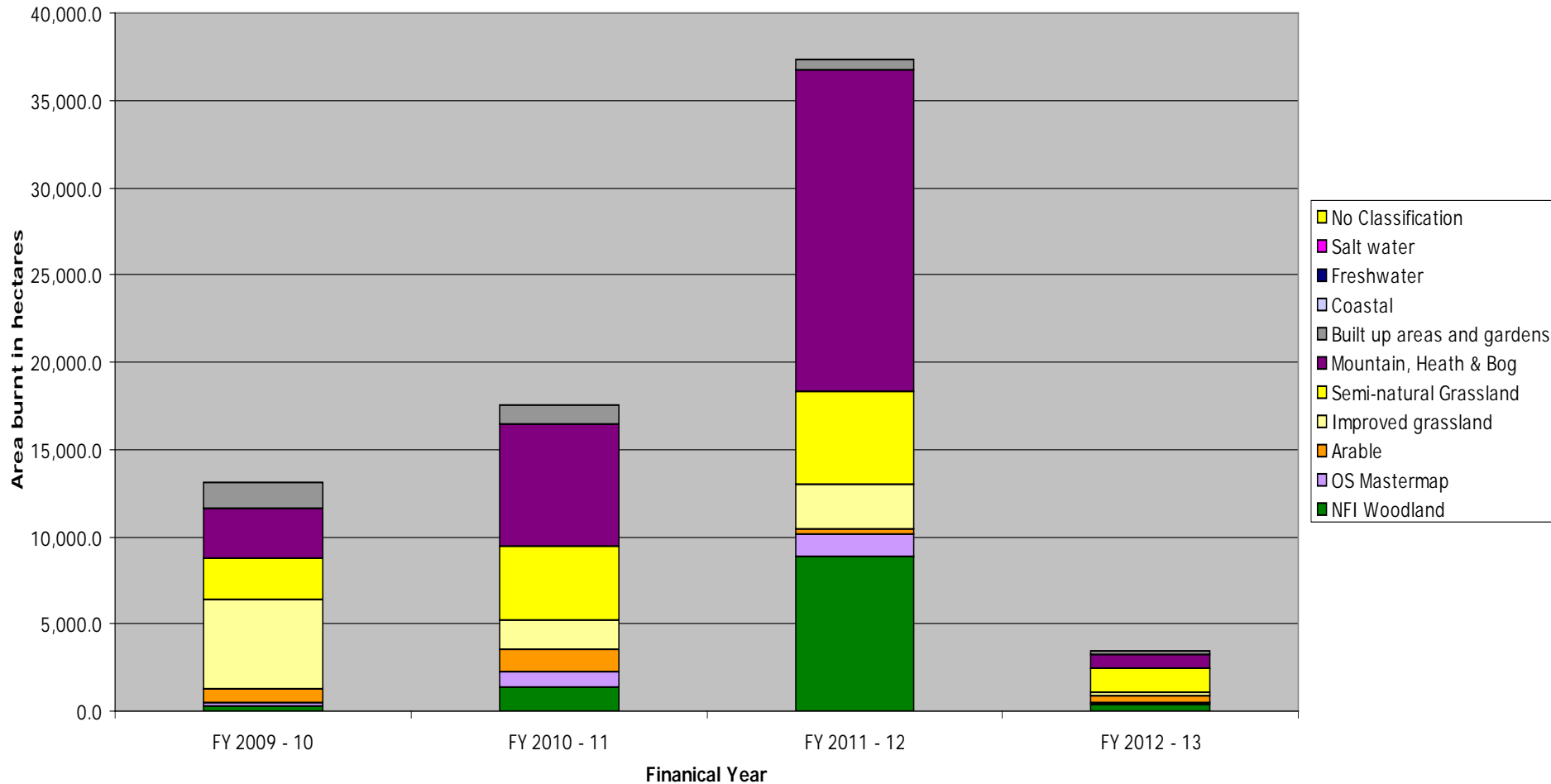
Number of GB Wildfires

Number wildfire incidents by Habitat in Financial Years 2010/11 to 2012/13 in Great Britain attended by Fire and Rescue Services



Area burnt during GB Wildfires

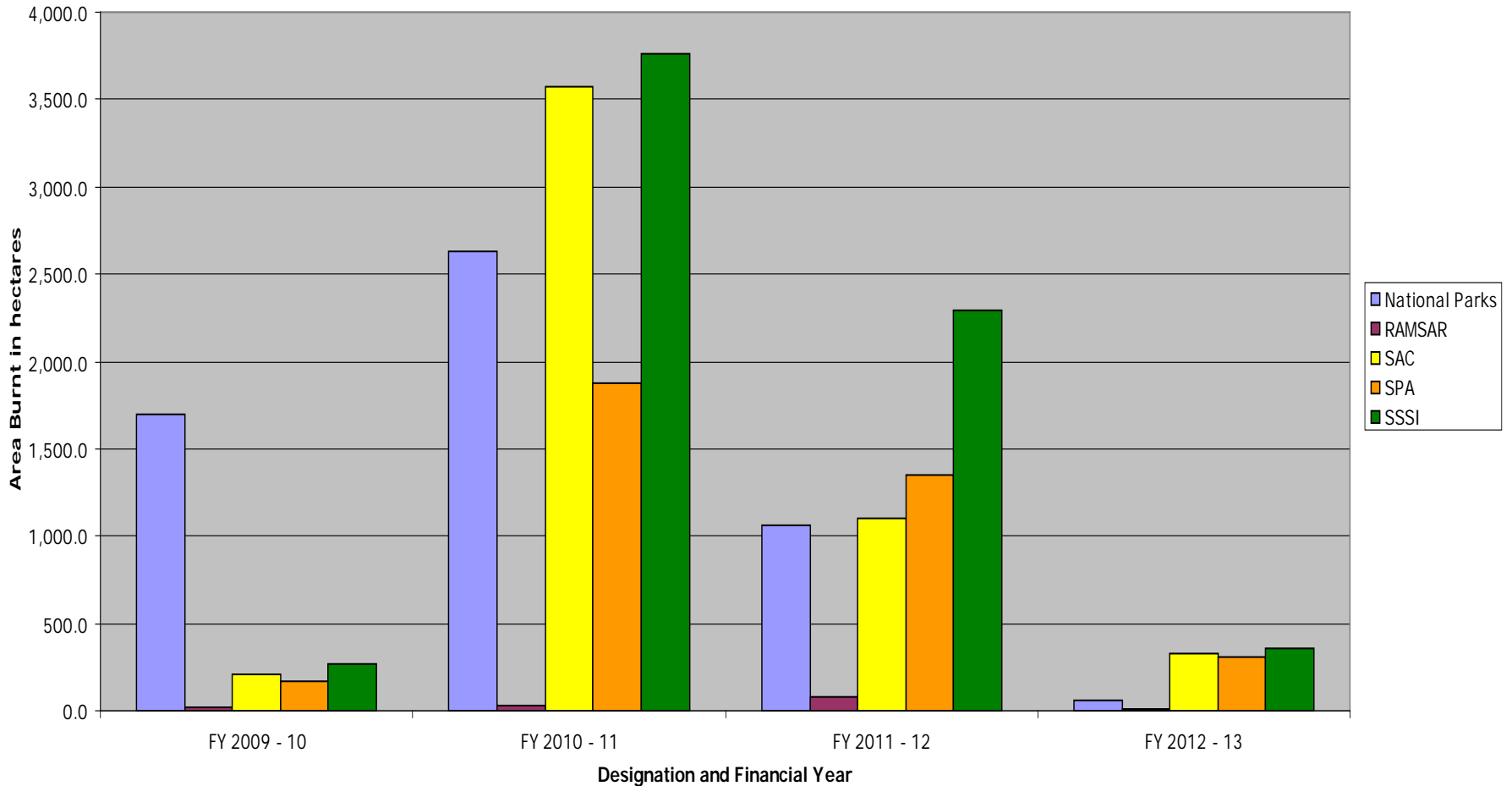
Area burnt of habitats due to wildfire in Financial Years 2010/11 to 2012/13 in Great Britain attended by Fire and Rescue Services

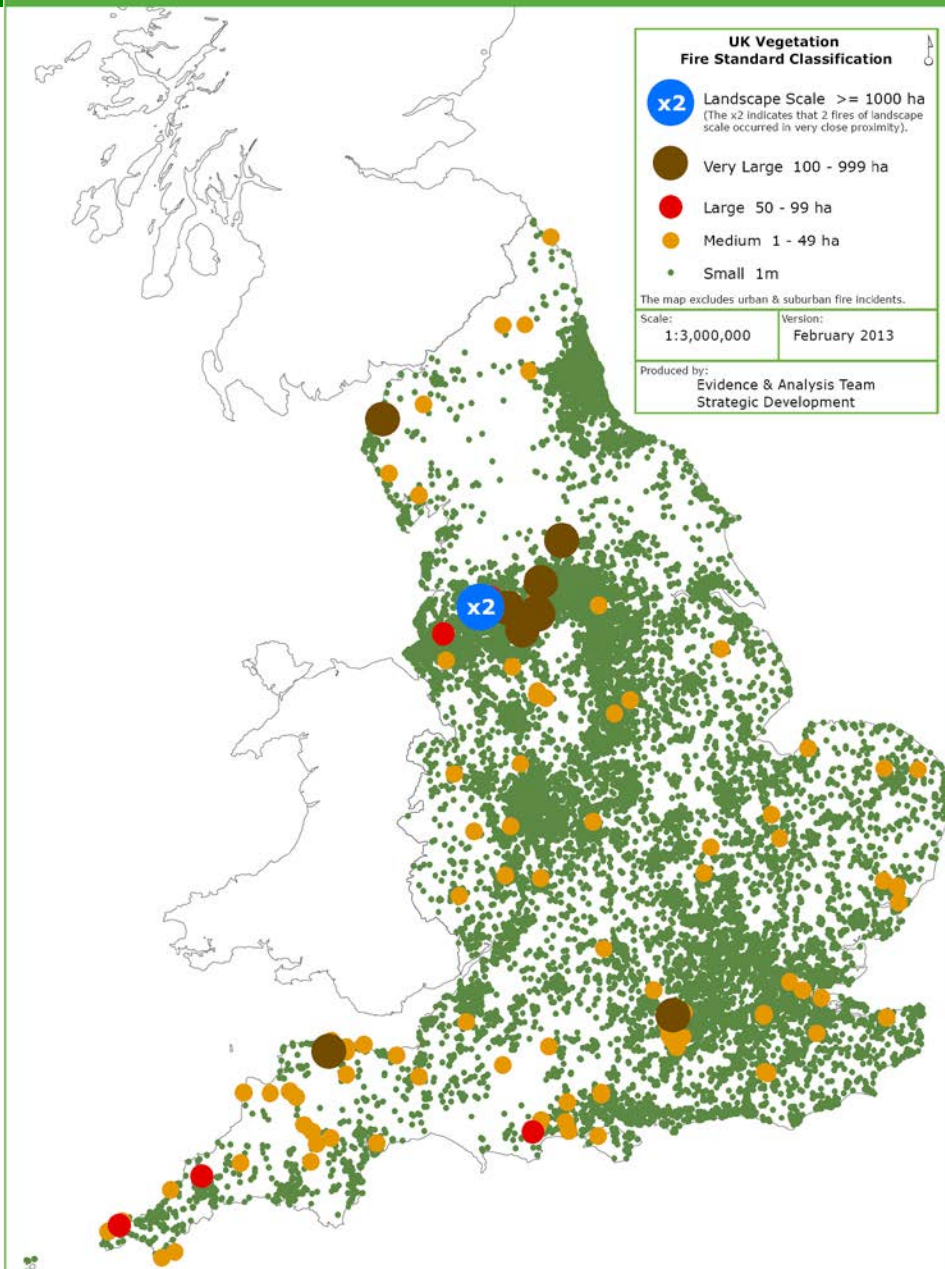
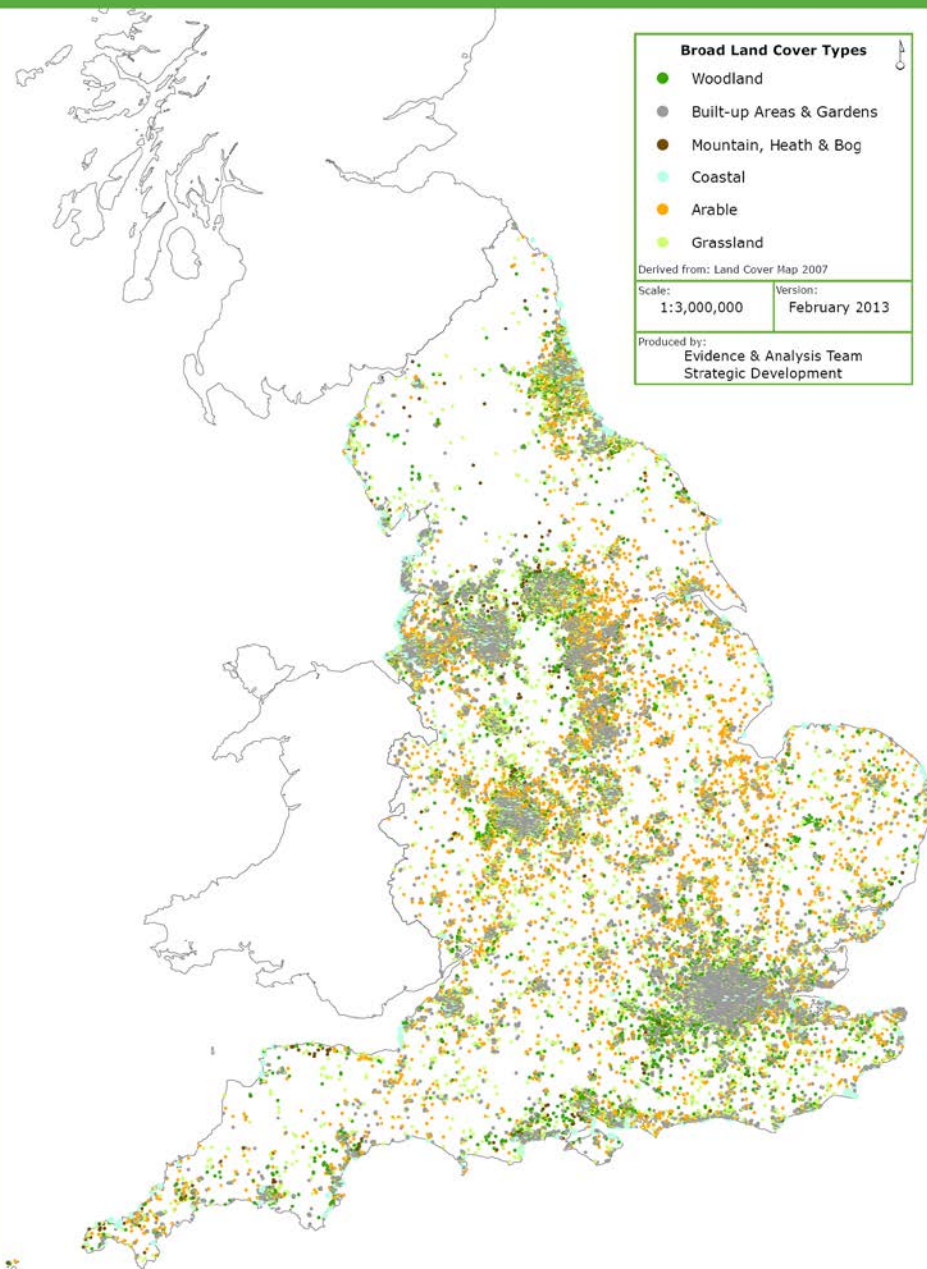


South East England Wildfire Group

Wildfires impact on EU and UK Nature Conservation and Landscape Designations in England

Area Burnt of EU and UK Designations due to Wildfire in England in Financial Years 2009/10 to 2012/13 attended by Fire and Rescue Service





GB Wildfire Statistic Summary 2009/10 to 2012/13

- +71,000 hectares burnt between FY2009/10 to 2012/13
- +37,000 hectares burnt in FY2011/12 alone
- +211,000 wildfire incidents between FY2009/10 to 2012/13
- +65,000 incidents in FY2010/11 alone

Wildfire Coordination in UK

Wildfire Forums – England & Wales and Scotland	National Government
Wildfire Groups	Local Government / Fire and Rescue Service

Wildfire Forums; England & Wales and Scotland

Membership:

- Private and public land ownership associations
- Govt departments for fire, resilience and land management
- Fire and Rescue Unions and Associations
- Local Government Association
- Research organisations and Universities

EWWF & SWF Wildfire Policy

Wildfire is defined as a risk in the following policy documents in the United Kingdom:

- National Risk Register (2013 and 2015)
- Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) – All Sectors
- National Adaptation Programme (NAP) – All Sectors
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (England and Wales) – Development Planning
- UK Forestry Standard, Guidelines and Practice / Technical Guidance.

Locally:

- Local Resilience Forums - Community Risk Registers
- Local Development Frameworks – Development Planning
- Fire and Rescue Service's Risk Management Plans
- Forest Management / Design Plans

Fire Operations Group (FOG)

Membership:

Peak District National Parks Authority, Water Companies, Private and Public Landowners, Countryside Association and 6 x Fire and Rescue Services

Aim:

- Contribute to the sustainable management of the Peak District National Park, by protecting its economy, ecology, environment, heritage and rural communities:

FOG

Objectives:

- To reduce the occurrence of wildfire by promoting fire prevention to land managers, local communities and visitors
- To reduce the scale and impact of wildfires when they do occur
- To educate and provide advice and support on wildfire issues

FOG

Objectives (cont.):

- Improve links with local communities and the Fire and Rescue Services
- Build a strong network that encourages collaboration and allows rural communities to take an active role in protecting their environment and economy from the effects of wildfires.

FOG

Outputs:

- **Fire Plans and maps** for specifically designated rural area, with landownership contact details, equipment and resources for fire management
- Develop **joint working practices** for all members of the group, particularly the six Fire and Rescue Services
- Joint **training to enhance awareness** and effectiveness in managing wildfire (safe working practices)
- **Focal group** who can provide a voice on issues surrounding wildfires in the PDNP
- **Joint operating procedures** to create a more effective response to wildfires

Northumberland Wildfire Group (NWG)



NWG

Aims:

- To contribute to the sustainable development of rural Northumberland through the protection of its economy, environment, heritage and rural communities by minimising the growing risk of devastating impacts of wildfire due to the influence of global climate change.
- To reduce the occurrence of wildfire by promoting fire prevention to land managers, local communities and visitors

NWG

Objectives:

- Maintain membership of the Northumberland Wildfire Group
- Encourage and assist the completion of fire plans by fire group members
- Facilitate the dissemination of information, advice and guidance on moorland/forest fire risk and management

NWG

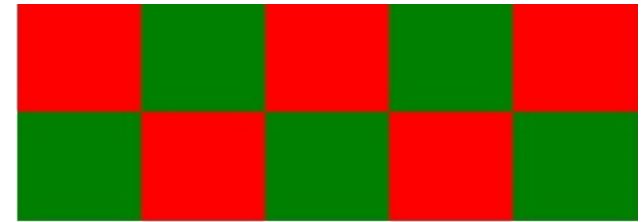
Objectives (cont.):

- The production of fire awareness promotional material for locals and visitors emphasising the impacts of wildfire and managed burning on the natural environment and landscape
- Deliver theoretical (class room based) and practical (live wildfire exercises) wildfire training to organisations operating in rural Northumberland

South East England Wildfire Group

Membership:

Water Companies, Private and
Public Landowners,
Countryside and Landowners
Association (CLA),
6 x Fire and Rescue Services and
Local Authorities



SEEWG

South East England Wildfire Group

SEEWG

Aim:

- To create a forum between fire services, land management organisations and government that will provide strategic direction, planning and best practice to reduce the risks and hazards in the South East of England.

SEEWG

Objectives:

- Reduce the number, area burnt and impact of wildfires on:
 - Environment – heritage, natural and built.
 - Infrastructure – property, wayleaves and transport infrastructure.
 - Climate change – reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and CO₂.
 - Social – recreation, cultural, aesthetics, life, health and well being and community.
 - Economic – food, fibre, fuel, sporting and tourism.

Objectives (cont.):

- Provide a framework for partnership working and ensure that all partners are able to contribute to an integrated approach including; management, education, training, strategic planning, incident recording, regional policy, tactics and doctrine.

Objectives (cont.):

- Reduce the amount of resources required and risk to safety that exists for major wildfire incidents by; sharing resources, tools, vehicles, equipment, knowledge and experience.
- To advise the Regional Fire Management Board, via the South East Response and Resilience Group, and the English and Wales Wildfire Forum of key issues that affect the South East England region.

Wildfire Groups common communication tools

- Fire Plans and Maps, Contact details etc.
- Prepared press and social media messages
- Local policies and guidance (Fire, Land Management, Development & Emergency Planning)
- More wildfire resilient land management (adaptation and mitigation to climate change)
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)
- Joint training and exercises
- Equipment sharing
- Regular meetings between stakeholders
- 'Fire Wise Communities' roll out (Surrey and NFPA)

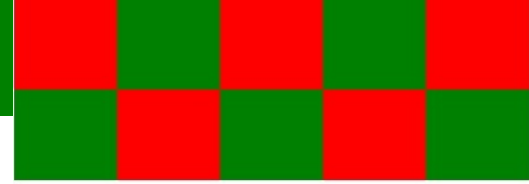
Conclusions

- England & Wales and Scotland have developed two tier approach to wildfires, with strategic forums at the national level and a range of regional approaches at tactical and operational levels to fit local needs and requirements.
- Wildfire groups only occur where there is a need to focus on landscapes at risk from wildfire.
- Wildfire groups fill a gap in current legislation that restricts Fire and Rescue Services powers on making land management more resilient to wildfire.

Conclusion (cont.)

Common themes for Wildfire Groups (Tactical & Operational levels):

- Bringing land owners, Fire and Rescue Services and land management regulators together focused on wildfire incidents.
- Improve and provide joint ownership of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery actions.
- Raise awareness of wildfires, their impacts and how to engage with local communities (rural and urban), businesses, associations and key stakeholders.
- Engagement with Local Resilience Forums to ensure wildfire is embedded into local communities emergency planning.
- Build wildfire mitigation and adaptation into land management and emergency planning.



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Questions?

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