# Wildfire erupts in Gentleshaw Common, raising concerns for wildlife



A significant wildfire erupted at Gentleshaw Common, a nature reserve near Burntwood in Staffordshire, at approximately 8pm on Friday, prompting an immediate response from emergency services. The blaze quickly gained intensity, creating a dramatic display of orange flames and dense smoke that illuminated the night sky.

Staffordshire Fire Service deployed six fire appliances to the scene to combat the rapidly spreading fire, with eyewitness Shellie Shakespeare noting that the situation was exacerbated by strong winds and unusually dry conditions in the area. Speaking to BirminghamLive, she expressed concern for the affected wildlife and stated, "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." She added that crews were attempting to access the fire from Common Side and Chorley Road.

The nature reserve, known for its biodiversity and designated as an area of special scientific interest, has raised alarm among local residents. Several social media posts echoed the sentiment of distress regarding the timing of the fire, coinciding with bird nesting season. One Facebook user lamented, “This is heartbreaking…. I hope whoever has done this… understands the implications of what they have done,” while referencing the impact on the wildlife managed by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

The fire service confirmed the fire was primarily affecting dry grassland. A spokeswoman relayed to BirminghamLive: “It’s a wildfire, just grass. We have had quite a lot of calls to it,” emphasising that the first report came in shortly after 8 o'clock that evening. By around 9.30pm, reports indicated that firefighters were making progress in controlling the blaze.

The potential implications for the local ecosystem were further highlighted by concerns from wildlife experts, especially in light of recent warnings from the Met Office about the elevated risk of wildfires due to dry weather across the country. This incident sat within a broader context of multiple fires reported simultaneously in different regions, including gorse fires in Calshot Marsh, Hampshire, and Tullos Hill in Aberdeen, both of which faced escalating conditions as temperatures recently reached highs of up to 20°C this week.

The wider consequences of such wildfires are compounded on wildlife populations and their habitats, with experts indicating recovery could take several years following substantial damage. As fire crews worked tirelessly to contain the situation, speculation persists regarding the fire’s origin, with some suggesting the possibility of deliberate ignition.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service advised the public to avoid the area and keep doors and windows closed to mitigate the smoke's effects. As the fire at Gentleshaw Common generated visual and ecological concern, efforts continued to ensure the safety of nearby residents and the preservation of the affected wildlife.

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 confirms that a significant fire occurred at Gentleshaw Common, prompting a response from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, and advises residents to keep doors and windows closed.
2. <https://www.shropshirestar.com/video/2025/04/05/dramatic-moment-massive-raging-blaze-tears-through-west-midlands-beauty-spot/> - This source provides dramatic footage and description of the fire at Gentleshaw Common Nature Reserve, detailing vegetation damage and potential wildlife harm, while emphasizing the quick response of fire services.
3. <https://www.noahwire.com> - Unfortunately, details about this URL do not provide specific corroboration as it is not related to the content of the search results provided.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/weather> - This could potentially provide information on the weather conditions that might have contributed to the fire, such as dry weather and elevated temperatures, although specific details from the search results are not available.
5. <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/uk-warnings> - The Met Office website can offer warnings and advisories regarding weather conditions conducive to wildfires, such as dry weather, which are relevant to the context of the fire at Gentleshaw Common.
6. <https://www.facebook.com> - Social media platforms like Facebook may contain posts echoing distress and concern about the fire's impact on wildlife during bird nesting season, although specific URLs for these posts are not available.
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