

New Forest Biodiversity Forum

Wildfires, Phenology, and Fire Weather in Dorset and Hampshire

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The heathlands of Dorset and Hampshire sit in a region that is predicted to experience dry and hot summers by 2061. Our heathlands are already amongst the UKs most flammable ecosystems, where fire occurrence has traditionally been driven by plant phenology. In this presentation I will show a range of new information gathered by the UKFDRS team over the last three years, that explores the typically flammability of heathlands in the region throughout the annual cycle and looks at when fires typically occur and under what conditions. We then consider the effects of novel heat wave conditions that are becoming more prevalent in the region and look to estimating the regions changing fire scenarios.