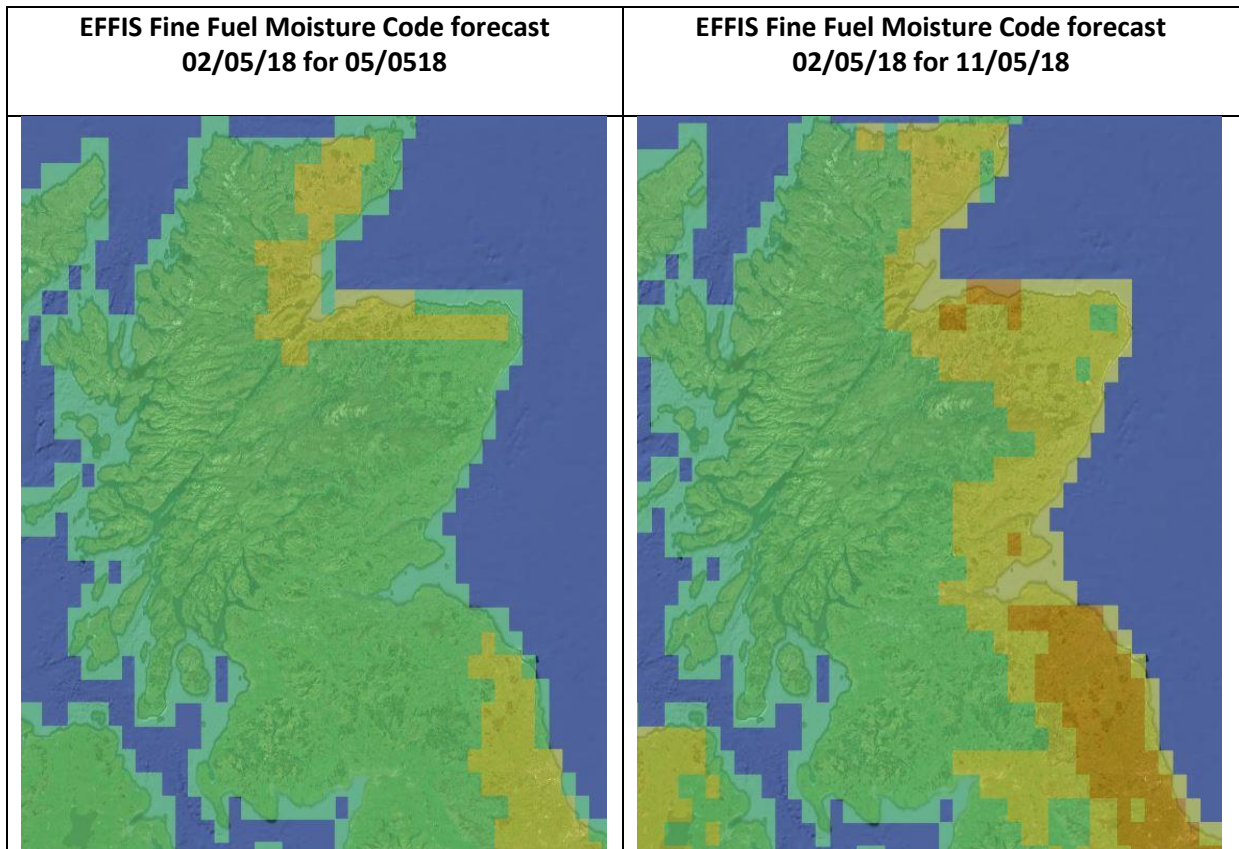


**Wildfire Danger Assessment for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**



Images courtesy of European Forest Fire Information Service (EFFIS)

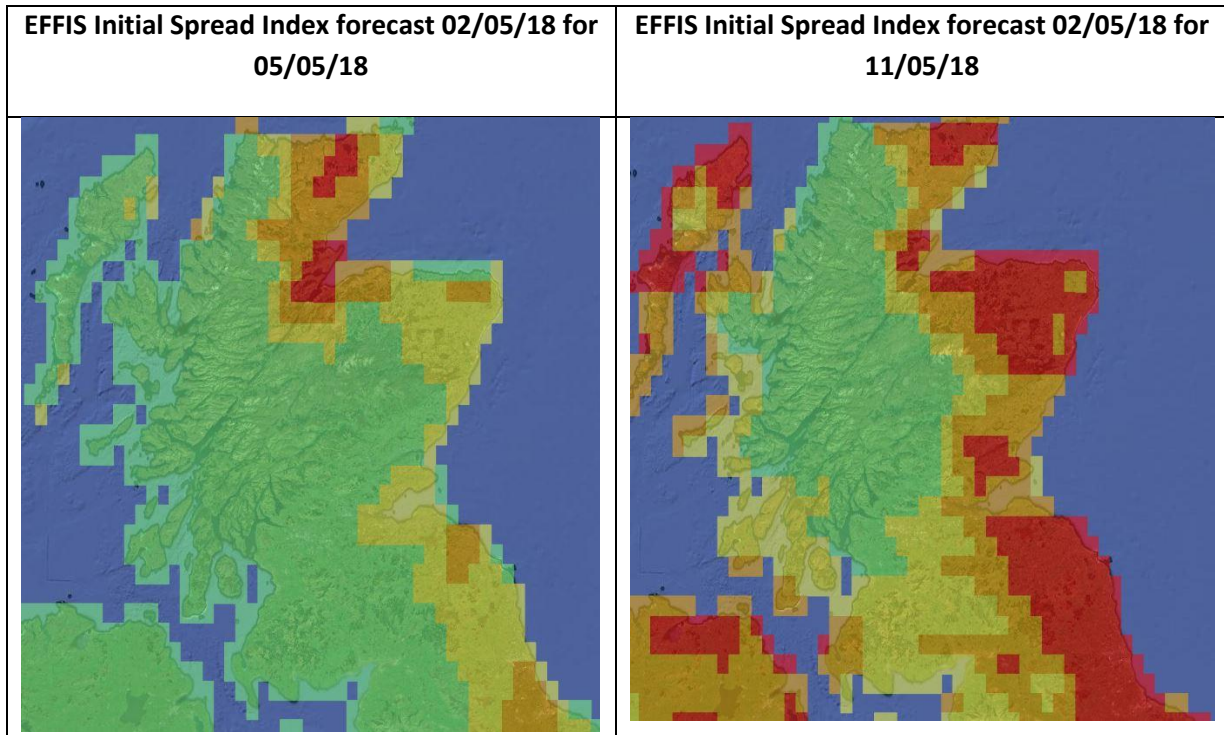
**The EFFIS FFMC forecast for the period 05/05/18 – 11/05/18 indicates a high ignition potential starting in the north east, and south east of Scotland and then spreading to cover the whole of eastern Scotland.**

**EFFIS FFMC Fire Danger class bands:**

The scientific evidence indicates that significant numbers of wildfires often occur in the UK in the spring when FFMC is at or above 80. Any yellow area on the map indicates an FFMC of more than 83 and the brown areas are over 86. This indicates a high ignition potential (fire hazard).

Spot readings for areas immediately west of the elevated fire risk zones on the maps above indicate some FFMC values over 80 through this period. There is a gradient of higher values in the east and lower values in the west.

EFFIS Initial Spread Index forecast 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018



Images courtesy of EFFIS

The Initial Spread Index (ISI) is based on FFMC, plus an additional factor for wind. **This ISI forecast for the period 05/05/18 to 11/05/18 indicates the potential for extreme fire behaviour in north east, central and south east Scotland. The day with the highest index values Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May is shown above.**

Table 1 EFFIS Fine Fuel Moisture Code (FFMC) & Initial Spread Index (ISI) fire danger class bands:

	EFFIS FFMC Fire Danger classes				
	Very Low	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
	Green	Yellow	Brown	Red	Black
<b>FFMC</b>	< 82.7	82.7 - 86.1	86.1 - 89.2	89.2 - 93	>= 93
<b>ISI</b>	< 3.2	3.2 - 5	5 - 7.5	7.5 - 13.4	>= 13.4

The EFFIS system is based on the Canadian Fire Weather Index system, of which FFMC is a sub-index. FFMC looks at the dead fuel moisture of the litter layer on the soil surface.

EFFIS fire danger classes were originally created to support decision making in Mediterranean areas. The equivalent fire danger with typical grass and shrub fuel types in the British Isles is significantly lower. European Forest Fire Information Service (EFFIS) can be viewed at:

[http://effis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/static/effis\\_current\\_situation/index.html](http://effis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/static/effis_current_situation/index.html)

The weather data that is used in the EFFIS Fire Weather Index model is from the European Centre for Medium Range Forecasts (ECMWF).

**General weather forecast information:**

There is south westerly airflow with weather systems passing between Scotland and Iceland, bringing rain to the west but the east will be dry and warm. This weather pattern will continue for some time.

**Discussion:**

**In the east there is likely to be sunshine, warmth, wind, moderate relative humidity from Friday onwards. These are conditions that will gradually dry dead out fuels after rain. However the live fuel moisture of heather will stay low until the plants start growing.**

There are large areas of semi-natural vegetation with a lot of last year's dead vegetation. The vegetation (fuels) have not started growing, with a delayed start to the spring in the hills due to the long winter.

Semi-natural vegetation in eastern areas will have both a high ignition potential and high potential spread rates from 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May. Should a wildfire ignition occur on the days with high wind speeds it is likely extreme fire behaviour will occur.

The Muirburn Season has finished and we are going to have a fine few days into the weekend, and through next week. There is also a bank holiday on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Land managers should be considering what fire prevention activities are appropriate. The messages to the public are that they should exercise great caution in the north east, south east and central areas of Scotland.

**Fire Danger for period:**

**The north east, south east and central Scotland, will have Very High Fire Danger conditions from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2018**

M. Bruce  
Director  
Firebreak Services Ltd

Tel. 013398 86451  
Mob. 07967 681807  
Em. [info@firebreakservices.co.uk](mailto:info@firebreakservices.co.uk)

<https://firebreakservices.co.uk>

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