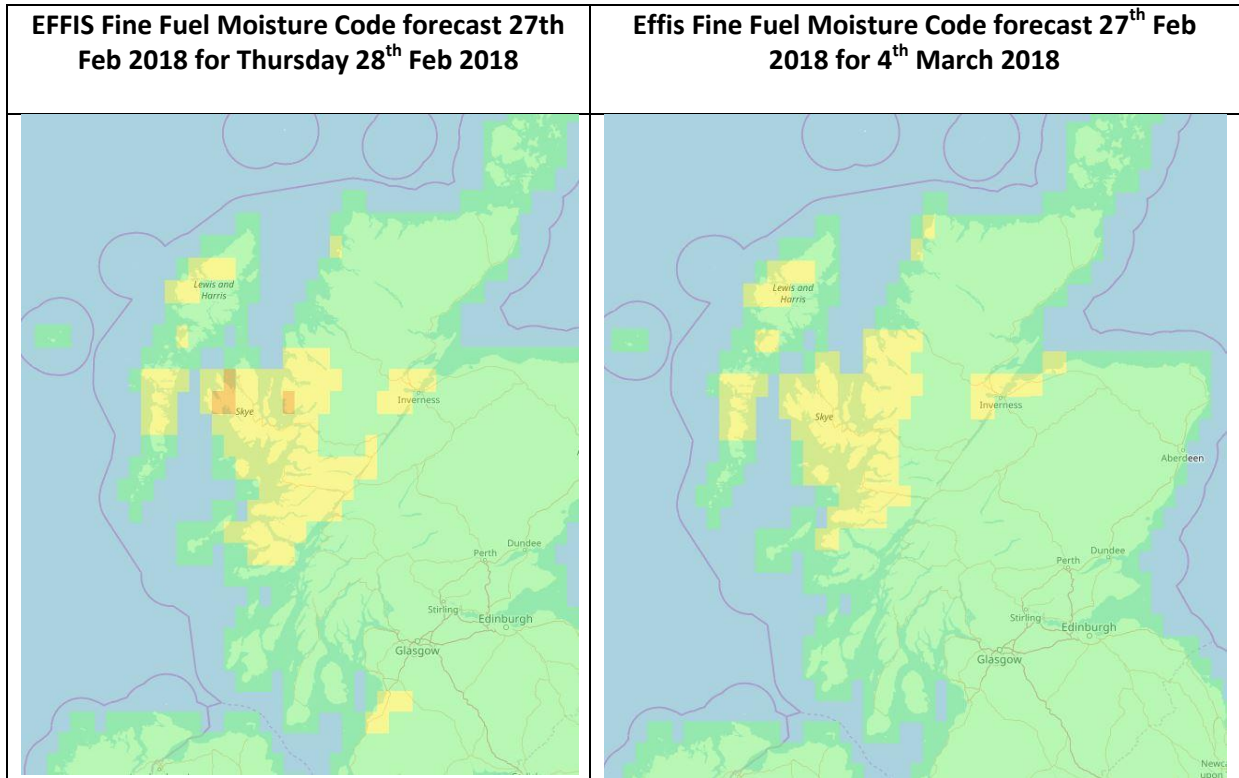


Wildfire Danger Forecast for 27th Feb – 5th March 2018.



Images courtesy of European Forest Fire Information Service (EFFIS)

The EFFIS forecast for the period 27th Feb to 5th March indicates a high fire danger for western Scotland around Oban and Skye.

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 just above 80. The 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).

EFFIS Initial Spread Index forecast 27th Feb 2018 for 28th May 2018

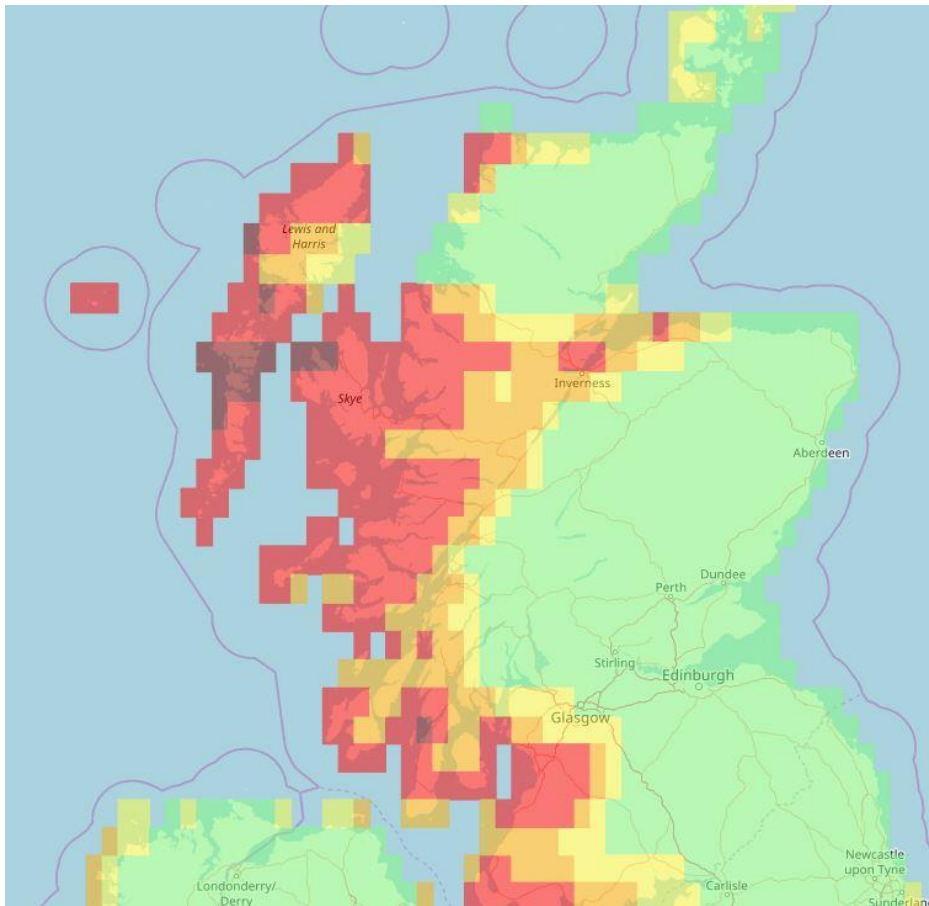


Image courtesy of EFFIS

The Initial Spread Index (ISI) is based on FFMC, plus an additional factor for wind. **This ISI forecast indicates the potential for extreme fire behaviour.**

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
FFMC	< 82.7	82.7 - 86.1	86.1 - 89.2	89.2 - 93	>= 93
ISI	< 3.2	3.2 - 5	5 - 7.5	7.5 - 13.4	>= 13.4

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

Weather Forecast:

Over the next few days western Scotland will stay dry, cold and breezy.

Discussion:

There is a strong easterly airflow over Scotland at the moment bringing snow and blizzards to the east but very different conditions in the west.

In locations below about 300m in the rain shadow of the hills parts of western Scotland have already been 10 days without rain. There is sunshine during the day, frosts at night, moderate to low relative humidity and high to very high easterly winds. These are conditions that dry out fuels quickly and create extreme fire danger.

There has already been a wildfire at Appin, see BBC News:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-43202499>

There are still large areas of semi-natural vegetation with a lot of last year's dead vegetation. Other fuels such as heather have only just started growing and some are still seasonally dormant and dry. Gorse carries a lot of dead material in its canopy all year round.

Where there are areas of dead vegetation in western areas that do not get snow or rain there are both high ignition potential and high potential spread rates over until at least 6th March. Should an ignition occur it is likely that the high winds will create extreme fire behaviour.

We are in the Muirburn Season the weather is not conducive to general recreation in the countryside, land managers should therefore exercise caution in the west.

Fire Danger for period:

Western Scotland– Extreme 27th Feb – 5th March 2018

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