



Burning Management Plan for Wales

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This document can also be found on the Welsh Assembly Government website:

www.wales.gov.uk/countryside (navigate to 'farming' or alternatively search for Heather and Grass Burning on the site).

Burning Management Plan for Wales

The landowner/manager should follow the guidance given in the Heather and Grass Burning Code (as amended 2008). This is available on the Welsh Assembly Government website or from your local Department for Rural Affairs (DRA) office.

Contravention of the Heather and Grass etc. Burning (Wales) Regulations 2008 is an offence under section 20(2) of the Hill Farming Act 1946.

In addition, the revised regulations require land managers to complete the following burning plan and to keep it updated. **You will not have to submit a copy of your completed plan, but you must have an up-to-date copy available for inspection by authorised officers of the Welsh Assembly Government.** Failure to do so would constitute a breach of the Heather and Grass etc. Burning (Wales) Regulations 2008 as above, and could leave you liable to prosecution and a fine. Furthermore, it would constitute a breach of Single Payment Scheme cross-compliance requirements, which could result in a financial penalty applying to that scheme.

Burning is allowed only between: **1 October - 31 March** in upland areas; **1 November - 15 March** elsewhere; **at other times** under a Licence.

The purpose of the plan

The process of completing the plan will help you develop a medium to long term approach (5+ years) for the management of land through burning, including assessing the risks involved. It will help you:

- recognise, take account and meet the legal requirements relating to burn management
- follow best practice principles when developing and carrying out burn management
- understand and appreciate the latest scientific guidance on the impacts of good and bad burning practice on the wider environment
- identify any training/qualifications needed to ensure safe and competent burning practice
- reduce your liability in the event that something goes wrong

How the process will work

The plan is divided into two sections which must be completed to produce the burning plan:

- creating a burning plan map
- completing a check list

YOU MUST READ THE ACCOMPANYING TECHNICAL GUIDANCE ON PREPARING BURNING PLANS BEFORE COMPLETING SECTIONS 1 AND 2.

SECTION 1

Creating a burning plan map and burning programme

1 Start year of Burning Plan

2 What is the overall objective of your proposed burning?

- a) Increase the productivity for the benefit of agricultural stock
- b) Provide access to stock through dense vegetation
- c) Act as part of a programme for the benefit of grouse management
- d) Regenerate vegetation as part of a conservation programme for habitat and/or species reasons

(Tick whichever is appropriate)

3 Is the vegetation type you are considering burning

- a heather dominated stand?
- western gorse and heather mix?
- grassland?
- a mixed community?

4 Mapping the plan area

Use a standard Ordnance Survey map at 1:25000 or the IACS map of the land on which you intend to carry out burning. Mark the boundary of the land you wish to burn on the map. Attach the map to this plan.

What is the estimated area in hectares?

5 Mapping the no-burn zones

Establish and *mark clearly on the map* those sensitive areas that should not be burnt i.e. no-burn zones (see code and technical guidance).

Calculate the size in hectares of these zones.

What is the estimated area of the no-burn zones?

6 Calculate the total area to be burnt

Subtract the answer to question 5 from the answer to question 4

The total estimated area to be burnt (ha)

7 Frequency of burns

Calculate your burning rotation length in years (see guidance).

What is your rotation length
(absolute minimum should be 10 years)?

8 Calculate the maximum area to be burnt annually

The answer given to question 6 should be divided by the answer to question 7.

The maximum area you should burn each year is

9 Have you attended and passed a certified course in heather and grass burning?

YES NO

If 'YES', give certificate number and date attended

SECTION 2 - Checklist

Preparing for a burn

It is important to prepare thoroughly before any burning is undertaken. There are a number of legal requirements that you **must** satisfy before proceeding. This section will help to make you aware of these and plan accordingly. It will also inform you on health and safety best practice and help you demonstrate that you have taken all reasonable steps to reduce the risk of injury to personnel and damage to adjoining property.

- 1 Sufficient people and equipment must be on hand at all times to control the burn; burning with three or more workers is safest. An active fire front should be 5-10m per person depending on conditions.**

How many people are on hand to assist you?

- 2 At least 24 hours but not more than seven days notice of intent to burn must be given in writing to the owners or occupiers of the land concerned and persons in charge of adjacent land. This should include dates, time, place and extent of the burn.**

Please provide a list of adjoining property owners and occupiers:		
When were they informed?	Year 1	
	Year 2	
	Year 3	
	Year 4	
	Year 5	
When will the burn be carried out?	Year 1	
	Year 2	
	Year 3	
	Year 4	
	Year 5	

3 Reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent injury or damage to persons, animals and adjacent property (Refer to guidance within the Burning Code).

What precautions have you implemented?

4 Inform your local Fire and Rescue Service

Enter the name of your contact at your local fire service and their telephone number

Have you informed them of the proposed date and time and location of the burn?

YES NO

Have you confirmed with them your intent to burn on the day?

YES NO

What means have you of contacting extra help and/or the fire service on site on the day of the burn e.g. CB radio or in range mobile phone? Please specify ...

5 Do you have the correct equipment for lighting and controlling the fire and is it in good working order?

What type of fire control equipment do you have e.g. beaters of various types, high pressure 'fogging' sprays etc.?

When did you check the equipment is in good working order?

Do you have spares in case of a change in conditions or equipment failure?

YES NO

6 All staff should be trained in safe procedures and should use personal safety equipment e.g. face visors, leather gloves, fire-retardant overalls.

Are those people assisting with the burn trained in the use of the equipment you have available? YES NO

Are staff sufficiently trained in burning management? YES NO

Do they have protective equipment? YES NO

Are any of your staff trained in first aid? YES NO

Do you have a first aid kit available on site? YES NO

7 Join or create a local fire protection or similar group.

These may exist in some areas, and provide a formal arrangement for landowners, managers and the Fire & Rescue Service to co-ordinate their resources and provide mutual assistance if fires escape control.

If you have a local group who is your contact?