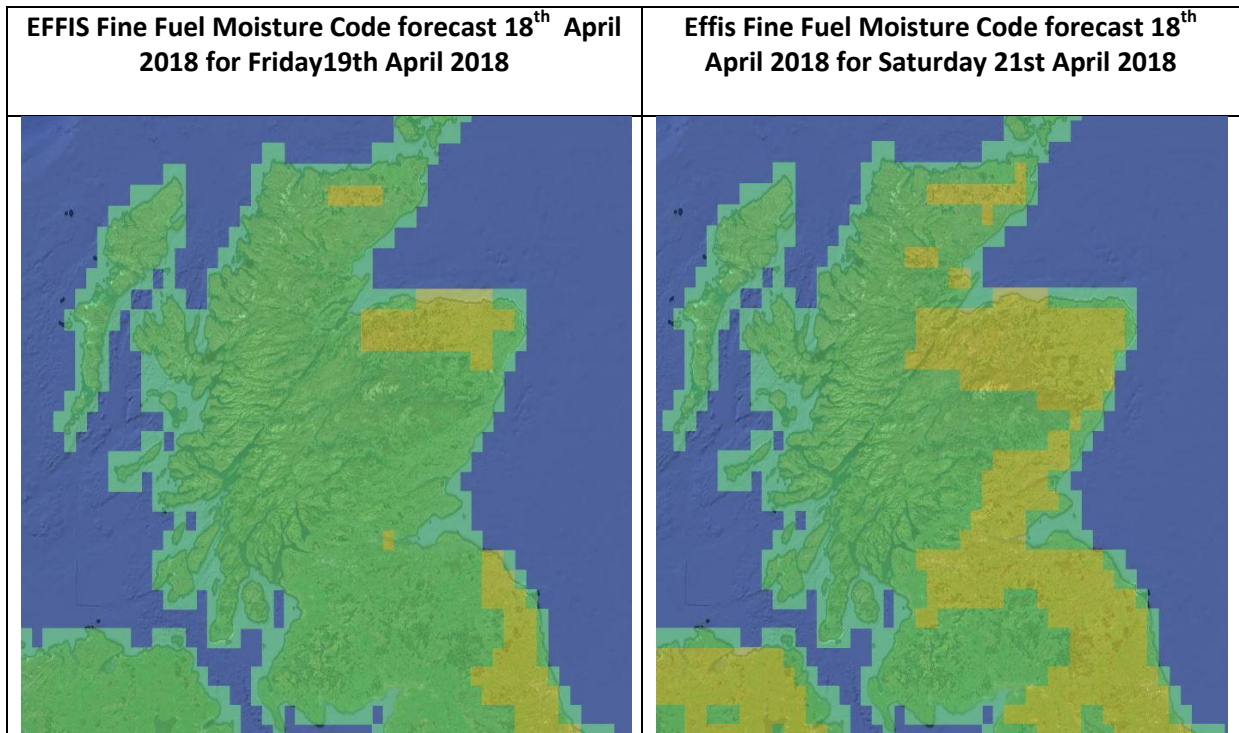


Wildfire Danger Assessment for Thursday 19th April – Saturday 21st April 2018.



Images courtesy of European Forest Fire Information Service (EFFIS)

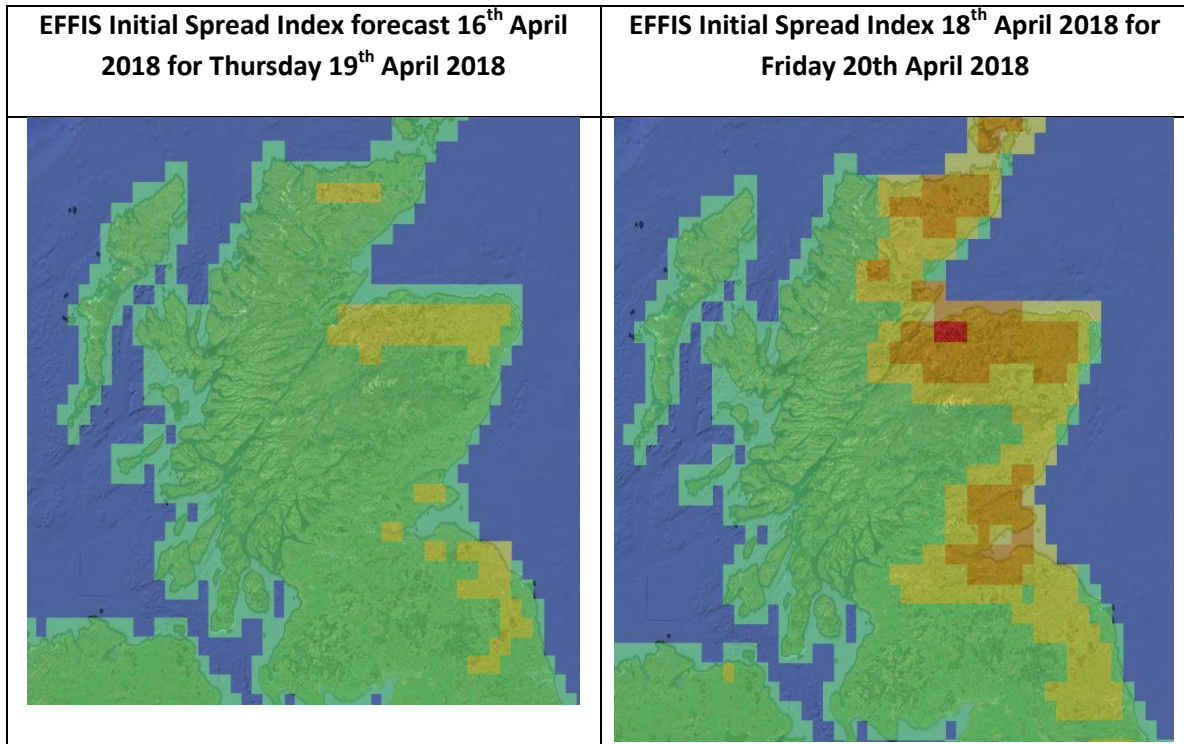
The EFFIS FFMC forecast for the period Thursday 19th – Saturday 21st April 2018 indicates a high ignition potential starting in the north east, and south east of Scotland and then spreading west into Saturday to include central Scotland.

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 FFMC values over 80 from Friday the 19th of April.

FFIS Initial Spread Index forecast 18th April 2018 for 19th – 21st April 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 19th – 21st April 2018 indicates the potential for extreme fire behaviour in north east, central and south east Scotland. The day with the highest index values Friday 20th April 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
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

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 now a south to south westerly airflow over Scotland, bringing rain to the west but the east will become increasingly dry and warm towards the weekend. Bands of rain are then likely to cover most of Scotland over Saturday - Sunday. It will be breezy on some days.

Discussion:

In the east there is likely to be sunshine, warmth, wind, moderate to low relative humidity from Thursday onwards. These are conditions that dry out fuels quickly. However there are also still significant areas with snowdrifts and melting snow on the high ground in the east.

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

Where there are areas of dead vegetation in eastern areas that do not have lying snow or recent rain there is both a high ignition potential and high potential spread rates from Friday 19th until Saturday 21st April. Should a wildfire ignition occur on the days with high wind speeds it is likely extreme fire behaviour will occur.

We are still in the Muirburn Season and we are going to have a fine few days into the weekend, land managers and the public should therefore exercise 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 High Fire Danger conditions from 19th – 21st April 2018

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