



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Application for burning contrary to The Heather and Grass etc. Burning (Wales) Regulations 2008

This form must be used to apply for a licence to burn contrary to Regulation 6(1) of the Heather and Grass etc. Burning (Wales) Regulations 2008 (see page 4 of the Heather & Grass Burning Code 2008 at www.wales.gov.uk/countryside, navigate to 'farming' or alternatively search for Heather and Grass Burning on the Welsh Assembly Government website).

Licences may be issued to allow burning outside the permitted burning season or in other situations. We will only issue licences in exceptional circumstances where we are of the opinion that burning is necessary and expedient for (i) the conservation, enhancement or management of the natural environment, or (ii) the safety of any person.

Applications must be received by the Welsh Assembly Government at least 28 days before you wish to burn. For burning outside the burning season you cannot apply more than 56 days before you wish to burn. For burning during the burning season, you cannot apply until the end of the previous burning season. You must await receipt of a licence before burning.

If a licence is issued by the Welsh Ministers it is still illegal to burn heather, grass, gorse, bracken or vaccinium on any land;

- (i) between sunset and sunrise,
- (ii) without sufficient persons and equipment, and
- (iii) without precautions to prevent injury or damage to any adjacent land, or to any person or thing on that land.

1. Your details

Name: [Redacted: Agent 2] or [Redacted: Agent], For and behalf of the Wynnstay Home Farm Partnership who have subsequently re-let the Moor to the Ruabon Moor Syndicate

Address: C/o The Wynnstay Home Farm Office, Unit 1, Rose Hill, Erbistock, Wrexham, LL13 0DE

Telephone: [Redacted: Agent 2]

Mobile: [Redacted: Agent 2]

What is your interest in the land to be burnt? (e.g. landowner, gamekeeper, farm tenant)

Agent for and behalf of the The Wynnstay Home Farm Partnership

2. Landowners details (if different from above)

Name: The Wynnstay Home Farm Partnership

Address: As Above

Telephone: As Above

3. Specify the land you wish to burn, and attach a map to this application form

Location: Map included – for areas to be burnt on Ruabon/Llantysilio Mountain.

County Parish Holding (CPH) No: N/A

OS Grid Ref:

Total Hectarage:

4. Is any of the land to be burnt:

- (i) within a National Park? NO.
- (ii) within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty? NO.
- (iii) within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) YES.
- (iv) within a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) YES.
- (v) within a Special Protection Area (SPA) NO.
- (vi) subject to an agri-environment agreement? See Below.
- (vii) near a Scheduled Monument NO.

If yes to any of these please provide further details below or attach further information

Ruabon Mountain and the areas to be burnt sit within both a SAC and a SSSI. These landscapes are managed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Though there is no agri-environment agreement the owner (the Wynnstay Home Farm Partnership) has a Management Agreement with the NRW under Section 15 of the Countryside Act 1968. Copy available upon request. The land is also Registered Common Land, but this historically has had no bearing on the ability to burn heather on the land in question.

5. Describe the soil type and vegetation to be burnt

Soil type(s): Peat NO. Mineral YES.

Vegetation type(s):

Upland heather moorland	YES	Upland grass moorland	NO
Lowland heathland	NO	Lowland grassland	NO
Bog or mire	NO	Gorse	NO
Bracken	NO	Other (specify below)	N/a

6. Specify the dates you wish to burn (dd/mm/yy)

First day of burning: Last day of burning:

7. Specify (i) the purpose of the burn; (ii) why it contravenes Regulation 6(1); and (iii) why it is necessary and expedient for the conservation, enhancement or management of the natural environment, or the safety of any person.

Purpose

There has been another significant inundation of Heather Beetle (*Lochmaea suturalis*) on the areas denoted as requiring burning outside the usual burning window. Though the cause of the inundation is difficult to assess (it is presumed that damp and generally warm conditions in the spring have created ideal conditions for the ruddy pest) it is very obvious to see large swathes of heather turning the all familiar “brick red” indicating their presence and the concern of dying heather.

It is widely accepted (following the excellent work of the Heather Trust) that burning the affected areas is the best mechanism to prevent the spread and respond to the Beetle. In Scotland and England such applications are these are widely approved on account of the presence of the Beetle in the name of preservation and conservation. The NRW have noted the issue, seen the problem and verbally advised that they would support this application.

Why the Contravention?

We require to Burn upland heather over dry-heath in September, which falls outside the usual burning window.

Why is it necessary

For the continued preservation of Ruabon Mountain’s natural heather habitat.

8. Explain briefly how the burn is to be conducted, or attach a method specification

The Burn will be overseen by the Ruabon Moor Syndicate, in conjunction with the Head Gamekeeper- [Redacted: Keeper] who will run a small burning team of 4-5 people. The burning team are well experienced with managing moorland burns.

The Burns are completed in small sections. The wind direction is assessed. Depending on the direction three cuts around the section to be burnt are taken, which in-turn act a buffer zone to prevent any fire taking beyond the relevant section. Once cut the section is lit using a 2.5kg gas bottles and the line of the burn is controlled by the team using burning shovels.

As a precaution the Fire Brigade are informed about when the burns take place, along with any statutory body.

9. Declaration

I make this application in the manner required by the Heather & Grass etc. Burning (Wales) Regulations 2008. I agree to burn in accordance with the terms of any licence granted under these Regulations.

Signature Date

This form should now be sent to your local Department for Rural Affairs, Divisional Office

Reference number: