**Wildfire Checklist**

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| **Site name:** |  |
| **Name of persons completing the risk assessment:** |  |
| **Agreement Reference and agreement holder:**(If relevant) |  |
| **Date of Completion of assessment:** |  |
| **Review date:** (every 5 years or less after management changes) |  |

This checklist contains a typical range of factors and hazards that should be considered when assessing the risk of damage from wildfire on a landholding. It aims to help landowners and land managers to identify the specific factors and hazards that are relevant to their land.

There may be other issues that relate to the specific area or activities on the land and space has been provided to add extra items.

It may be helpful to complete a separate checklist for each area of land / management unit, where a different range of issues may need to be considered.

**The identification of what is at risk and hazards**

The risk assessment process covers four stages:

* Identify the fire hazards.
* Establish who / what is at risk from wildfire
* Set out what is already being done to manage the risk.
* Consider what else can be done to reduce the risk from wildfire.

Consider what is valuable on the land and at risk from wildfire. Both could be represented in map form to help indicate where action could be taken to reduce risk, especially if it is also possible to predict fire behaviour and map that as well.

Examples of maps are available from the UMG website[[1]](#footnote-1). These have been drafted specifically for the development of a Wildfire Management Plan to support an application for a licence to burn on deep peat, but the format can be used for all wildfire risk assessment applications.

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| **What are the fire hazards?** |  |
| History of wildfire events – likely to be repeated |  |
| Repeat ignitions (accidental / arson) |  |
| Prescribed burning takes place – danger of escaped fires |  |
| Vegetation management reduced – fuel load likely to have increased |  |
| Camping / caravan sites nearby – high visitor pressure |  |
| Visitor car parks adjacent to the land - high visitor pressure |  |
| Visitor honeypots present - high visitor pressure |  |
| Long distance / high profile footpaths – increased chances of ignition |  |
| Critical infrastructure on or adjoining land – pipelines, gas mains |  |
| Woodland planting in last 20yrs, or next 2yrs – young trees at risk |  |
| Brash left after clear fell of trees – higher risk of fire |  |
| Neighbours flammable habitat close by – risk of wildfire crossing boundaries |  |
| Other hazard 1 |  |
| Other hazard 2 |  |
| Other hazard 3 |  |
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| **Who/what might be harmed and how?** |  |
| People |  |
| Habitat and soils, including peat |  |
| Livestock |  |
| Wildlife |  |
| Young woodland and trees |  |
| Property and Businesses – including sporting |  |
| Designated sites and features |  |
| Impact on tourism – damage to landscape & scenery |  |
| Fencing – young plantations, stock / deer fencing – high replacement cost |  |
| Radio masts, wind turbines, other infrastructure |  |
| Carbon stocks - if peat catches fire |  |
| National sites on or adjoining land – damage could be nationally significant |  |
| Ecosystem services (e.g. drinking water) – loss of production |  |
| Food production (crops / grazing) |  |
| Air quality (public health) |  |
| Other issue 1 |  |
| Other issue 2 |  |
| Other issue 3 |  |
|  |  |
| **What is already being done to manage risk?** |  |
| Awareness raising - local community groups |  |
| Vegetation Management Plan prepared – and acted upon |  |
| Water resources for firefighting – ponds, access to watercourses etc |  |
| Wildfire Management & Response Plans prepared |  |
| Warning signs - when wildfire risk high |  |
| Firebreaks constructed by cutting / burning |  |
| Working with Local Fire Group |  |
| Staff training carried out – increase capability |  |
| Liaison taking place with FRS – establish link to Wildfire Tactical Advisers |  |
| Provision of access for firefighting – increase speed of response |  |
| Firefighting equipment purchased – increase capability of staff |  |
| Other risk management factor 1 |  |
| Other risk management factor 2 |  |
| Other risk management factor 3 |  |
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| **What else could be done?** |  |
| Work with Local Resilience Forum |  |
| Additional management of vegetation – cutting / burning, consider role of grazing |  |
| Rewetting of deep peat – increase resilience to wildfire |  |
| Prepare Wildfire Management & Response Plans (if not completed already) |  |
| Additional notices – increase awareness of visitors when wildfire risk high |  |
| Consider additional firebreaks – cutting / burning |  |
| Training exercises - FRS & Fire Groups – include neighbours |  |
| If not already established, consider Fire Group – advice available |  |
| Regular removal of litter – reduce sources of ignition from public places |  |
| Other risk reduction action 1 |  |
| Other risk reduction action 2 |  |
| Other risk reduction action 3 |  |

1. www.uplandsmanagement.co.uk/wildfire [↑](#footnote-ref-1)