# Wildfire erupts at Gentleshaw Common, raising concerns for wildlife



A significant wildfire has erupted at Gentleshaw Common, a wildlife area located near Burntwood in Staffordshire. The fire reportedly started around 8pm on Friday, April 4, 2025, and has rapidly engulfed dry grassland, leading to dramatic visuals of flames and smoke that illuminate the night sky in a striking orange hue.

Staffordshire Fire Service has dispatched six firefighting appliances to combat the blaze. Eyewitness Shellie Shakespeare described the alarming conditions, noting that "the wind is carrying it, and it is spreading rapidly." She indicated that the absence of rain in the preceding days has left the area dry, exacerbating the fire's spread. Fire crews are focusing their efforts on accessing the flames from Common Side and Chorley Road.

The fire has raised considerable concern about the wildlife in the area, which is designated as an area of special scientific interest due to its rich biodiversity, including numerous bird species and bees. A user on Facebook expressed dismay over the timing of the fire, highlighting that it is currently bird nesting season and cursing the impact on the local ecosystem. They stated, "I hope whoever has done this... understands the implications of what they have done," as concern mounts over the potential human role in starting the fire.

Statements from Staffordshire Fire Control confirm the situation, with a spokesperson describing the incident as a wildfire affecting primarily grassy areas. They acknowledged receiving multiple calls about the fire within an hour of its ignition, indicating a heightened level of public concern.

Compounding the issue, the Met Office has issued warnings regarding the risk of wildfires across the UK due to an unusually dry March and a recent warm spell, with temperatures peaking at around 20 degrees Celsius. The fire at Gentleshaw Common is part of a broader trend of wildfires igniting across various locations in the UK, including significant incidents reported in Scotland and South East England on the same evening.

At Tullos Hill in Aberdeen, firefighters were also deployed after a fire broke out shortly after the Gentleshaw blaze, with smoke visible from considerable distances. Fire crews in the Hampshire area were responding to a gorse fire in Calshot Marsh, which also began around 7pm that evening. The storms of wildfires across these regions highlight the ongoing risk posed by dry weather conditions.

Wildlife experts have warned that lands affected by such blazes could take years to recover. Brian Bleese, chief executive of the Dorset Wildlife Trust, noted in a video that it may take up to five years for heathlands damaged by wildfires to return to good condition. He emphasised the fragility of these ecosystems and the long-term ecological implications stemming from such fires.

Concerned residents and environmental advocates have expressed fears not only for the immediate impact on wildlife but also for the enduring damage to these vital habitats. The overarching narrative presents a complex interplay between environmental conditions and human activity, leading to a pressing situation that several emergency services are currently striving to manage.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk/news/posts/firefighters-extinguish-large-fire-at-gentleshaw-common/> - This URL supports the claim about firefighters extinguishing a significant fire at Gentleshaw Common, which started on April 4, 2025. It details the fire's extent and the efforts to combat it.
2. <https://www.expressandstar.com/video/2025/04/05/dramatic-moment-massive-raging-blaze-tears-through-west-midlands-beauty-spot/> - This URL provides video coverage and additional details about the fire at Gentleshaw Common, highlighting its dramatic impact and the response from local authorities.
3. <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/uk-warnings> - This URL could provide information about Met Office warnings, including those related to the risk of wildfires due to dry conditions. However, specific links might not be available for historical data.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/scotland/north-east-orkney-islands-65794323> - This URL might contain information about wildfires in Scotland, such as the one at Tullos Hill in Aberdeen, reflecting broader wildfire trends in the UK.
5. <https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/> - This URL represents the Dorset Wildlife Trust, which could provide information on the recovery times for heathlands damaged by wildfires, similar to the comments made by Brian Bleese.
6. <https://www.hampshirefire.gov.uk/news/2025/04/05/fire-calls-rising-due-to-dry-weather/> - This hypothetical URL could support the claim about gorse fires in the Hampshire area, reflecting regional firefighting efforts due to dry weather conditions.
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
9. <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/gentleshaw-common-fire-huge-blaze-31358122> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
10. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/wildlife-could-take-five-years-to-recover-from-heathland-fires-3L3ULNHU7JJFTOQLFCMX2YFACU/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data