# Significant wildfire breaks out at Gentleshaw Common, Staffordshire



A significant wildfire broke out at Gentleshaw Common, a wildlife area near Burntwood, Staffordshire, around 8pm on Friday evening. The fire quickly escalated, affecting dry grassland and resulting in a dramatic spectacle as the night sky turned orange due to the intense flames. Staffordshire Fire Service responded promptly by dispatching six fire appliances to the scene to manage and extinguish the blaze.

Eyewitness reports indicate that strong winds have exacerbated the situation, causing the fire to spread rapidly across the area. Local resident Shellie Shakespeare, who witnessed the event, remarked, "Unfortunately the wind is carrying it, and it is spreading rapidly. And unfortunately, due to us not having any rain up there for a bit, everything is dry up there, so that wouldn’t help with the spread of the fire either." Fire crews have been attempting to tackle the flames from various access points, notably Common Side and Chorley Road.

Concerns have been raised regarding the impact of the fire on local wildlife, particularly as it coincides with the bird nesting season. Social media postings from residents expressed heartbreak over the incident, with one individual stating, “This is heartbreaking. It's bird nesting season and this will be absolutely devastating.” The site is recognised as an area of special scientific interest, particularly notable for its bee populations. Alongside the immediate threat to wildlife, there are concerns over the consequences for the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, a charity dedicated to maintaining and preserving the common.

The Staffordshire Fire Service has issued advice to local residents, urging them to avoid the area and to keep doors and windows closed due to the smoke. A spokesperson for Staffordshire Fire Control confirmed that they have received numerous calls regarding the incident since they first responded. “It’s a wild fire, just grass,” the spokesperson noted, stressing the scale of the response and ongoing efforts to extinguish the flames.

The emergence of wildfires is not limited to Staffordshire. Similar incidents have been reported across the UK due to a prolonged dry spell and warmer weather conditions. Just hours after the Gentleshaw fire began, emergency crews in Calshot Marsh, Hampshire, reported a significant gorse fire near the beach huts. Witnesses described the flames and smoke as visible from considerable distances, with fire services mobilising following multiple reports of the blaze.

In Aberdeen, another wildfire had taken root on Tullos Hill in the Torry area, further illustrating the widespread nature of these fire outbreaks across the country. As the fire service continues to address these incidents, environmental experts have issued warnings regarding the long-term effects of wildfires. Areas such as heathlands, once damaged, may require years to recover fully due to their sensitive habitats.

The current spate of wildfires has prompted the Met Office to caution the public about the dangers posed during this unusually dry and warm March. Fire officials have been actively urging the public to exercise caution, especially in outdoor environments, to prevent further incidences.

As firefighters strive to extinguish the blazes across affected regions, the underlying factors contributing to the increased frequency and intensity of these wildfires remain a pressing concern for local communities and environmental advocates alike.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.expressandstar.com/news/2025/04/04/crews-respond-to-significantly-large-fire-near-cannock/> - This article provides information about the significantly large fire at Gentleshaw Common, near Cannock, where multiple fire crews are responding to the blaze. It mentions nearby residents being advised to keep doors and windows closed due to smoke.
2. <https://www.shropshirestar.com/video/2025/04/05/dramatic-moment-massive-raging-blaze-tears-through-west-midlands-beauty-spot/> - This report highlights the dramatic blaze at Gentleshaw Common, detailing damage to vegetation and wildlife. It also mentions concerns about the impact on local wildlife during bird nesting season.
3. <https://www.gov.uk/check-forestry-commission-wildfires> - This link could provide information on how to report wildfires in the UK and general advice on preventing them, although it was not specifically found during the search. Generally, it would support concerns about the spread of wildfires.
4. <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/forecast/guide> - While not directly about wildfires, this Met Office link could provide weather forecasts that are relevant to understanding the dry conditions contributing to the fires across the UK, including warnings about increased fire risks.
5. <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/staffordshire> - This link could provide more detailed information about the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, which is involved in maintaining and preserving areas like Gentleshaw Common, supporting concerns about the fire's impact on local wildlife.
6. <https://www.nature.scot/land-managing-wildfires-scotland> - Although specific to Scotland, this link discusses managing wildfires and could provide context on the general challenges of dealing with such fires in sensitive environmental areas, similar to those experienced in the UK.
7. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/gentleshaw-common-fire-huge-blaze-34999338> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
8. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14573559/images-huge-blaze-wildlife-spot-spreading-rapidly.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data