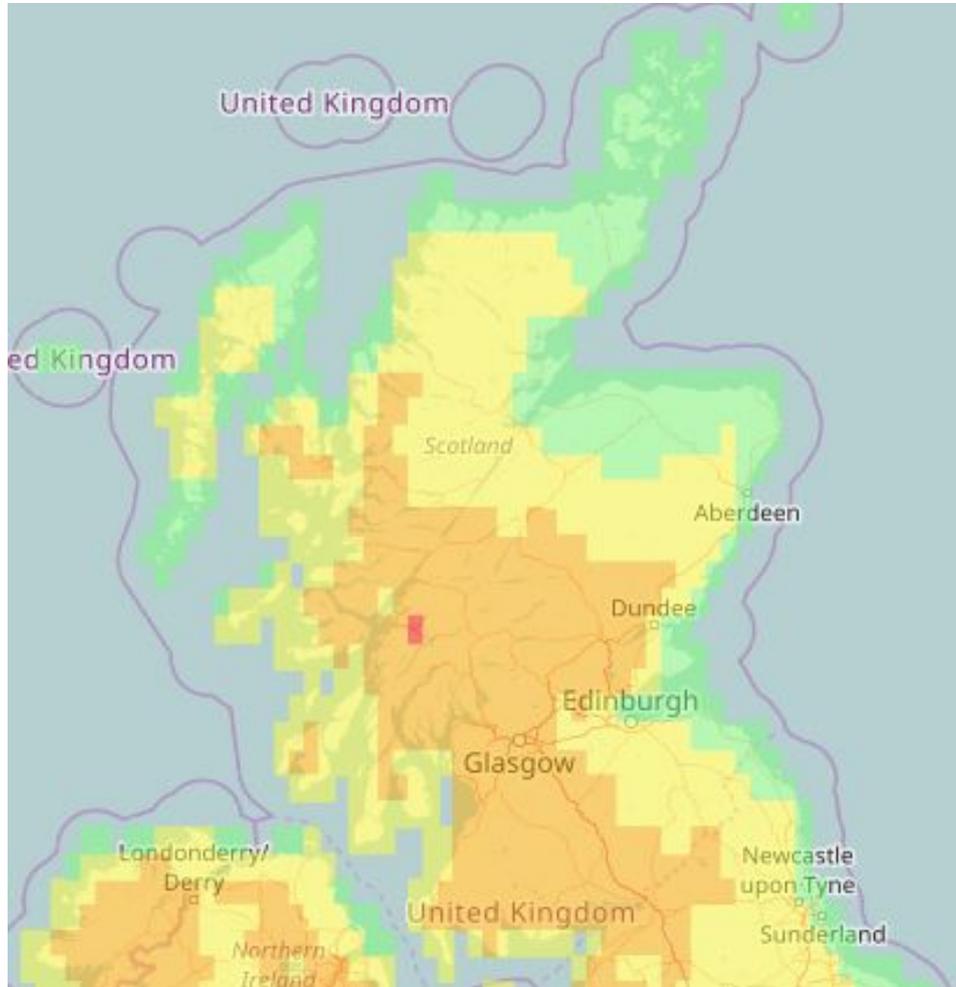


**Wildfire Danger Forecast for 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

**EFFIS Fine Fuel Moisture Code forecast 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017**



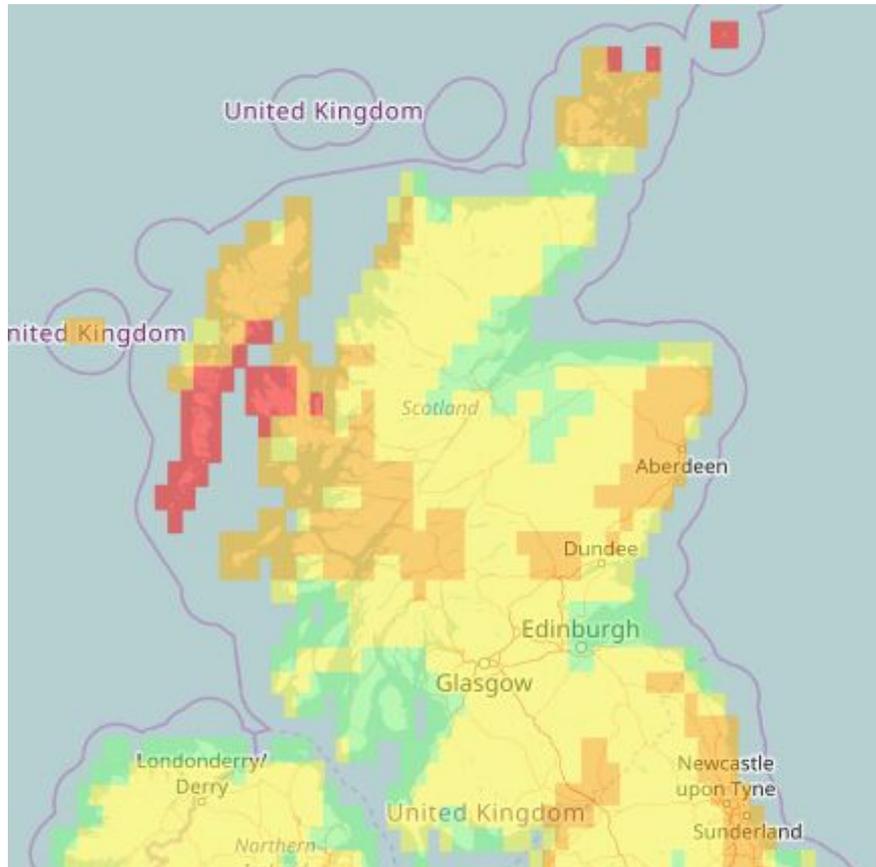
**Image courtesy of European Forest Fire Information Service (EFFIS)**

**The EFFIS forecast for the period to 9<sup>th</sup> May indicates very high fire danger for western, central and southern Scotland and high fire danger for eastern Scotland for the period 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

**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 covering large areas of Scotland. This indicates a high ignition potential (fire hazard).

**EFFIS Initial Spread Index forecast 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017**



**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 in the period to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

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

	<b>EFFIS FFMC Fire Danger classes</b>				
	<b>Very Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very High</b>
	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

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)

**Weather Forecast:**

Over the next 5 days Scotland will stay dry and breezy. In the following period a high pressure system will develop producing easterly winds over Scotland. Forecasts suggest that the dry breezy conditions will stay with us for some time. The driest areas will be in western and southern Scotland. The winter and early spring have been relatively dry and it will continue dry.

**Discussion:**

We are in spring, a transitional time. Vegetation is starting to grow in southern and low lying areas. As it starts to grow it “greens-up”, raising fuel moisture. However last week’s snow and cold snap means that green-up will be delayed in northern areas and on high ground in the mountains, where some snow is still lying.

There are still large areas of semi-natural vegetation with a lot of last year’s dead vegetation. Other fuels such as heather have not started growing yet and are still seasonally dormant and dry. The dry bright days with low humidity levels dry out the dead and dormant vegetation/fuels quickly at this time of year.

All areas have both high ignition potential and high potential spread rates. Should an ignition occur it is likely that the high winds will create extreme fire behaviour. The higher fire danger conditions cover the whole of Scotland but will be highest in west and southern Scotland. The extended period of low rainfall is also increasing the likelihood of smouldering fire.

Any areas with localised rain will have reduced fire danger conditions but only for a short period because of the continuing dry weather and drying winds.

The Muirburn Season ends at the end of April. Fire risks are therefore more likely to come from other heat sources e.g. campfires, BBQs, and bonfires, which may be associated with members of the public in the countryside and occur at weekends and public holidays.

**Fire Danger for period:**

**Eastern Scotland – High 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**West, Central and Southern Scotland – Very High 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

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