



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

Item 26/24 Appendix I

Fire Station Review

Appendix I: Thatch Analysis

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Introduction

As part of the consultation process, concerns were raised regarding the potential impact on response to thatched properties and the risk associated with thatch fires within local communities. In response, this appendix reviews the number of thatch fire incidents occurring within each station area under review, alongside the total number of thatch fire incidents recorded across Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS). The analysis includes incidents where the station under review was mobilised either as part of the initial emergency response or subsequently as a relief crew, providing a fuller understanding of operational involvement and response patterns. For the purposes of this analysis, thatch fires include any incident attended by DWFRS involving either a fire within a thatched roof or a chimney fire affecting a thatched property.

Thatch Fires

Number of Thatch Fires by Station Area

The number of thatch fire incidents which occurred within each station area, between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026, can be seen in Table 1. During this period there were 54 thatch fires within DWFRS.

Number of Thatch Fires 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	0	0.00%
Charmouth	0	0.00%
Cranborne	1	1.85%
Hamworthy	0	0.00%
Maiden Newton	1	1.85%
Mere	0	0.00%
Ramsbury	0	0.00%
Wilton	1	1.85%
Total All Eight Stations	3	5.56%
Service Total	54	

Table 1: Number of thatch fires between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026 within each station area

Number of Thatch Fires Attended by Stations

The number of mobilisations to thatch fire incidents within DWFRS by each station's pumping appliance, between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026, can be seen in Table 2. During this period there were 659 pumping appliance mobilisations to thatch fires within DWFRS.

Number of Pumping Appliance Mobilisations to Thatch Fires in DWFRS over Five Years 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026		
Station	Number of Appliance Mobilisations	Percentage of Service Total
Bradford on Avon	4	0.60%
Charmouth	4	0.60%
Cranborne	5	0.76%
Hamworthy	4	0.60%
Maiden Newton	1	0.15%
Mere	11	1.67%
Ramsbury	0	0.00%
Wilton	9	1.37%
Total All Eight Stations	38	5.77%
Service Total	659	

Table 2: Number of pumping appliance mobilisations to thatch fires in DWFRS between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026

Water Carrier Mobilisations to Thatch Fires

Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026, Wilton's water carrier was mobilised seven times to thatch fires within DWFRS. This equated to 26.92% of DWFRS water carrier mobilisations to thatch fires.

Summary

Of the 54 thatch fires that have occurred across the Service area during the review period of 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026, only three have occurred in station areas under review, equating to 5.56% of all thatch incidents. No station area under review has had more than one thatch fire during this time.

The 54 thatch fires across the Service area required 659 pumping appliance mobilisations in total with the eight stations under review providing 38 of these mobilisations equating to 5.77% of total mobilisations to thatch fires.

Low demand and low response mobilisations to thatch fires by the stations under review indicate that thatch fires occur more frequently in other areas of the Service and are generally dealt with by resources from other stations.

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