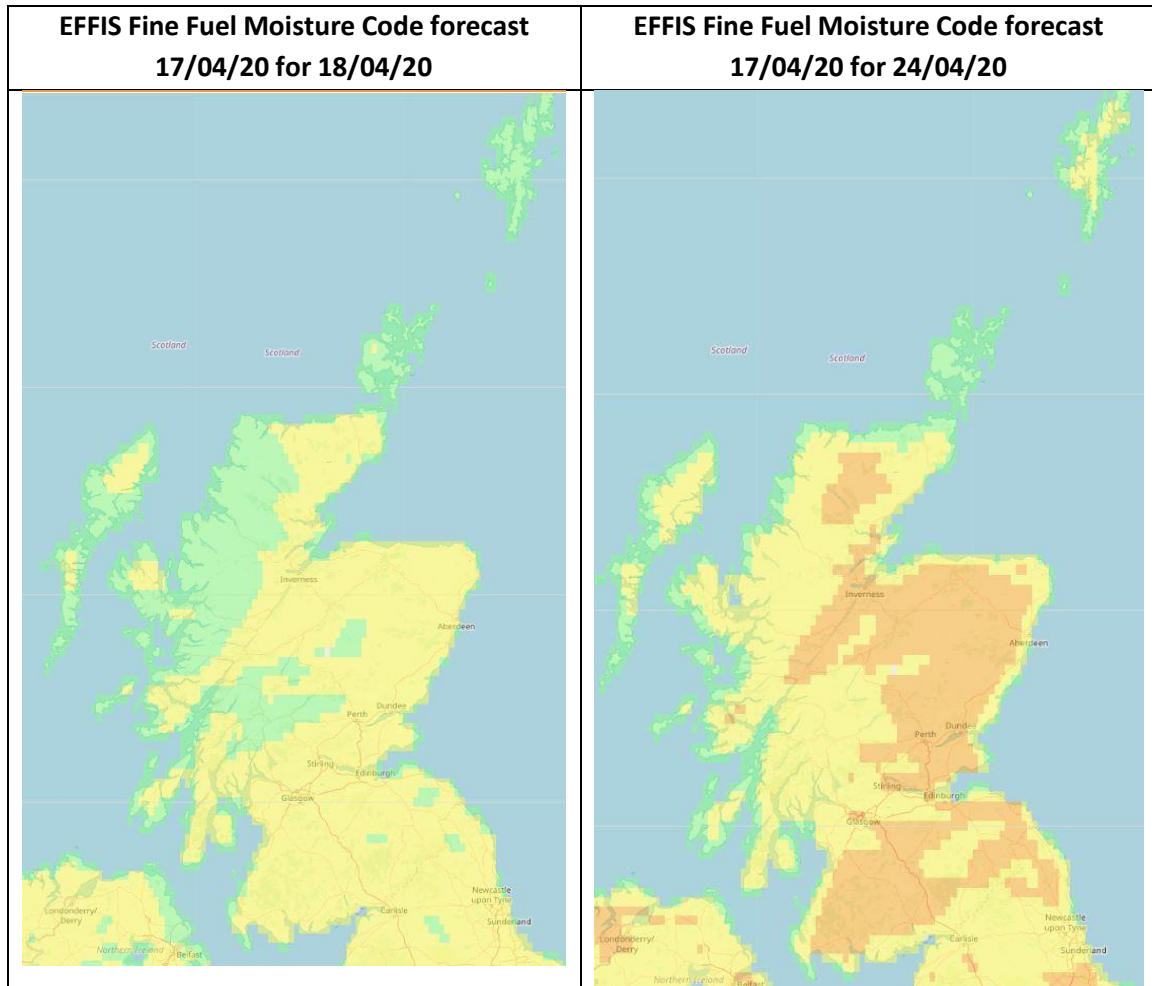


**Wildfire Danger Assessment for – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020 for Scotland.**

**The overall fire danger assessment is:**

- **All areas of Scotland - EXTREME 18<sup>th</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> April**

**Ignition Potential - Fine Fuel Moisture Code:**



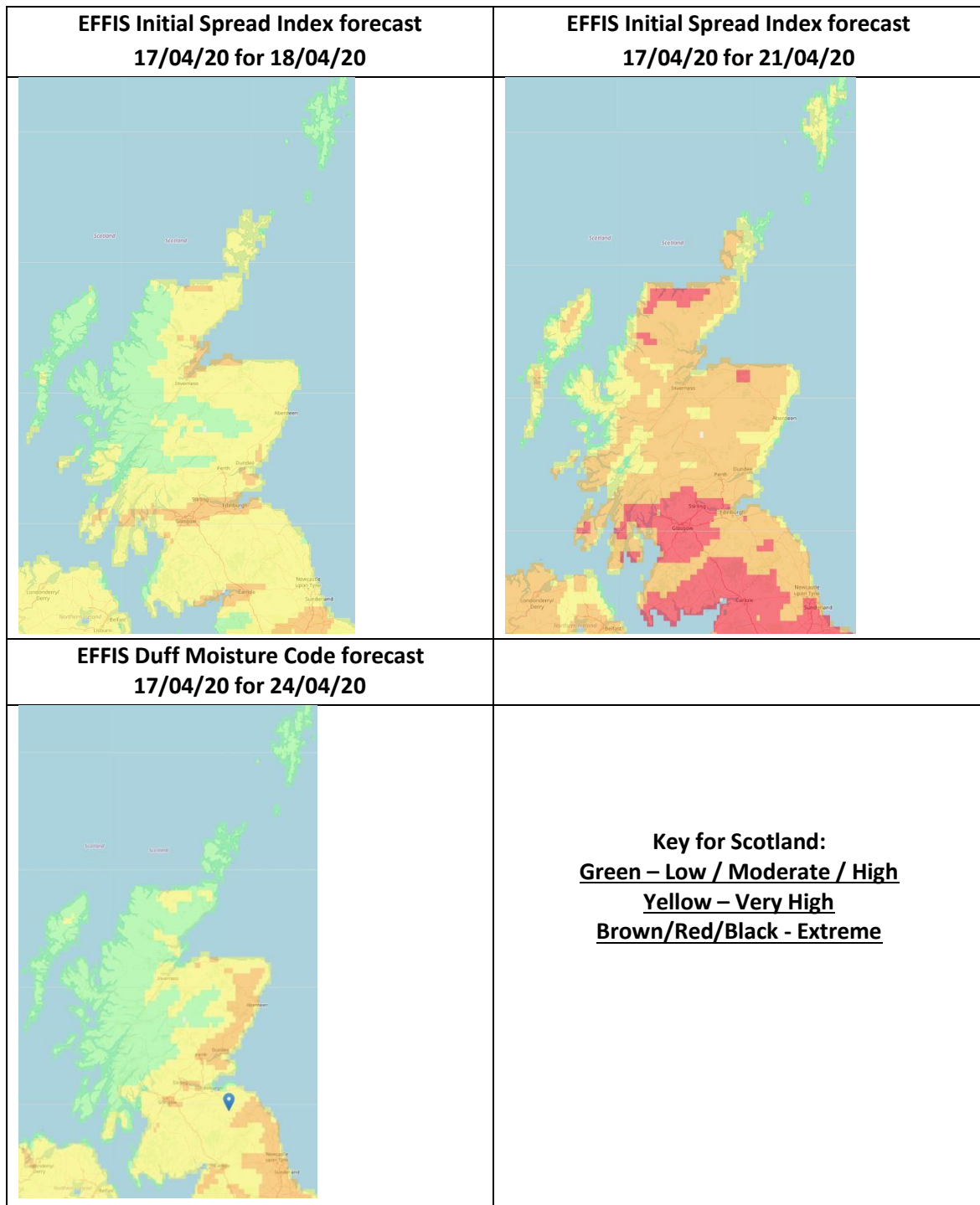
**Spot checks on green areas indicate FFMC 80+ and ISI greater than 2**

**Key for Scotland:**

**Green – Low / Moderate / High**

**Yellow – Very High**

**Brown/Red/Black - Extreme**



**Seasonal condition of the fuels:**

Late April - at this time of year, still spring, the seasonal condition of the fuels (vegetation) will be reacting most to the combination of frost, warm dry weather and wind. There is a lot of dead grass and dead heather left over from last year, which can dry very quickly. Frost and sun can also reduce the live fuel moisture of heather. Overall these conditions can create very low surface fuel moisture contents. Apart from NW Scotland there has been little rain to wet the deeper fuel layers over the last month. Deeper fuel layers are starting to dry out in the east.

**General weather forecast information:**

A high pressure system is settling over the Scotland & Scandinavia for at least the next week. All areas will stay dry. There will still be some frosts and sunny days, other days with high cloud. Winds will be easterly 8 – 16 mph, moderate strength. Maximum mid-afternoon air temperature 8 - 16C, warmest in the west. Humidity levels will be low 49 – 61% everywhere. As with all weather systems there will be local variation.

#### **Discussion:**

The key issues over the next week are the continuous sunshine, low relative humidity and lack of rain. Dead fine fuels will dry out and stay dry in these conditions

**In eastern, central and southern areas of Scotland FFMC starts on Saturday around 83-84 and rises to 85 – 86. Western areas start at 80 – 81 and rise to 84. ISI is consistently over 2.5 in most areas. DMC will go over 20 in eastern, central and southern areas All indices are over key thresholds. The most hazardous conditions will occur on Tuesday 21st.**

Where the FFMC is high dead fuels will ignite and burn hot enough to burn live fuels such as heather. Where ISI is above 3 spread rates could be fast. Lower soil layers in the east are starting to dry out, the potential for smouldering is increasing there.

Overall fires could burn and spread, with high fire intensity, and some smouldering in the east, central and southern Scotland. No rain is forecast.

#### **Important Notice**

**Wildfire danger assessments are made on behalf of the Scottish Wildfire Forum. They are done on a broad area basis. For more local risk assessments the local condition of fuels, recent weather, and weather forecasts, should be taken into account.**