



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

Item 26/24 Appendix G

Fire Station Review

Appendix G: Wildfire Analysis

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Contents

Introduction	4
Wildfire	4
NFCC Wildfire Definition	4
Number of Wildfires by Station Area	5
Number of Pumping Appliance Mobilisations to Wildfires	6
Number of Outdoors Fires by Station Area	7
Number of Pumping Appliance Mobilisations to Outdoor Fires	7
Summary.....	8

Introduction

As part of the consultation process, concerns were raised regarding wildfire risk. In response, this appendix provides an overview of wildfire-related incidents across the station areas under review and considers the extent to which the stations have responded to these incident types as well as providing wider Service figures for context.

Wildfire

In 2025, the UK recorded its highest number of wildfire incidents, surpassing previous records. Local experience within Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) reflects the national trend of increasing outdoor fire, reinforcing the importance of prevention, public education, and strong multi-agency collaboration to reduce both the frequency and impact of wildfires.

NFCC Wildfire Definition

Currently, there is no single definition of what constitutes a wildfire and categorisation varies across different agencies. DWFRS reports any incident which meets one or more of the following National Fire Chiefs Council's (NFCC) Operational Guidance definition of a wildfire:

- Involves a geographical area of at least one hectare (10,000 square metres)
- Requires a committed resource of at least four Fire and Rescue service appliances/resources
- Requires resources to be committed for at least six hours

It should be noted that the numbers below include all wildfires under the definition above and all other outdoor fires as the numbers reported. Recent press reports show high numbers as these are total numbers across the Service, in which any outdoor fires have also been classified as a wildfire for simplicity of public awareness.

Number of Wildfires by Station Area

Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026 DWFRS reported 397 incidents which met the NFCC criteria. The number of these incidents which occurred within the eight station areas being reviewed can be seen in Table 1.

Number of Wildfire Incidents in Station Area over Five Years 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026		
Station	Number of Incidents in Station Area	Percentage of Service Total
Bradford on Avon	2	0.50%
Charmouth	1	0.25%
Cranborne	6	1.51%
Hamworthy	24	6.05%
Maiden Newton	1	0.25%
Mere	2	0.50%
Ramsbury	1	0.25%
Wilton	8	2.02%
Total All Eight Stations	45	11.34%
Service Total	397	

Table 1: Number of wildfire incidents meeting NFCC criteria between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026 within each station area

Of the 397 number of incidents across our Service area, 45 incidents occurred within the station areas of the eight stations under review. This is of 11.34% of all reported wildfire incidents across the five-year period.

Of the 24 wildfire incidents which occurred in Hamworthy station area (Figure 1) the pumping appliance from Hamworthy Fire station was first on scene to two incidents, second on scene for one incident and third on scene for one incident.

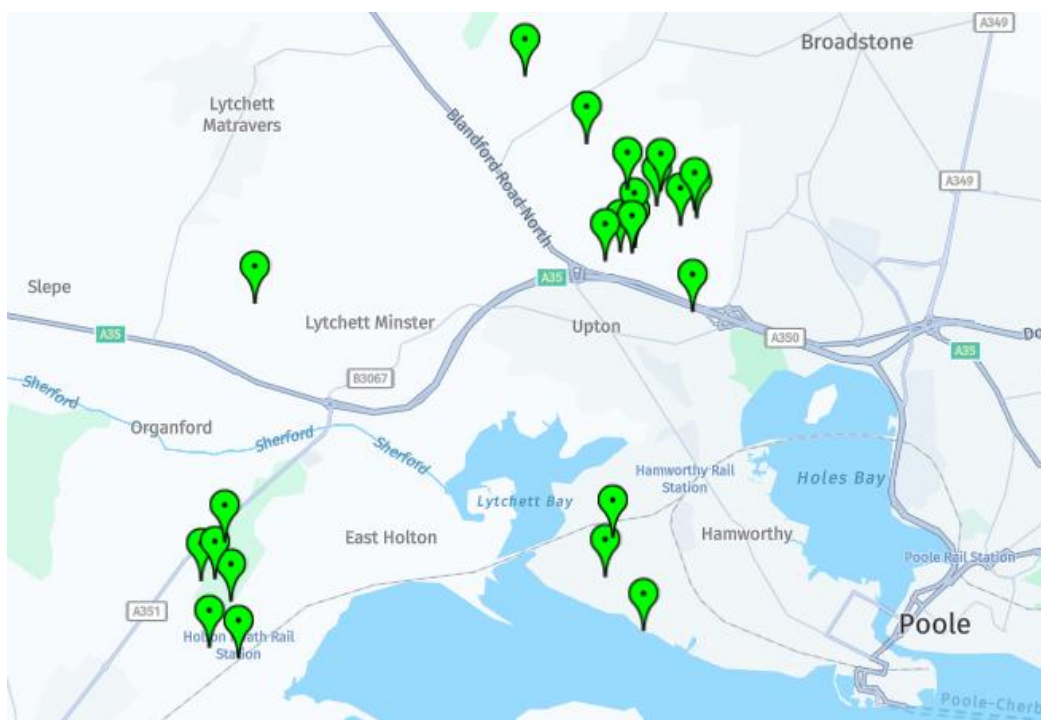


Figure 1: Location of the 24 wildfire incidents within Hamworthy Fire Station area

Number of Pumping Appliance Mobilisations to Wildfires

Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026, pumping appliances were mobilised 2,100 times in response to the 397 incidents which met the NFCC wildfire criteria. The number of mobilisations of pumping appliances from the eight stations being reviewed can be seen in Table 2.

Number of Pumping Appliance Mobilisations to Wildfire Incidents in DWFRS over Five Years		
Station	Number of Incidents in Station Area	Percentage of Service Total
Bradford on Avon	5	0.24%
Charmouth	7	0.33%
Cranborne	7	0.33%
Hamworthy	31	1.48%
Maiden Newton	3	0.14%
Mere	14	0.66%
Ramsbury	1	0.05%
Wilton	16	0.76%
Total All Eight Stations	84	4.00%
Service Total	2,100	

Table 2: Number of pumping appliance mobilisations to wildfire incidents within DWFRS meeting NFCC criteria between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026 within each station area

Of the 2,100 pumping appliance mobilisations across our Service area, 84 were mobilisations of pumping appliances from the eight stations under review. This is a total of 4.00% of all wildfire incidents meeting NFCC criteria across the five-year period.

Number of Outdoors Fires by Station Area

A number of incident types cover outdoors fires, some of which do not meet the NFCC wildfire criteria. The number of outdoor fire incidents which occurred within each station area, between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026, can be seen in Table 3. During this period there were 6,673 outdoor fire incidents within DWFRS.

Number of Outdoor Fire Incidents in Station Area over Five Years					
Station	Fire in the Open Small	Fire in the Open Large	Fire Heathland/ Moorland	Total	Percentage of Service Total
Bradford on Avon	31	1	0	32	0.48%
Charmouth	17	0	0	17	0.25%
Cranborne	15	2	0	17	0.25%
Hamworthy	201	1	35	237	3.55%
Maiden Newton	16	0	0	16	0.24%
Mere	19	1	0	20	0.30%
Ramsbury	18	2	0	20	0.30%
Wilton	47	6	0	53	0.79%
Total All Eight Stations	364	13	35	412	6.17%
Service Total	6,056	197	420	6,673	

Table 3: Number of outdoor fire incidents between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026 within each station area

As can be seen, of the 6,673 number of incidents across our Service area, 412 incidents occurred within the station areas of the eight stations under review. This is a total of 6.17% of all outdoor fire incidents across the five-year period.

Number of Pumping Appliance Mobilisations to Outdoor Fires

The number of mobilisations to outdoor fire incidents within DWFRS by each station's pumping appliance, between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026, can be seen in Table 4. During this period there were 9,275 pumping appliance mobilisations to outdoor fire incidents within DWFRS.

Number of Pumping Appliance Mobilisations to Outdoor Fire Incidents in DWFRS over Five Years					
Station	Fire in the Open Small	Fire in the Open Large	Fire Heathland/ Moorland	Total	Percentage of Service Total
Bradford on Avon	29	2	1	32	0.35%
Charmouth	23	1	4	28	0.30%
Cranborne	10	4	6	20	0.22%
Hamworthy	49	4	38	91	0.98%
Maiden Newton	4	0	3	7	0.08%
Mere	9	4	5	18	0.19%
Ramsbury	1	0	0	1	0.01%
Wilton	33	15	2	50	0.54%
Total All Eight Stations	158	30	59	247	2.66%
Service Total	6,784	686	1,805	9,275	

Table 4: Number of pumping appliance mobilisations to outdoor fire in DWFRS between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026

Across the five-year period the pumping appliances from the eight stations under review were mobilised a total of 247 times to outdoor fires. This is a total of 2.66% of the 9,275 pumping appliance mobilisations over the 5-year period.

Summary

During the period of 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026, there were 397 wildfire incidents across DWFRS. For the eight stations under review, 45 (11.34%) wildfires occurred in total across their respective station areas with Hamworthy having the most at 24 (6.04%) and all other stations under review having 8 or less wildfires each over the five years.

During the review period, there were 2,100 mobilisations of DWFRS pumping appliances to wildfires in the Service area. The stations under review were mobilised 84 times (4.00%) to the wildfire incidents.

Small vehicles (L4T), Water Carriers and the Command Support Vehicle from the eight stations under review have also been mobilised but are not included in this analysis, as these special appliances would be moved to another DWFRS location, should the station it is currently located at be closed.

Of the 6,673 outdoor fires during the review period, 412 (6.17%) occurred within the station areas of the stations under review. Hamworthy had the most outdoor fires with 237 (3.55%) incidents.

There were 9,275 pumping appliance mobilisations to outdoor fires, with the stations under review mobilising to 247 (2.66%) of all outdoor fire incidents.

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