



## Grassland fires, 2019-20

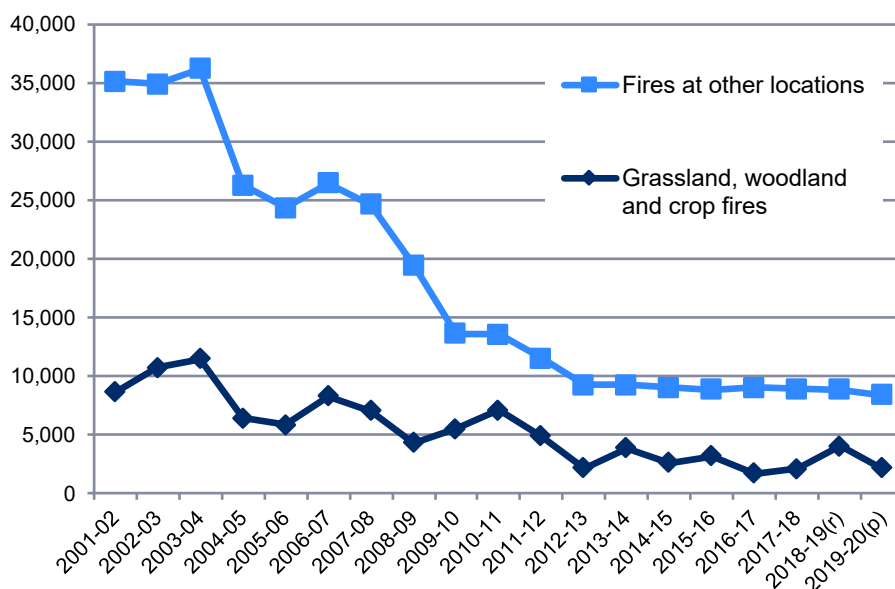
18 February 2021  
SB 5/2021

Almost one in five attendances by a Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) at fires or false alarms in 2019-20 were grassland, woodland or crop related.



The Welsh FRAs attended 2,189 grassland, woodland and crop fires in 2019-20, a fall of 45% compared with 2018-19. The number of these fires is prone to fluctuation and the 2019-20 figure continues a period of instability in these numbers.

**Chart 1: Numbers of fires on grassland, woodland and crops and other locations**



(r) Revised data  
(p) Provisional data

- In 2019-20, over three quarters of fires on grassland, woodland and crops were started deliberately. ([Table 4](#))
- Over half the grassland, woodland and crop fires in 2019-20 occurred in the months April and May 2019. Met Office weather data shows some of the highest levels of sunshine and lowest levels of rainfall occurred in these months in 2019-20. ([Table 5](#)).

### About this bulletin

This bulletin is complementary to data on [fire incidents](#) published in November 2020. It examines the impact and patterns in grassland, woodland and crop fires in the financial years 2001-02 to 2019-20, where data for 2019-20 are currently provisional. The Welsh Government compiles these statistics from reports submitted by all three Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) in Wales to the Home Office.

### In this bulletin

<a href="#">Fires</a>	4
<a href="#">Fires by motive</a>	11
<a href="#">Fires by month</a>	13
<a href="#">Fires by FRA</a>	16
<a href="#">Casualties</a>	21
<a href="#">Area damaged</a>	22
<a href="#">Source and cause</a>	23
<a href="#">Calendar year data</a>	25
<a href="#">Glossary</a>	28
<a href="#">Key quality information</a>	30

## Contents – Tables and charts

Chart 1: Numbers of fires on grassland, woodland and crops and other locations .....	1
<b>Section 1: Fires .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Table 1: Number of grassland, woodland and crop fires and fire false alarms, by incident type ..	4
Chart 2: Number of fires attended by Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales, by location .....	5
Chart 3: Number of grassland, woodland and crop fires, by type.....	6
Table 2: Number of primary grassland, woodland and crop fires, by location .....	8
Chart 4: Number of primary grassland, woodland and crop fires, by location .....	8
Table 3: Number of secondary grassland, woodland and crop fires, by location .....	10
Chart 5: Number of secondary grassland, woodland and crop fires, by location.....	10
Chart 6: Grassland, woodland and crop fires by motive.....	11
Table 4: Number and percentage of grassland, woodland and crop fires, by motive .....	12
Chart 7: Grassland, woodland and crop fires by fire type and motive, 2019-20.....	12
Table 5: Number and percentage of grassland, woodland and crop fires, by month .....	13
Chart 8: Number of grassland, woodland and crop fires, by month .....	14
Chart 9: Number of grassland, woodland and crop fires and rainfall levels, by month, 2019-20	15
Chart 10: Numbers of grassland, woodland and crop fires and hours of sunshine, by month, 2019-20 .....	15
Table 6: Number and percentage of grassland, woodland and crop fires, by Fire and Rescue Authority .....	16
Chart 11: Number of grassland, woodland and crop fires, by Fire and Rescue Authority and Local Authority 2019-20.....	17
Chart 12: Numbers of grassland, woodland and crop fires by local authority and motive, 2019-20.....	18
Table 7: Number of grassland, woodland and crop fire false alarms, by Fire and Rescue Authority .....	20
Chart 13: Number of grassland, woodland and crop related fire false alarms, by Fire and Rescue Authority .....	20
<b>Section 2: Casualties from grassland, woodland and crop fires .....</b>	<b>21</b>
Table 8: Number of casualties and rescues from grassland, woodland and crop fires .....	21
<b>Section 3: Area of damage caused by grassland, woodland and crop fires .....</b>	<b>22</b>
Table 9 Number and percentage of grassland woodland and crop fires by area damaged .....	22
<b>Section 4: Source of ignition and cause of grassland, woodland and crop fires.....</b>	<b>23</b>
Chart 14: Percentage of primary grassland, woodland and crop fires, 2015-16 to 2019-20, by source of ignition.....	23
Chart 15: Percentage of accidental primary grassland, woodland and crop fires, 2015-16 to 2019-20, by main cause .....	24

<b>Section 5: Additional analysis - Calendar year data .....</b>	<b>25</b>
Table 10: Numbers of fires and fire false alarms and numbers which are grassland, woodland and crop related – calendar year .....	25
Chart 16: Numbers of grassland, woodland and crop fires by fire and rescue authority – calendar year .....	25
Chart 17: Grassland, woodland and crop fires - comparing calendar year data with financial year .....	26
Table 11: Analysis of grassland, woodland and crop fires at Easter .....	27
<b>Glossary.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Key quality information .....</b>	<b>30</b>

## Section 1: Fires

Fires are classed as primary, secondary or chimney fires.

**Primary fires** include:

- any fire in a non-derelict buildings, vehicle, or outdoor structures
- any fire involving casualties or rescues
- any fire attended by five or more appliances.

**Secondary fires** are mainly outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, or are attended by five or more appliances. They include fires in single derelict buildings, derelict road vehicles and derelict outdoor structures.

For the definition of chimney fires please see the [Glossary](#).

**Grassland, woodland and crop** locations include primary fires in allotments, gardens, crops, woods and other agricultural locations, and secondary fires on heathland and as a result of intentional straw and stubble burning, as well as fires on grassland.

This section looks at the total number of grassland, woodland and crop fires that occurred as well as the total number of fires attended which includes fire-related false alarms. Numbers of grassland, woodland and crop fire related false alarms are not available prior to 2009-10.

Table 1 shows that Welsh FRAs attended 24,842 fires and fire false alarms in 2019-20. Of these, 12% or 3,005 (including 816 fire false alarms) related to grassland, woodland and crop locations. In 2019-20 attendances at grassland, woodland and crop fires and fire false alarms fell by 42% compared with 2018-19 and by 66% compared with 2010-11.

**Table 1: Number of grassland, woodland and crop fires and fire false alarms, by incident type**

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19(r)	2019-20(p)
Primary fires	4,678	4,757	4,316	4,392	4,277
<i>of which were grassland, woodland and crops</i>	118	71	68	253	112
Secondary fires	6,998	5,576	6,301	8,184	5,978
<i>of which were grassland, woodland and crops</i>	3,097	1,645	2,024	3,761	2,077
<b>All fires (a)</b>	<b>12,108</b>	<b>10,750</b>	<b>11,023</b>	<b>12,911</b>	<b>10,585</b>
<b><i>of which were grassland, woodland and crop fires</i></b>	<b>3,215</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>2,092</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>2,189</b>
Fire false alarms	14,493	14,790	14,161	14,485	14,257
<i>Fire false alarms with location recorded as grassland, woodland or crops</i>	1,113	872	778	1,139	816
<b>All fires and fire false alarms</b>	<b>26,601</b>	<b>25,540</b>	<b>25,184</b>	<b>27,396</b>	<b>24,842</b>
<b><i>of which grassland, woodland and crop fires and fire false alarms</i></b>	<b>4,328</b>	<b>2,588</b>	<b>2,870</b>	<b>5,153</b>	<b>3,005</b>

(a) Includes chimney fires.

(r) Revised data.

(p) Provisional data.

**Fire false alarms:** 6% of fire false alarms relate to grassland, woodland and crop locations. The majority (97%) of the fire false alarms attended in 2019-20 by the FRAs on grassland, woodland and crops were due to calls made with good intent; only 3% were due to malicious calls. In 2019-20 FRAs in Wales attended 28% fewer fire false alarms on grassland, woodland and crops than in the previous year.

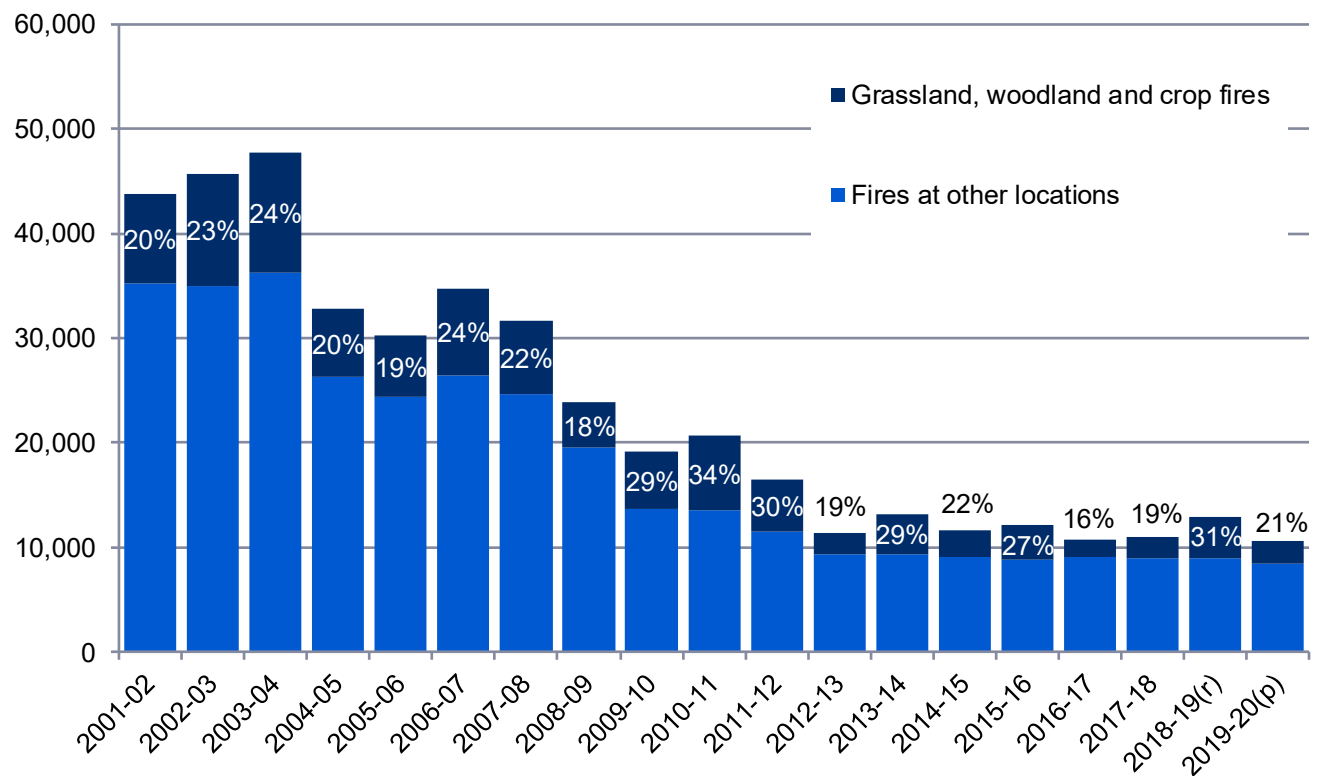
**Fires:** Of the 10,585 fires attended in Wales, 2,189 (21%) occurred on grassland, woodland and crops. Whilst only 3% of all primary fires took place on grassland, woodland or crops, 35% of secondary fires occurred on grassland, woodland or crops.

In 2019-20, the number of grassland, woodland and crop fires (excluding fire false alarms) attended by the Welsh FRAs decreased by 45% compared with 2018-19 although this follows the highest figure since 2011-12. Compared with 2001-02, the 2019-20 figure is 75% lower and 81% lower than the peak figure from 2003-04. In recent years (since 2012-13) numbers had decreased and increased in alternate years; 2018-19 saw the second annual increase in a row, bucking this trend but numbers in 2019-20 again decreased.

Numbers of fires in locations other than grassland, woodland and crops fell by 6% compared with 2018-19. Overall since 2001-02 they have fallen by 76%. Charts 1 and 2 show how the number of fires (and of those, grassland, woodland and crop fires) varies each year.

Chart 2 shows the proportion of fires attended which occurred on grassland, woodland or crops, since 2001-02. During this period the proportion of fires occurring on grassland, woodland and crops range from a low of 16% (in 2016-17) up to 34% (in 2010-11).

**Chart 2: Number of fires attended by Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales, by location**



(r) Revised data

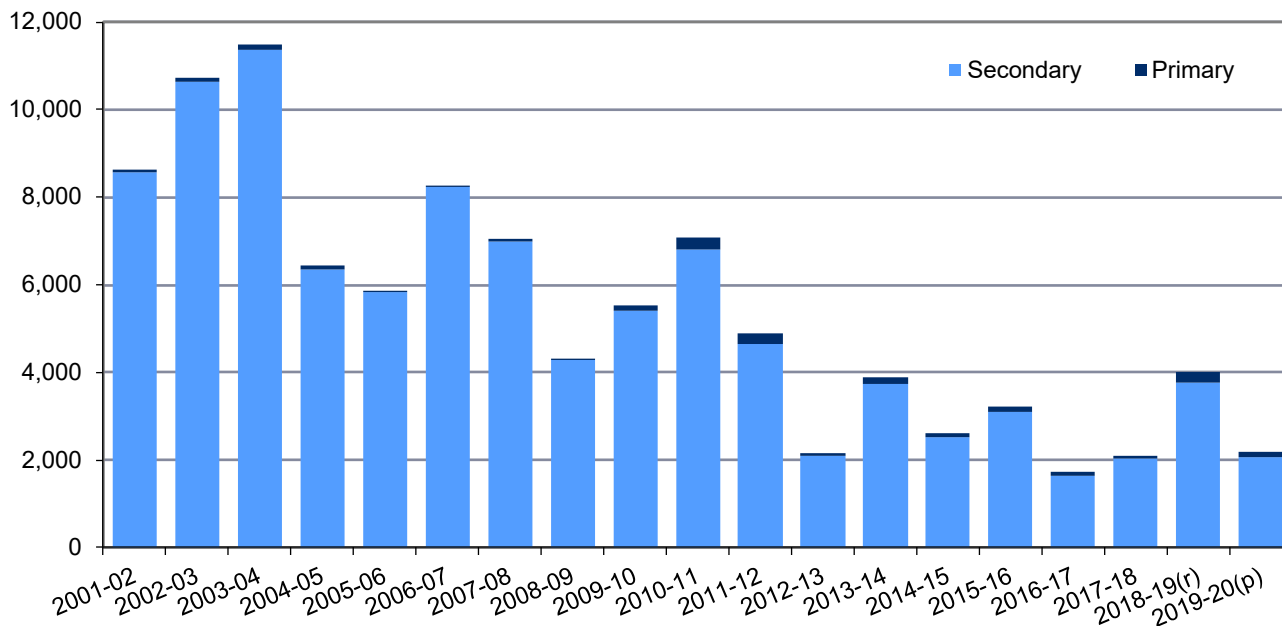
(p) Provisional data

Chart 3 shows the vast majority of grassland, woodland and crop fires attended are secondary fires (between 94 and 99% each year since 2001-02), and further shows the fluctuations in numbers. By definition, the majority of

secondary fires occur outdoors and so numbers of these fires are likely to be influenced by weather conditions. For instance, in 2019-20 there were 35% fewer grassland fires compared with the average for the last ten years, whilst there was slightly less sunshine and 22% more rainfall compared with the same period.

However the annual weather data cannot explain all the fluctuations; rainfall in 2016-17 was relatively low (being 14% lower than the average over the period, and even lower than levels seen in 2003-04) and yet the number of grassland fires is the lowest (for the time period). The relationship between these fires and the weather is considered further in charts 7 and 8, utilising monthly data.

**Chart 3: Number of grassland, woodland and crop fires, by type**

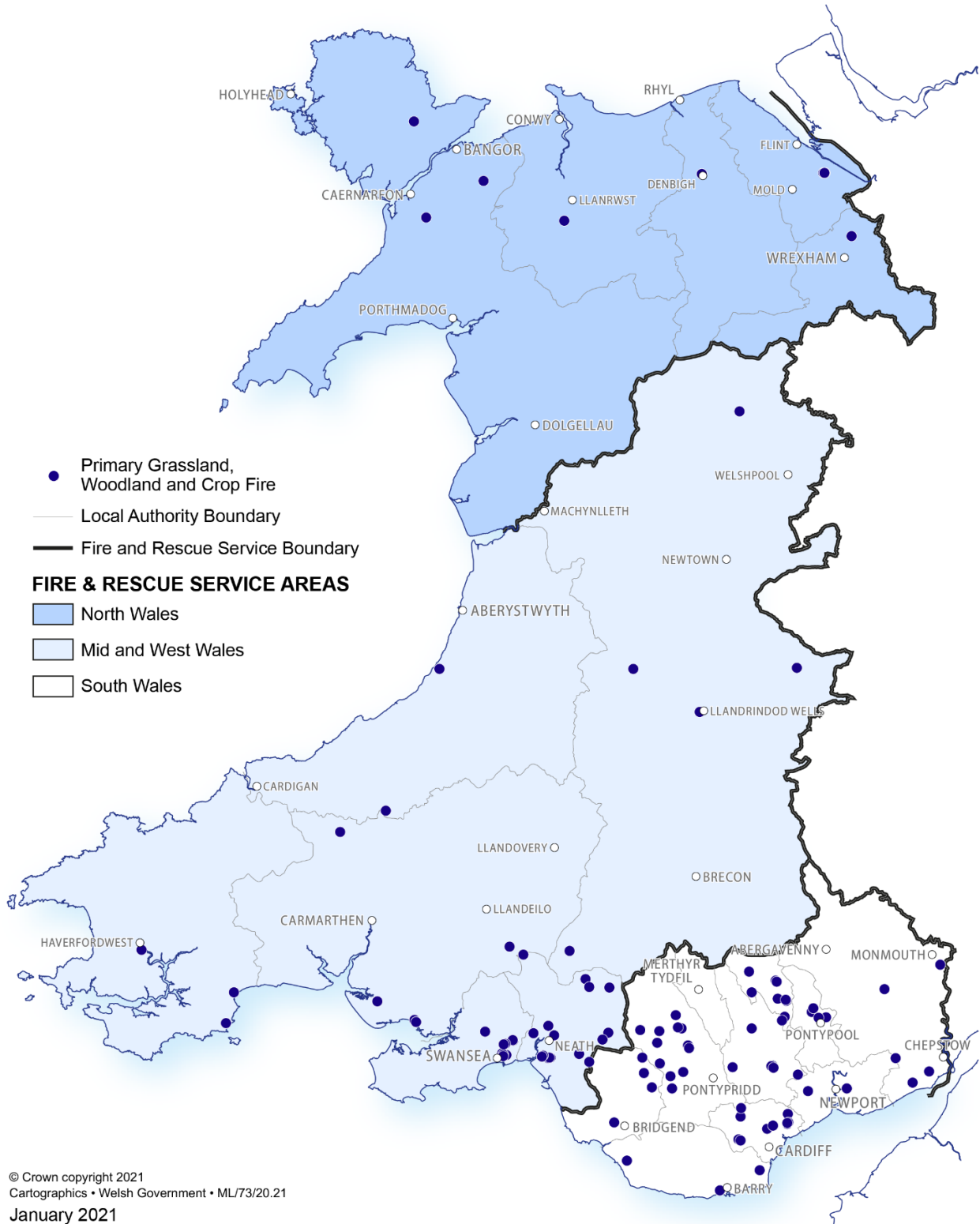


(r) Revised data.  
(p) Provisional data.

**Primary grassland, woodland and crop fires**

In 2019-20, 112 primary grassland, woodland and crop fires were attended in Wales, and their locations are shown on the map on the following page. Over half the primary grassland fires in 2019-20 occurred in the South Wales FRA Region and 39% were in Mid and West Wales. The remaining 10% were in North Wales.

# Grassland, Woodland and Crop Primary Fires across Wales, 2019-20



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 January 2021



Data mapped above are based on grid references; see the Key Quality Information for further details.

Only 3% of all primary fires occurred on grassland, woodland or crops. There were fewer than half as many primary fires on grassland, woodland and crops in 2019-20 as in the previous year although the 2018-19 figure was the highest number since 2011-12<sup>1</sup>. All categories of primary grassland fires saw decreases.

There were 76 primary fires in woodland (68% of primary grassland fires) in 2019-20, around a similar proportion was seen in 2018-19; however there were over 100 fewer woodland fires in 2019-20.

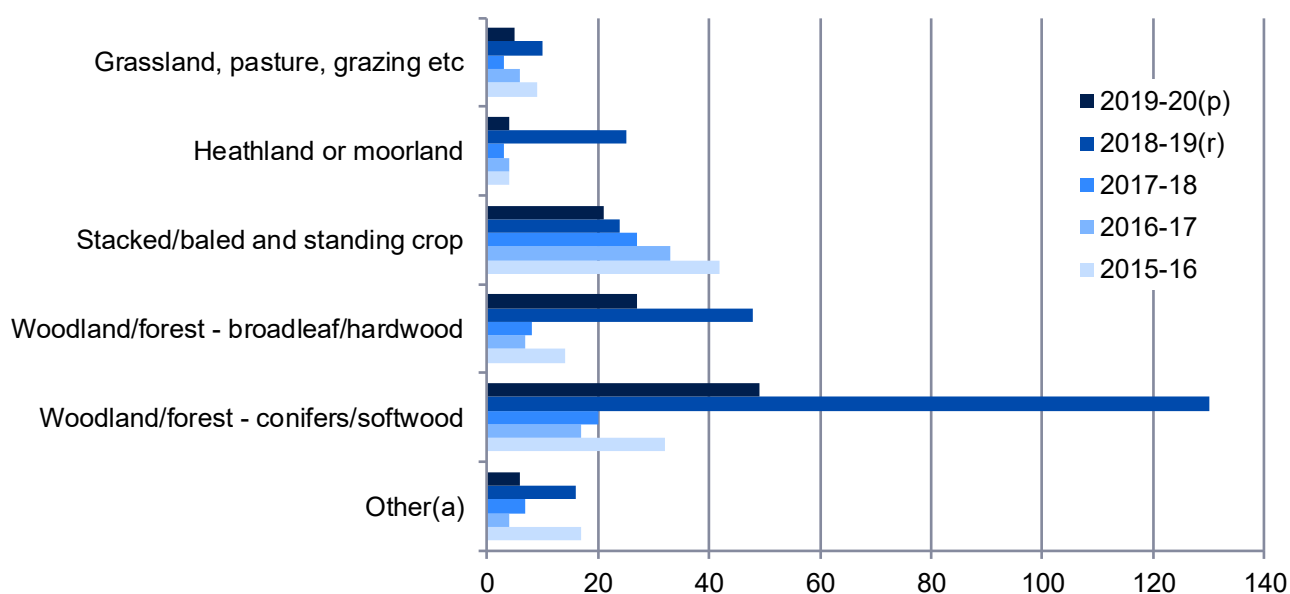
**Table 2: Number of primary grassland, woodland and crop fires, by location**

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19(r)	2019-20(p)
Grassland, pasture, grazing etc	9	6	3	10	5
Heathland or moorland	4	4	3	25	4
Stacked/baled and standing crop	42	33	27	24	21
Woodland/forest - broadleaf/hardwood	14	7	8	48	27
Woodland/forest - conifers/softwood	32	17	20	130	49
Other (a)	17	4	7	16	6
<b>All primary grassland, woodland and crop fires</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>112</b>

(a) Domestic gardens, hedge, nurseries and market gardens, roadside vegetation, scrub land and tree scrub.

(p) Provisional data.

**Chart 4: Number of primary grassland, woodland and crop fires, by location**



(a) 'Other' shown in the above chart includes domestic gardens, hedge, nurseries and market gardens, roadside vegetation, scrub land and tree scrub.

(p) Provisional data.

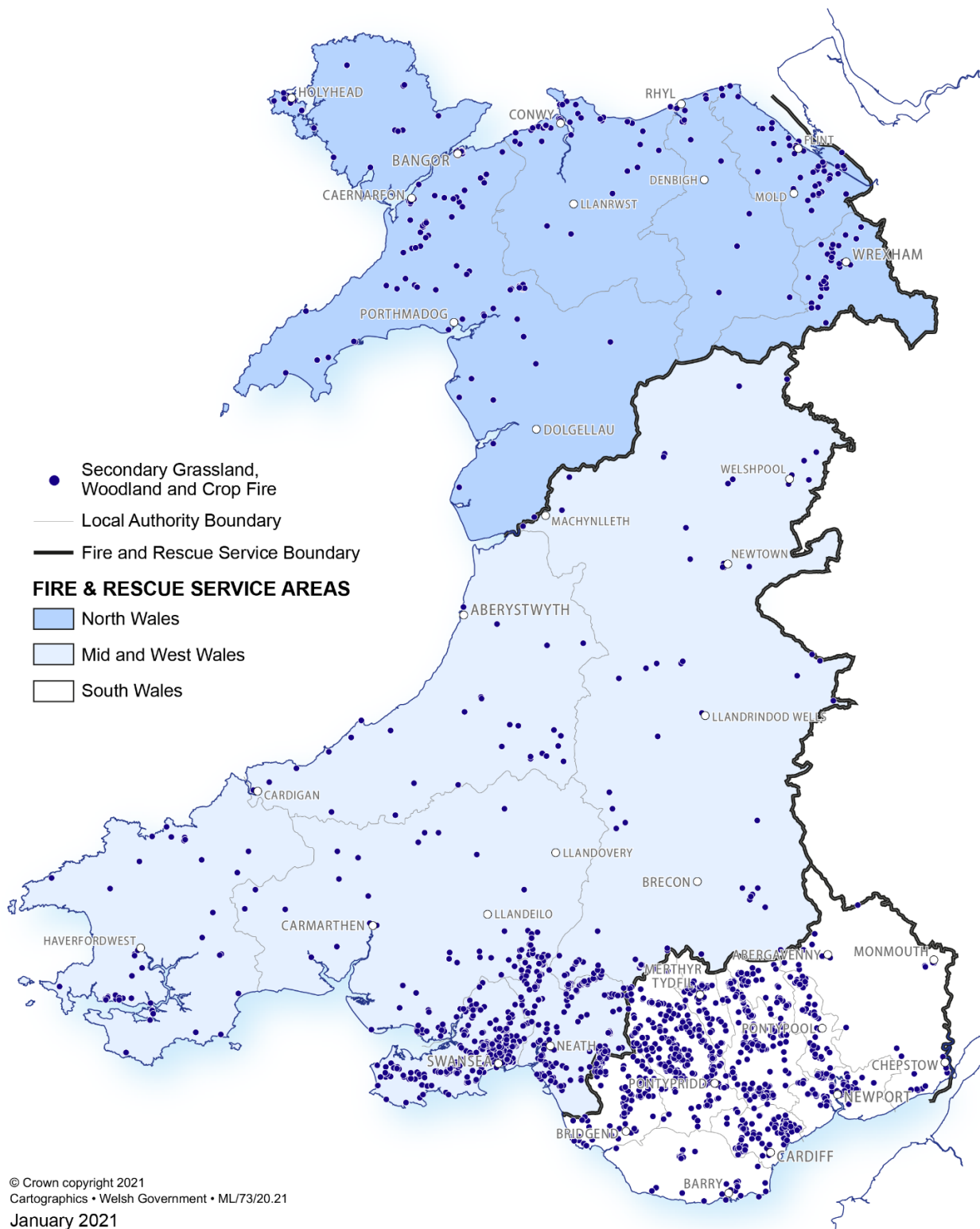
## Secondary grassland, woodland and crop fires

In 2019-20 there were 2,077 secondary grassland, woodland and crop fires in Wales; the map on the next page shows their locations. Half the number of secondary grassland fires in 2019-20 occurred in the South Wales FRA region, whilst 37% occurred in Mid and West Wales and 13% in North Wales.

<sup>1</sup> More data are available on [StatsWales](#) and the accompanying [Excel tables](#)



# Grassland, Woodland and Crop Secondary Fires across Wales, 2019-20



Data mapped above are based on grid references; see the [Key Quality Information](#) for further details.

Of all secondary fires that were reported in Wales in 2019-20, grassland, woodland and crop fires accounted for 35%. Overall, in 2019-20, secondary fires on grassland fell by 45% compared with the previous year.

All location types in the table below saw a decrease in the number of these fires; the largest percentage decrease occurred in roadside vegetation (63%), followed by canal and riverbank vegetation at 62%. Grassland, pasture, grazing etc. saw the largest decrease in numbers (725 fewer fires than in the previous year). In 2019-20, 60% of secondary grassland, woodland and crop fires occurred on either 'grassland, pasture, grazing etc.' or scrub land; these are consistently the two largest categories across the time series, accounting for between 56% and 64% each year since 2009-10.

**Table 3: Number of secondary grassland, woodland and crop fires, by location**

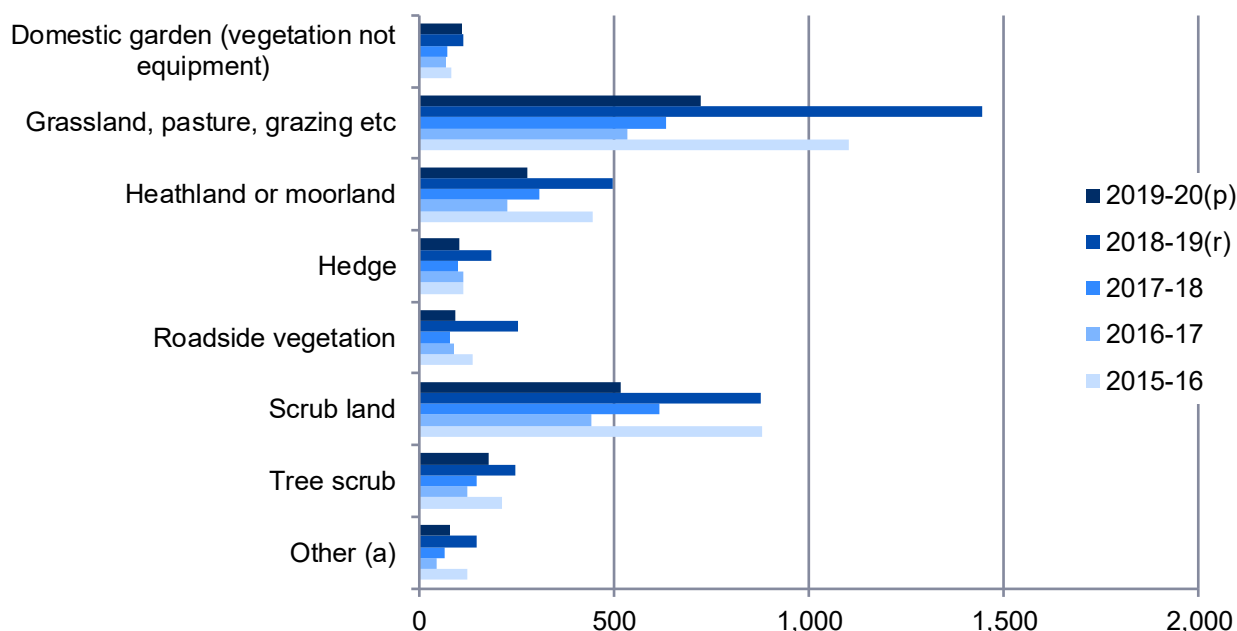
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19(r)	2019-20(p)
Canal/riverbank vegetation	40	17	30	74	28
Domestic garden (vegetation not equipment)	83	70	72	113	109
Grassland, pasture, grazing etc	1,103	535	635	1,446	721
Heathland or moorland	446	225	310	495	276
Hedge	112	113	100	184	102
Roadside vegetation	138	91	80	253	94
Scrub land	879	441	615	875	517
Tree scrub	213	124	147	246	179
Other (a)	83	29	35	75	51
<b>All secondary grassland, woodland and crop fires</b>	<b>3,097</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>2,024</b>	<b>3,761</b>	<b>2,077</b>

(a) Nurseries, market gardens, stacked/baled crop, woodland/forest - broadleaf/hardwood, woodland/forest - conifers/softwood, railway trackside vegetation and straw/stubble burning.

(r) Revised data

(p) Provisional data.

**Chart 5: Number of secondary grassland, woodland and crop fires, by location**



(a) 'Other' as shown in the above chart includes 'woodland/forest - broadleaf/hardwood' and 'woodland/forest - conifers/softwood', 'nurseries and market garden', 'stacked and baled crop', canal/riverbank vegetation, railway trackside vegetation.

(r) Revised data

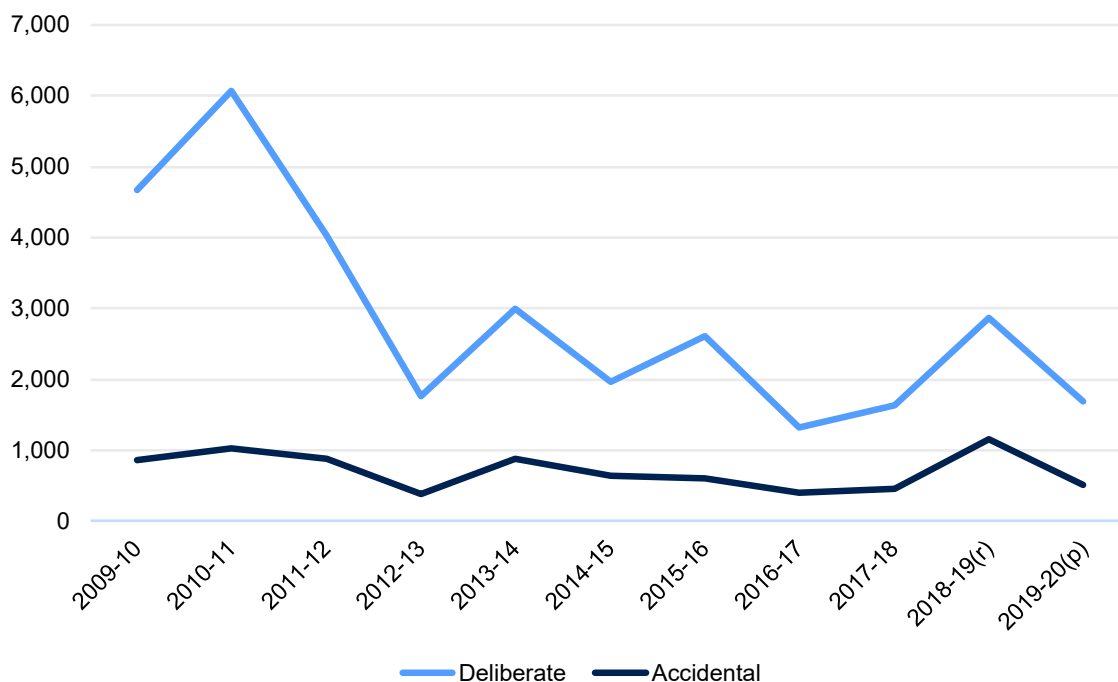
(p) Provisional data.

## Grassland, woodland and crop fires by motive

Since the introduction of the Incident Recording System (IRS) in April 2009 for collecting FRA incident data, greater detail relating to secondary fires has been recorded. This allows us to show a time series by motive from this date for all grassland, woodland and crop fires where previously only data for primary fires were available.

The chart below illustrates how much more fluctuation there is in the time series for deliberate fires than accidental fires. However we can also note that peaks and troughs, while less marked in the accidental time series, often mirror those in the deliberate fires time series. This could imply the effects of the weather, land management strategies and fire prevention work on all grassland fires.

**Chart 6: Grassland, woodland and crop fires by motive**



Over three quarters of grassland, woodland and crop fires were deliberate in 2019-20, a similar proportion to previous years. Numbers of deliberate grassland fires fell by 41% compared with 2018-19, whilst numbers of accidental grassland fires fell by 56%.

In 2019-20 there were 1,686 deliberate grassland, woodland and crop fires in Wales, almost 1,200 fewer than in 2018-19. There were 503 accidental grassland, woodland and crop fires.

For both deliberate and accidental fires occurring on grassland, woodland and crops, the vast majority were secondary fires; 95% of deliberate grassland fires and 94% of accidental grassland fires were secondary.

There were 1,605 deliberate secondary grassland, woodland and crop fires in 2019-20, making up 73% of all grassland woodland and crop fires in the year.

**Table 4: Number and percentage of grassland, woodland and crop fires, by motive**

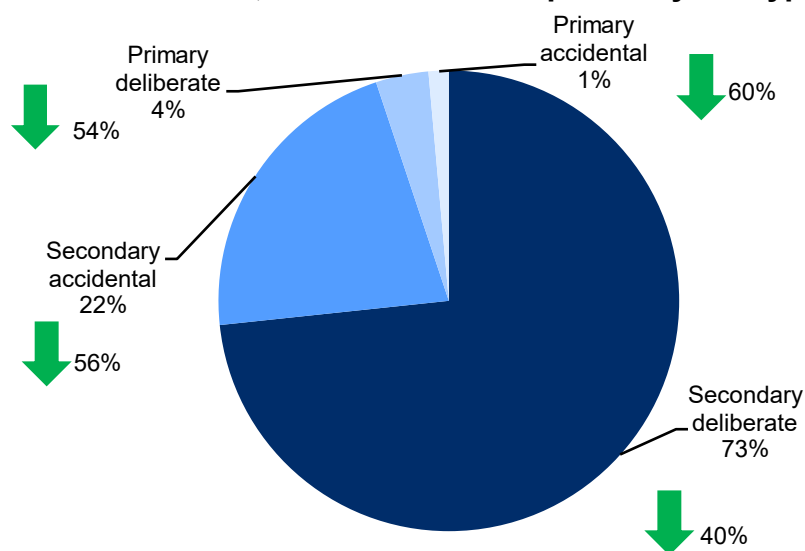
	Number			Percentage		
	Deliberate	Accidental	All	Deliberate	Accidental	All
<b>Primary fires</b>						
2015-16	85	33	118	72	28	100
2016-17	48	23	71	68	32	100
2017-18	48	20	68	71	29	100
2018-19(r)	176	77	253	70	30	100
2019-20(p)	81	31	112	72	28	100
<b>Secondary fires</b>						
2015-16	2,518	579	3,097	81	19	100
2016-17	1,270	375	1,645	77	23	100
2017-18	1,588	436	2,024	78	22	100
2018-19(r)	2,686	1,075	3,761	71	29	100
2019-20(p)	1,605	472	2,077	77	23	100
<b>All fires</b>						
2015-16	2,603	612	3,215	81	19	100
2016-17	1,318	398	1,716	77	23	100
2017-18	1,636	456	2,092	78	22	100
2018-19(r)	2,862	1,152	4,014	71	29	100
2019-20(p)	1,686	503	2,189	77	23	100

(r) Revised data

(p) Provisional data.

Accidental secondary grassland fires made up 22% of all grassland, woodland and crop fires in 2019-20 and decreased by 56% to 472.

**Chart 7: Grassland, woodland and crop fires by fire type and motive, 2019-20**



Of the 503 accidental (primary and secondary) grassland, woodland and crop fires in 2019-20, 28% occurred on grassland, pasture, grazing etc. and 20% on heathland and moorland. There were 1,686 deliberate (primary and secondary) grassland, woodland and crop fires in 2019-20, 35% of which occurred on grassland, pasture, grazing etc. and 27% on scrub land.

## Grassland, woodland and crop fires by month

The majority of grassland, woodland and crop fires take place in the spring and summer months. April 2019 recorded the highest proportion (32%) of grassland fires for the financial year 2019-20 and there were more than 3 times as many compared with April 2018 (when there had been relatively few grassland fires).

May saw a fifth of the grassland fires in 2019-20 and 17% occurred in March.

**Table 5: Number and percentage of grassland, woodland and crop fires, by month**

	Number					Percentage				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19(r)	2019-20(p)	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
April	1,486	400	803	202	690	46	23	38	5	32
May	275	302	482	401	427	9	18	23	10	20
June	284	159	146	537	83	9	9	7	13	4
July	163	109	215	1,862	325	5	6	10	46	15
August	116	148	81	233	96	4	9	4	6	4
September	130	52	36	96	103	4	3	2	2	5
October	105	84	44	103	15	3	5	2	3	1
November	13	81	37	61	16	0	5	2	2	1
December	12	33	18	13	18	0	2	1	0	1
January	13	32	29	26	13	0	2	1	1	1
February	112	45	133	190	35	3	3	6	5	2
March	506	271	68	290	368	16	16	3	7	17
<b>Total fires</b>	<b>3,215</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>2,092</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(r) Revised data

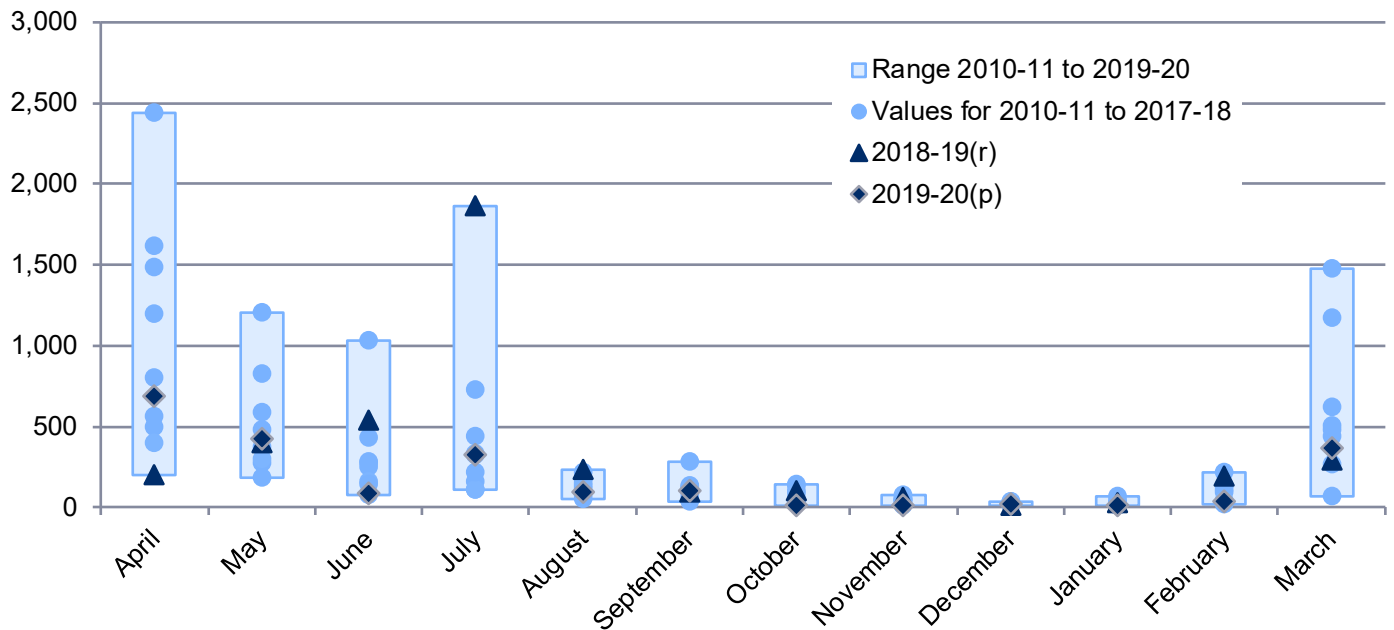
(p) Provisional data.

Five months of 2019-20 saw increases in numbers of grassland, woodland and crop fires compared with the previous year. The largest decreases were seen October, June, July and February, all of which saw reductions of more than 80%.

On average there were 23 grassland fires each day in April 2019, compared with 7 each day in April 2018. In July 2018 there were on average 60 grassland fires a day, in July 2019 this fell to an average of 10 a day.

Chart 8 identifies the grassland, woodland and crop fire data in 2019-20 and 2018-19, along with showing the years 2010-11 to 2017-18, and highlights which months are most volatile in grassland fire occurrences. From the chart we can see little variation in the numbers in the months November to January, but there is a wider spread during the spring to summer months March through to July. Also highlighted is how the number of fires in July 2018 is far higher than in the July of 2019 and earlier years.

**Chart 8: Number of grassland, woodland and crop fires, by month**



(r) Revised data.  
(p) Provisional data.

The occurrence of outdoor fires is likely to be influenced by the weather. Data from the Met Office shows that in 2019-20, those months with the most sunshine and least rainfall tended to have the most fires. However whilst April 2019 saw almost a third of the grassland fires in 2019-20, this month was not the driest or the sunniest in the year; May 2019 however was the sunniest and the driest and accounted for a fifth of the grassland fires in the year. In the last 7 years April has had the most fires each year except for 2018-19 when there was a large number of fires in July. The Met Office have produced a [factsheet explaining further the links between weather and the occurrence of grassland fires](#).

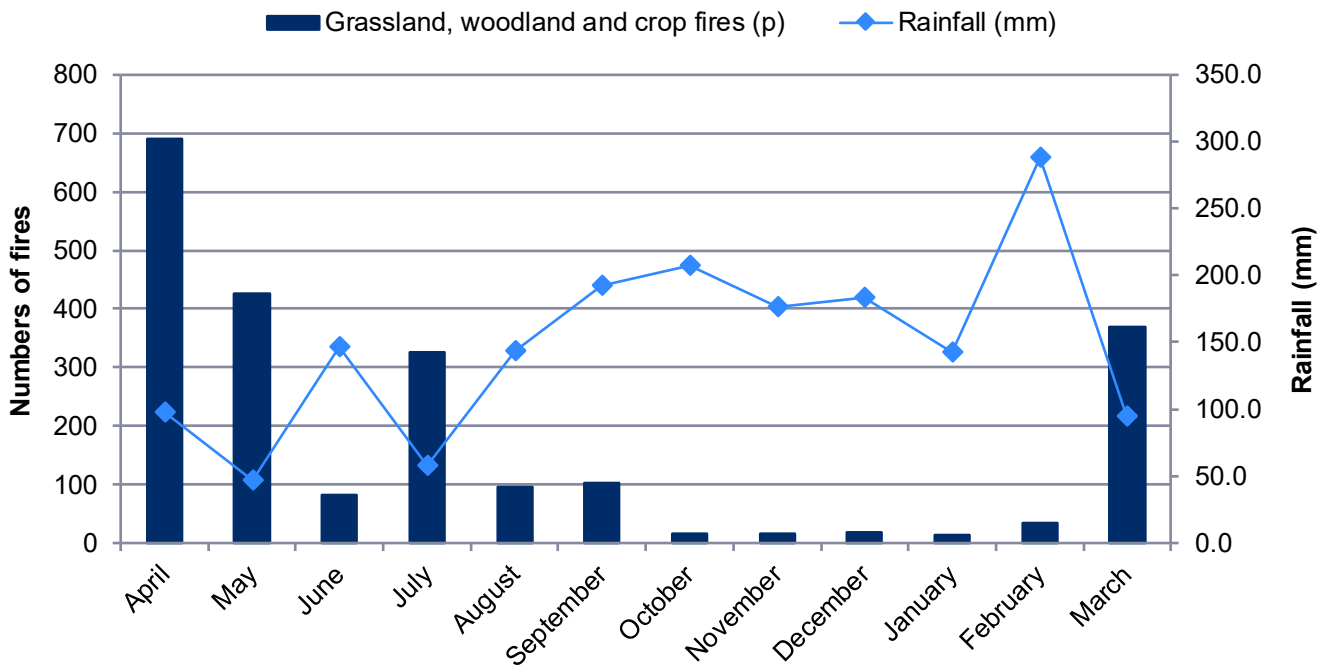
In February 2020, Wales saw high levels of rainfall, more than 3 times the amount in February 2019; this may have contributed to there being far fewer grassland fires than in February 2019 (a fall of 82%). June 2019 is also notable for its low number of fires, 85% fewer than June 2018; this coincided with 7 times as much rainfall and around 46% fewer hours of sunshine compared with June 2018. However, weather data cannot explain all the fluctuations; for example May 2019 had more hours of sunshine and less rainfall than April 2019, but saw fewer fires. This may be due to the weather data not being detailed enough (either by time or geography) but there may also be other factors influencing the numbers of fires.

It should be noted that other weather conditions such as snow and ice may also affect the number of fires in the winter.

[Weather data are available from the Met Office.](#)

Chart 9 shows the relationship between the number of grassland, woodland and crop fires and the levels of rainfall each month in 2019-20. Broadly speaking, when the levels of rainfall are high (as in October to February) the number of fires are low and those months with low levels of rainfall (April, May, July and March) had higher numbers of fires.

**Chart 9: Number of grassland, woodland and crop fires and rainfall levels, by month, 2019-20**

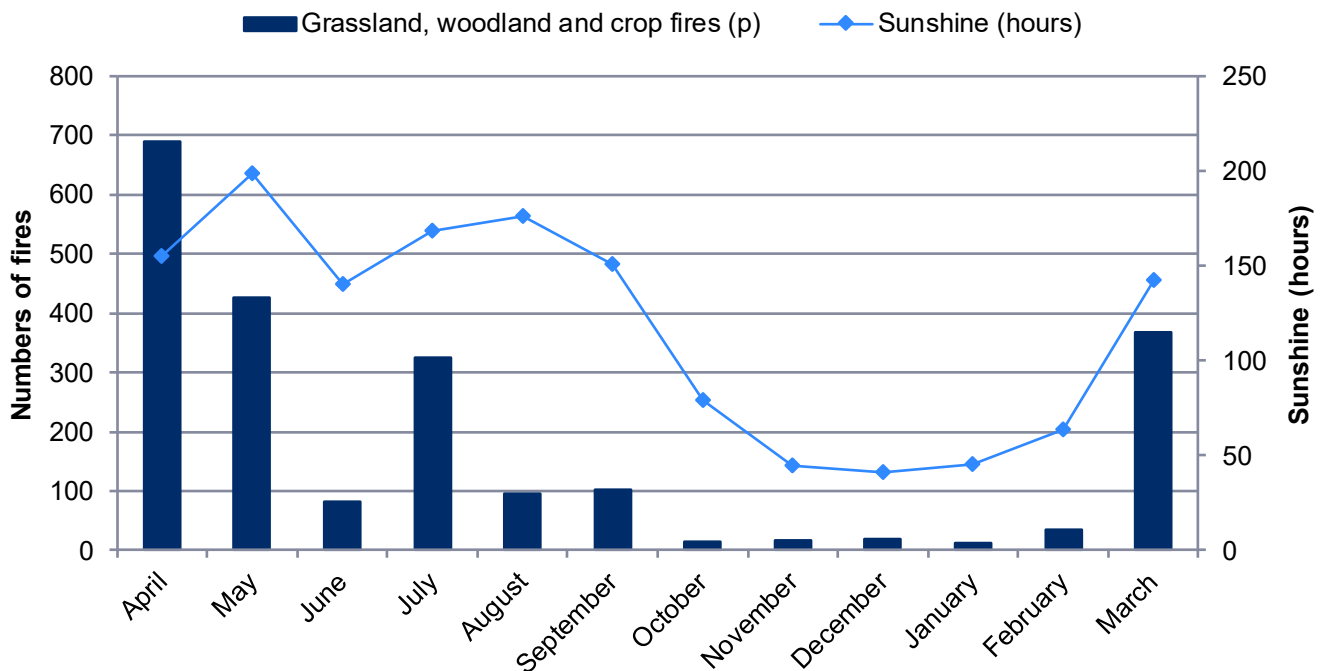


Source: Incident Recording System, Met Office

(p) Provisional data

The correlation with sunshine is seen in chart 10; where there were more hours of sunshine (for instance in April to September and March) there were with higher numbers of fires, whilst the months October to February have fewer hours of sunshine and fewer fires.

**Chart 10: Numbers of grassland, woodland and crop fires and hours of sunshine, by month, 2019-20**



Source: Incident Recording System, Met Office

(p) Provisional data

## Fires and false alarms by Fire and Rescue Authority and Local Authority

Throughout the time series shown in table 6, South Wales FRA attended at least half the grassland, woodland and crop fires occurring in Wales each year. Of the 2,189 grassland fires in 2019-20, 50% were in South Wales, 37% were in Mid and West Wales and 13% were in North Wales.

**Table 6: Number and percentage of grassland, woodland and crop fires, by Fire and Rescue Authority**

	Number				Percentage		
	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales
2010-11	829	1,934	4,332	7,095	12	27	61
2011-12	837	1,441	2,620	4,898	17	29	53
2012-13	282	724	1,139	2,145	13	34	53
2013-14	480	1,224	2,172	3,876	12	32	56
2014-15	411	850	1,352	2,613	16	33	52
2015-16	446	936	1,833	3,215	14	29	57
2016-17	299	486	931	1,716	17	28	54
2017-18	353	652	1,087	2,092	17	31	52
2018-19(r)	654	1,266	2,094	4,014	16	32	52
2019-20(p)	283	807	1,099	2,189	13	37	50
Percentage change 2018-19 to 2019-20	-57	-36	-48	-45	.	.	.

(r) Revised data

(p) Provisional data.

. Not applicable

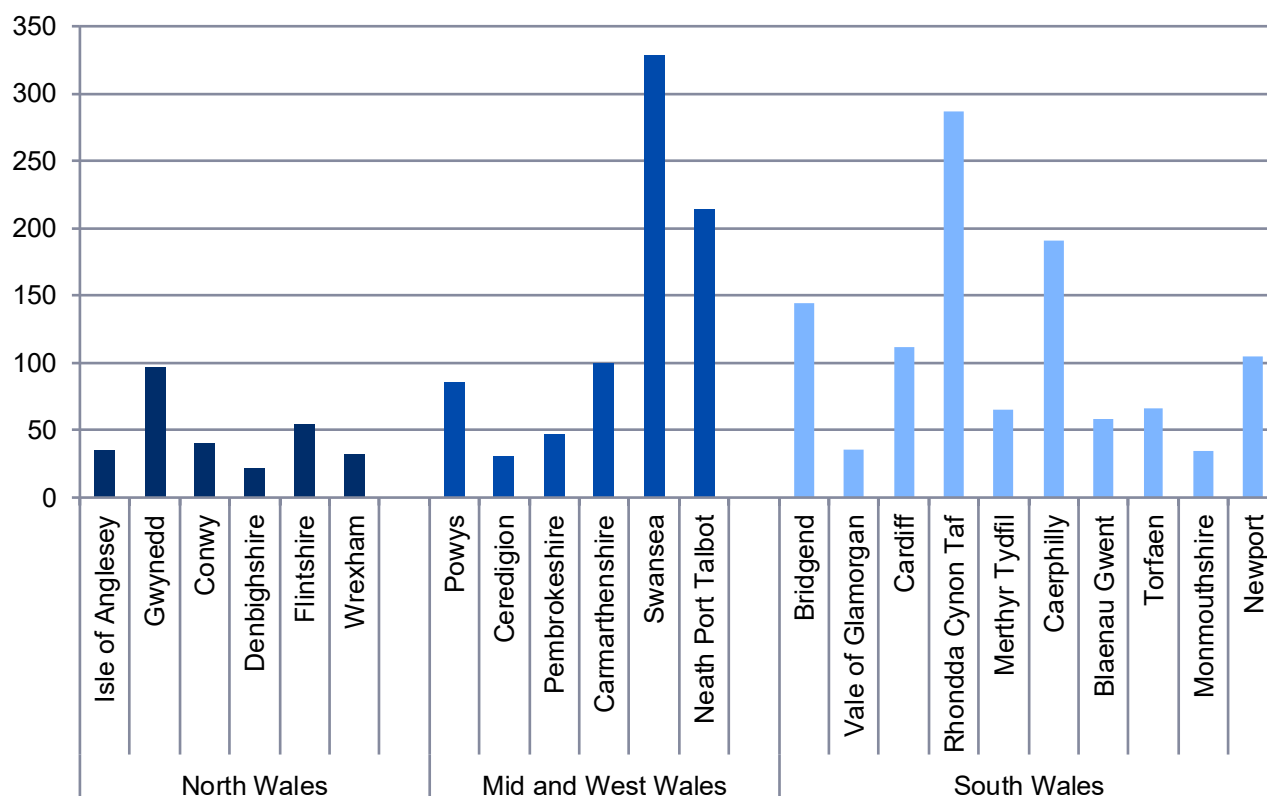
The number of grassland, woodland and crop fires fell in all three FRAs in 2019-20; in North Wales by 57%, in South Wales by 48% and in Mid and West Wales by 36%. Compared with 2001-02 the number of grassland, woodland and crop fires are lower by 65% in Mid and West Wales, 73% in North Wales and 79% in South Wales.

Swansea and Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Authorities (LAs) had the highest number of grassland, woodland and crop fires in Wales in 2019-20 with 328 and 287 respectively (equating to 15% and 13% of the grassland fires in Wales). Denbighshire had the smallest number with 22 (1% of those in Wales). Similar proportions were seen in earlier years.

All 22 LAs saw a decrease in the number of grassland, woodland and crop fires in 2019-20 (compared with 2018-19); the largest decrease was in Blaenau Gwent, a fall of 75% to its lowest number in the time series. Four other LAs also had their lowest number of grassland fires in 2019-20 (Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham and Merthyr Tydfil). The smallest decrease was in Bridgend of 11%. Compared with 2010-11, 20 LAs have seen decreases of at least 50%.



**Chart 11: Number of grassland, woodland and crop fires, by Fire and Rescue Authority and Local Authority 2019-20(p)(a)**



(a) Local authorities have been assigned to incidents based on grid references; see the Key Quality Information for further details.

(p) Provisional data.

In 14 LAs, 'grassland and pasture' were the largest category of location of grassland, woodland and crop fires in 2019-20. Of these, in Ceredigion 58% of grassland, woodland and crop fires occurred on grassland and pasture; this is the highest proportion of all the LAs.

Fires on heathland and moorland made up the largest category of grassland fires in 4 LAs, 3 of which occurred in North Wales; the largest percentage being in Gwynedd (64%).

For 2 LAs, the largest category was scrub land (both of which were in the South Wales FRA region); Rhondda Cynon Taf had the highest percentage at 51%.

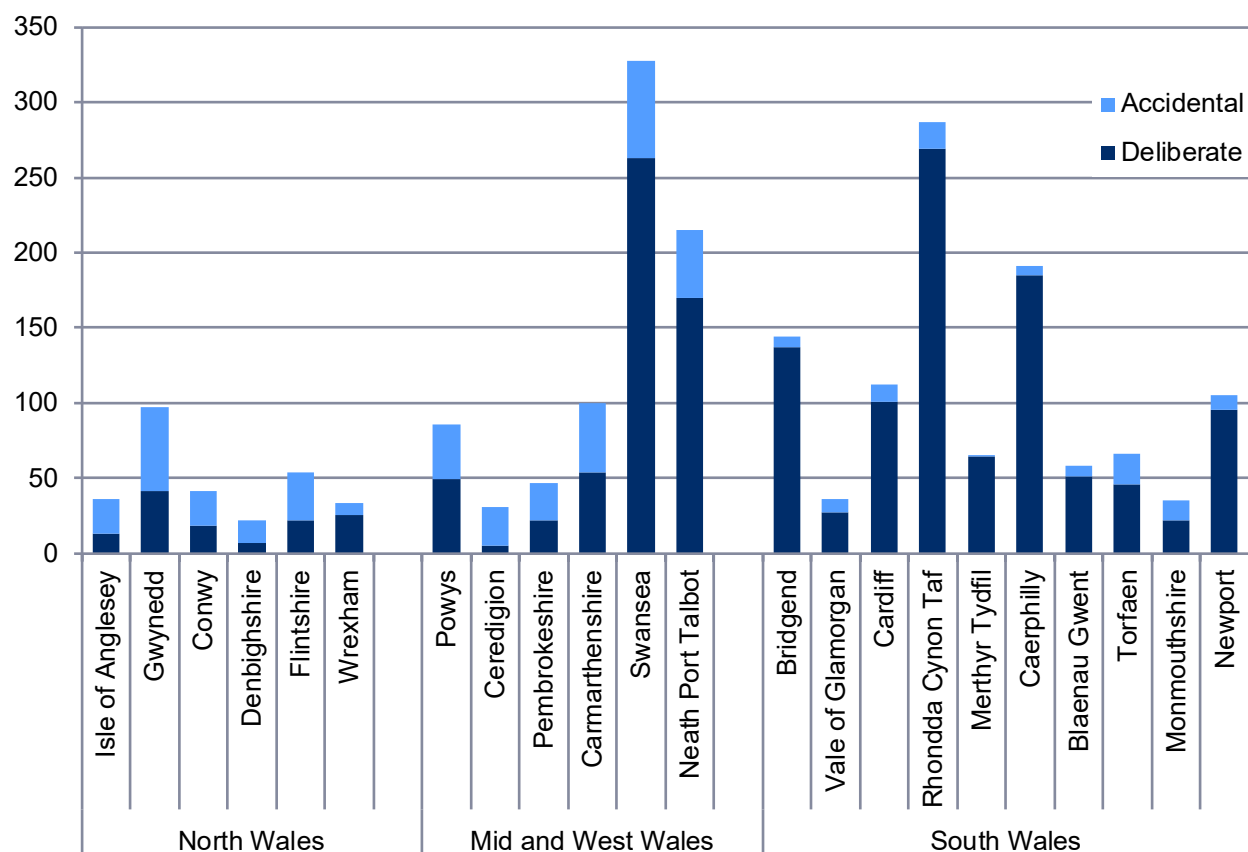
In 6 LAs, over 90% of all grassland, woodland and crop fires were started deliberately, all 6 being in the South Wales FRA region. The highest proportion which were started deliberately occurred in Merthyr Tydfil (98%), closely followed by Caerphilly (97%), Bridgend (95%), Rhondda Cynon Taf (94%) and Newport (90%) and Cardiff (90%).

Ceredigion had the smallest percentage of fires started deliberately (16%). In 2019-20 Swansea had the most accidental grassland fires in Wales, although they only made up 20% of the grassland fires in the LA.

Conwy and Bridgend were the only LAs to see an increase in the number of deliberate grassland, woodland and crop fires in 2019-20 (compared with 2018-19), though in both cases the increases were small (of 1 and 2 fires respectively). The largest percentage decrease was in Blaenau Gwent of 77%.

All LAs have seen decreases compared with 2010-11, the largest percentage change being in Blaenau Gwent (88%).

**Chart 12: Numbers of grassland, woodland and crop fires by local authority and motive, 2019-20(a)(p)**



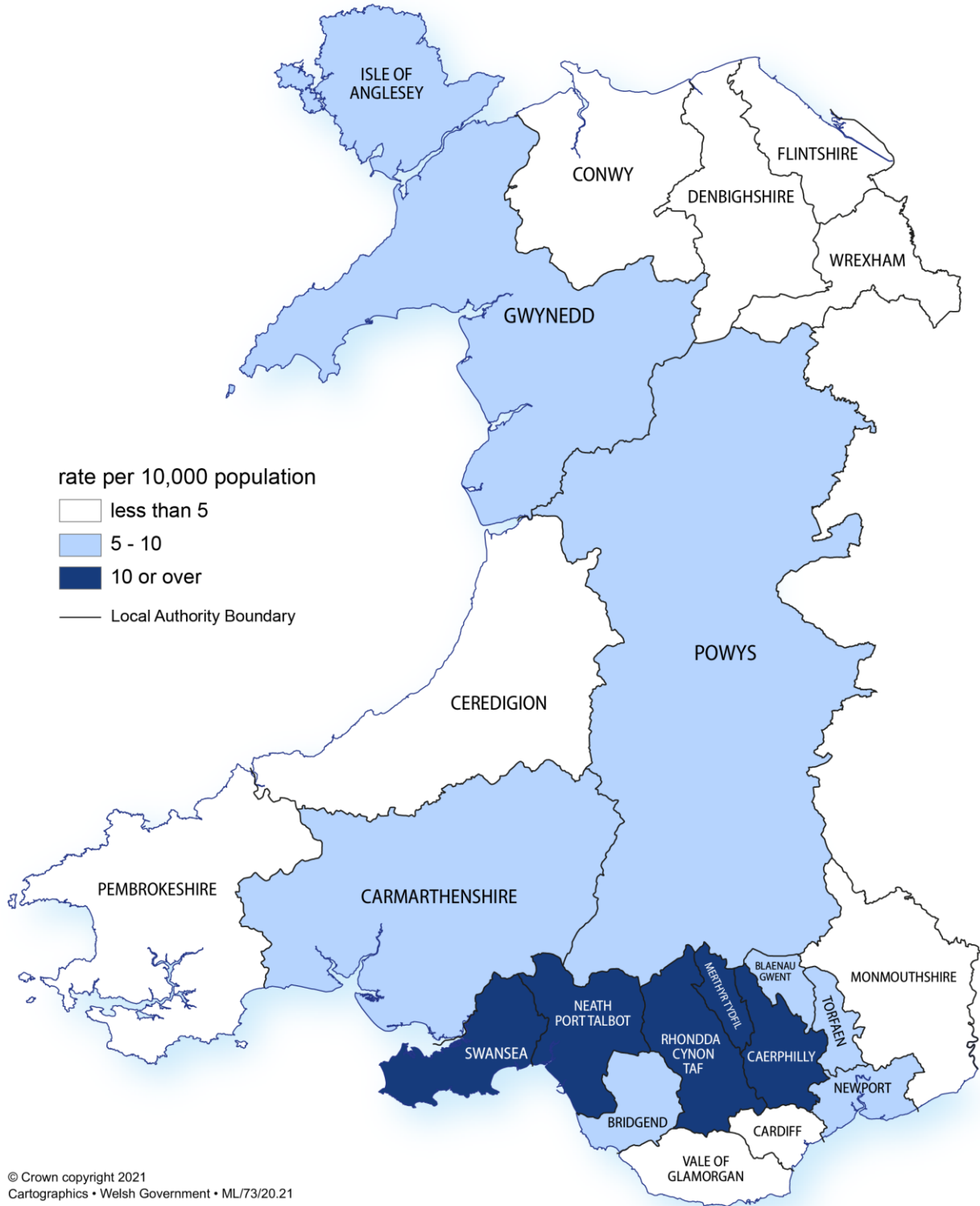
(a) Local authorities have been assigned to incidents based on grid references; see the Key Quality Information for further details.

(p) Provisional data.

The map on the next page shows rates of grassland fires per 10,000 population for each Local Authority in Wales in 2019-20.

Neath Port Talbot has the highest rate in 2019-20 with 15 fires occurring for every 10,000 people (down from 19 in 2018-19 when it had the 6<sup>th</sup> highest rate); Denbighshire has the lowest rate of 2.3, down from 7.1 in 2018-19.

# Grassland, Woodland and Crop fires per 10,000 population by Local Authority 2019-20



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 January 2021



## Fire false alarms

Data on fire false alarms on grassland woodland and crops became available with the introduction of IRS in April 2009.

There was a fall of 28% in the number of grassland, woodland and crop related fire false alarms attended by FRAs in 2019-20 (compared with 2018-19). All 3 FRAs saw decreases in numbers; 42% in North Wales, 27% in South Wales and 25% in Mid and West Wales. All 3 FRAs have seen decreases compared with a decade ago; 58% in South Wales, 51% in Mid and West Wales and 30% in North Wales.

Only 3% of these fire false alarms in 2019-20 were due to malicious calls, with the remaining 97% due to good intent. South Wales continued to have the highest number of malicious calls relating to grassland, woodland and crop fire false alarms, which in turn equated to 3% of the grassland, woodland and crop fire false alarms attended in the region.

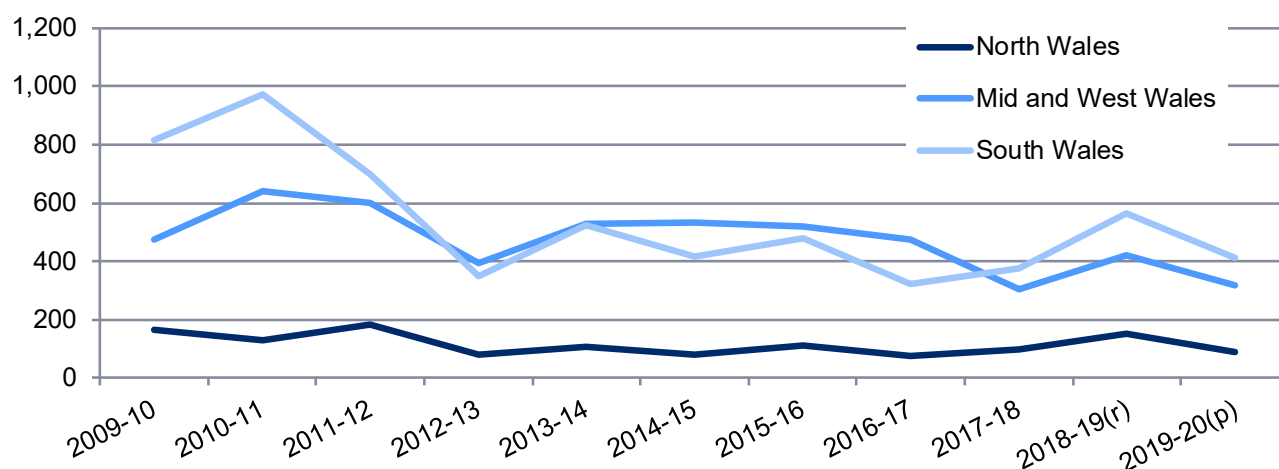
**Table 7: Number of grassland, woodland and crop fire false alarms, by Fire and Rescue Authority**

	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
2010-11	128	640	974	1,742
2011-12	183	599	701	1,483
2012-13	81	394	348	823
2013-14	105	528	523	1,156
2014-15	81	531	416	1,028
2015-16	112	521	480	1,113
2016-17	76	475	321	872
2017-18	96	306	376	778
2018-19(r)	153	421	565	1,139
2019-20(p)	89	316	411	816
Percentage change 2018-19 to 2019-20	-42	-25	-27	-28

(r) Revised data

(p) Provisional data

**Chart 13: Number of grassland, woodland and crop related fire false alarms, by Fire and Rescue Authority**



(r) Revised data.

(p) Provisional data.

## Section 2: Casualties from grassland, woodland and crop fires

Since 2011-12 there have been fewer than 10 casualties each year resulting from grassland, woodland and crop fires.

There has been one fatal casualty in a grassland, woodland and crop fire since 2001-02, which occurred in 2007-08. Since 2001-02 there have been 103 non-fatal casualties in these fires; 44% of the injuries incurred were burns and 31% were sent for precautionary checks.

Data on rescues from fires became available with the introduction of IRS in April 2009. Since then there have been 2 rescues of an uninjured person from a grassland, woodland or crop fire, 1 in 2010-11 and 1 in 2015-16.

There were 6 non-fatal casualties in 2019-20, 4 more than in 2018-19, although numbers need to be small and prone to fluctuation. These 6 casualties equate to less than 1% of all non-fatal fire casualties in Wales in 2019-20

Fires started deliberately have accounted for 30% of non-fatal casualties from grassland, woodland and crop fires since 2010-11.

Since 2010-11, 40% of grassland, woodland and crop related casualties occurred in Mid and West Wales, 38% in North Wales and 23% in South Wales.

**Table 8: Number of casualties and rescues from grassland, woodland and crop fires**

	Fatalities	Non-fatal casualties	Rescues (no injury) (a)
2010-11	0	10	1
2011-12	0	10	0
2012-13	0	5	0
2013-14	0	1	0
2014-15	0	6	0
2015-16	0	6	1
2016-17	0	2	0
2017-18	0	5	0
2018-19(r)	0	2	0
2019-20(p)	0	6	0

(a) Data not collected prior to 2009-10.

(p) Provisional data.

### Section 3: Area of damage caused by grassland, woodland and crop fires

Fires are classified according to the size of area damaged in the course of a fire. In 2019-20, more than half the primary grassland, woodland and crop fires in Wales damaged 20 square metres or less. A further 30% damaged over 200 square metres.

For secondary fires, the majority (57%) damaged 20 square metres or less. A fifth of secondary fires damaged an area over 200 square metres, whilst nearly a quarter damaged of between 21 and 200 square metres.

The number of grassland, woodland and crop fires in 2019-20 in each category of area damaged saw large decreases; those which damaged less than 20 square metres fell by 43% whilst the numbers of fires damaging 21 to 200 square metres fell by 53% and numbers damaging more than 200 squares fell by 40%.

**Table 9 Number and percentage of grassland woodland and crop fires by area damaged**

	Numbers					Percentage				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19(r)	2019-20(p)	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
<b>Primary fires</b>										
0-20 sq m	53	40	40	93	59	45	56	59	37	53
21-200 sq m	18	9	9	50	19	15	13	13	20	17
201+ sq m	47	22	19	110	34	40	31	28	43	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Secondary fires</b>										
0-20 sq m	1,557	1,026	1,139	2,119	1,191	50	62	56	56	57
21-200 sq m	834	374	532	1,021	480	27	23	26	27	23
201+ sq m	706	245	353	621	406	23	15	17	17	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,097</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>2,024</b>	<b>3,761</b>	<b>2,077</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>All fires</b>										
0-20 sq m	1,610	1,066	1,179	2,212	1,250	50	62	56	55	57
21-200 sq m	852	383	541	1,071	499	27	22	26	27	23
201+ sq m	753	267	372	731	440	23	16	18	18	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,215</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>2,092</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(r) Revised data.

(p) Provisional data

In 2019-20, 56 grassland, woodland and crop fires took place on National Park land; 88% of these were secondary fires. Over the last 10 years there have been 895 grassland, woodland and crop fires on National Park land, equating to 3% of all grassland, woodland and crop fires. 93% of these fires (since 2010-11) were secondary fires.

In 21% of primary grassland, woodland and crop fires in 2019-20, strong winds were a rapid growth factor.

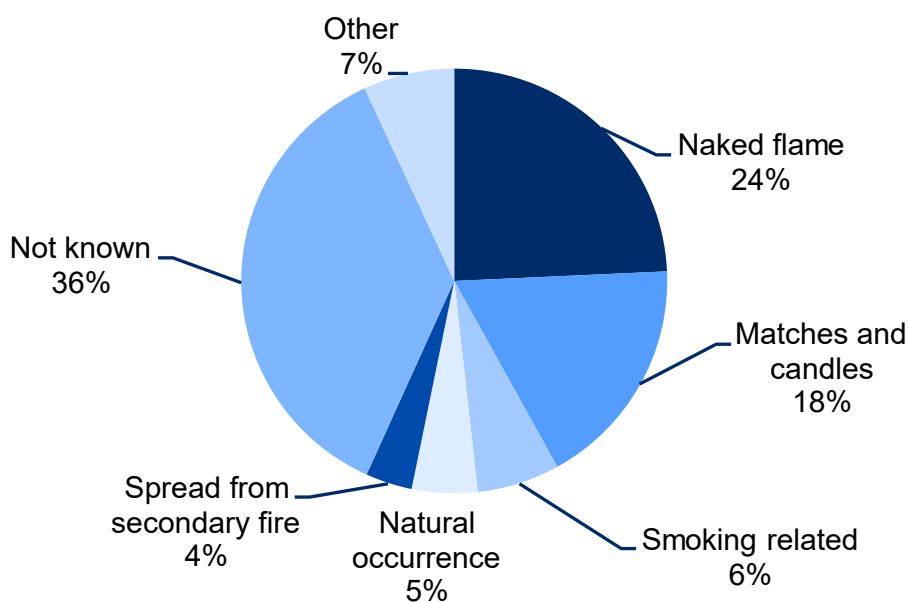
Comparative data for secondary fires is not available. Since 2010-11, around two fifths of primary fires where strong winds were a factor damaged over 10,000 square metres.

## Section 4: Source of ignition and cause of grassland, woodland and crop fires

Information is available on the source of primary fires, but not secondary fires. Chart 14 looks at the source of the flame, spark or heat that first ignited the fire. This differs from the cause of the fire, which refers to why the fire started, for instance deliberate (not shown in chart 15), careless handling, overheating or natural causes (which are classed as accidental causes).

In 24% of the primary grassland fires over the last 5 years the source of ignition was a naked flame and a further 18% were due to matches and candles.

**Chart 14: Percentage of primary grassland, woodland and crop fires, 2015-16 to 2019-20, by source of ignition**



(a) Includes Bombs and explosives, Fireworks, Fuel/Chemical, Other, Wet hay, Cooking appliance, Vehicles and Other domestic style appliance.

**Deliberate primary fires:** As may be expected, for most deliberate fires over the last 5 years the source of ignition was a naked flame (30%) or matches and candles (22%). A further 6% were started with smokers' materials. In 37% of deliberate fires the source was unknown.

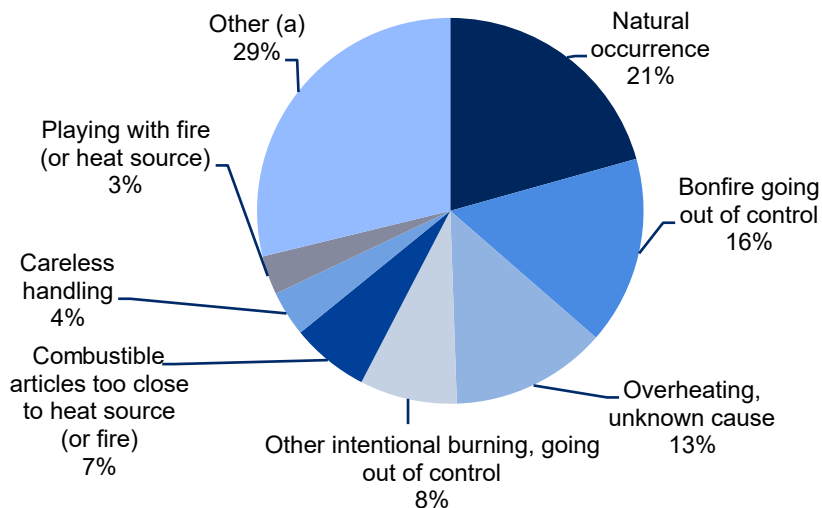
**Accidental primary fires:** The sources of accidental fires are more varied; 16% occurred naturally, 11% spread from secondary fires and 11% started with a naked flame. In 32% of accidental fires the source was unknown.

In 2019-20, for 44% of primary fires the source was recorded as unknown, and 7 in 10 of these were deliberate fires.

The causes of accidental primary grassland, woodland and crop fires are also varied. In chart 15, 29% of these fires are shown as having 'other' causes. These include negligent use of equipment, fault in equipment or appliance, faulty fuel supply, and person too close to heat source (or fire) as well as unspecified causes (22% of these fires have not got a specified cause).

In the last 5 years, 21% of accidental primary grassland, woodland and crop fires were determined to have been caused naturally and 16% were due to bonfires going out of control.

**Chart 15: Percentage of accidental primary grassland, woodland and crop fires, 2015-16 to 2019-20, by main cause**



(a) Other in the above chart includes 'Not applicable', 'Fault in equipment or appliance', 'Faulty fuel supply', 'Negligent use of equipment or appliance (heat source)', 'Accumulation of flammable material', and 'Person too close to heat source (or fire)'.



## Section 5: Additional analysis - Calendar year data

This analysis has been included as we are aware that users often refer to data on the situation in the calendar year rather than the financial year, and also to question the impact of the Easter break on the patterns seen.

As has been noted earlier in the bulletin there is regularly a peak in grassland, woodland and crop fires seen in April (beginning of the financial year) and March (end of the financial year), which *may* be linked to the timing of Easter. Analysis of calendar year data can be useful, as this limits periods of Easter in a year to one and also to show the peak period for fires as a continuous time.

Numbers of grassland, woodland and crop fires and fire false alarms fell by 35% in 2019 (compared with 2018); fires fell by 39% and fire false alarms fell by 20%.

In 2019 the number of primary grassland fires more than halved compared with 2018, whilst, over the same period, the number of secondary fires fell by 38%.

**Table 10: Numbers of fires and fire false alarms and numbers which are grassland, woodland and crop related – calendar year**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018(r)	2019(p)
Primary	6,632	5,756	4,932	4,896	4,538	4,591	4,885	4,356	4,459	4,210
of which grassland(a)	276	243	94	137	76	115	76	77	244	106
Secondary	14,160	10,549	6,769	8,276	6,344	6,958	5,905	6,467	7,616	6,277
of which grassland(a)	7,557	4,927	2,515	4,081	2,449	3,067	1,923	2,133	3,494	2,173
Total fires(b)	21,604	16,941	12,394	13,919	11,408	12,036	11,199	11,235	12,433	10,841
of which grassland(a)	7,833	5,170	2,609	4,218	2,525	3,182	1,999	2,210	3,738	2,279
Fire false alarms	17,344	15,435	15,805	15,433	15,392	14,351	15,161	14,077	14,485	14,221
of which grassland(a)	1,784	1,427	1,066	1,152	1,030	1,090	900	851	1,057	849
All fires and fire false alarms	38,948	32,376	28,199	26,841	29,311	26,387	26,360	25,312	26,918	25,062
of which grassland(a)	9,617	6,597	3,675	5,370	3,555	4,272	2,899	3,061	4,795	3,128

(a) Grassland, woodland and crops

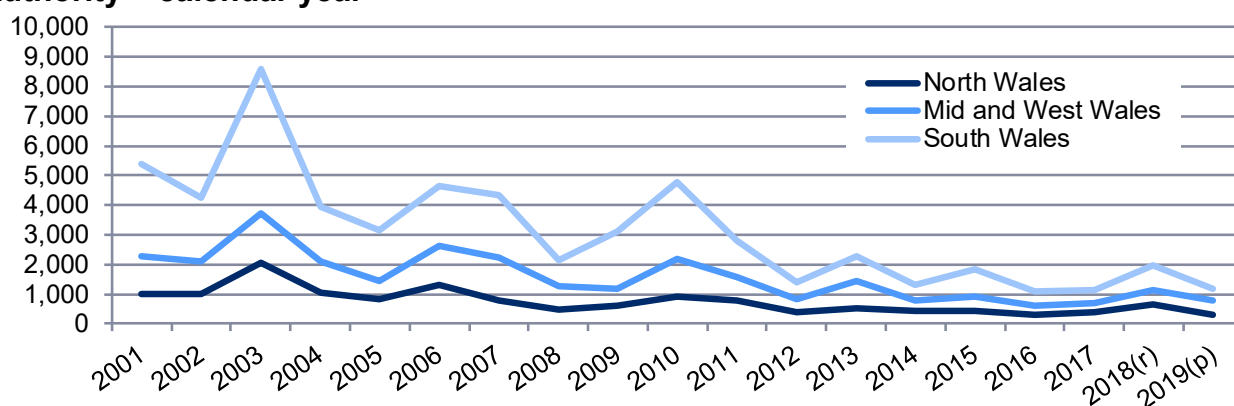
(b) Includes chimney fires

(r) Revised data.

(p) Provisional data.

Chart 16 shows all 3 FRAs have seen a general downward trend since 2001, with numbers of grassland woodland and crop fires falling by 78% in South Wales, 70% in North Wales and 66% in Mid and West Wales. Compared with 2018 all FRAs saw decreases, of 52% in North Wales, 39% in South Wales and 32% in Mid and West Wales; these are the second lowest numbers for North Wales and Mid and West Wales, and the third lowest for South Wales.

**Chart 16: Numbers of grassland, woodland and crop fires by fire and rescue authority – calendar year**



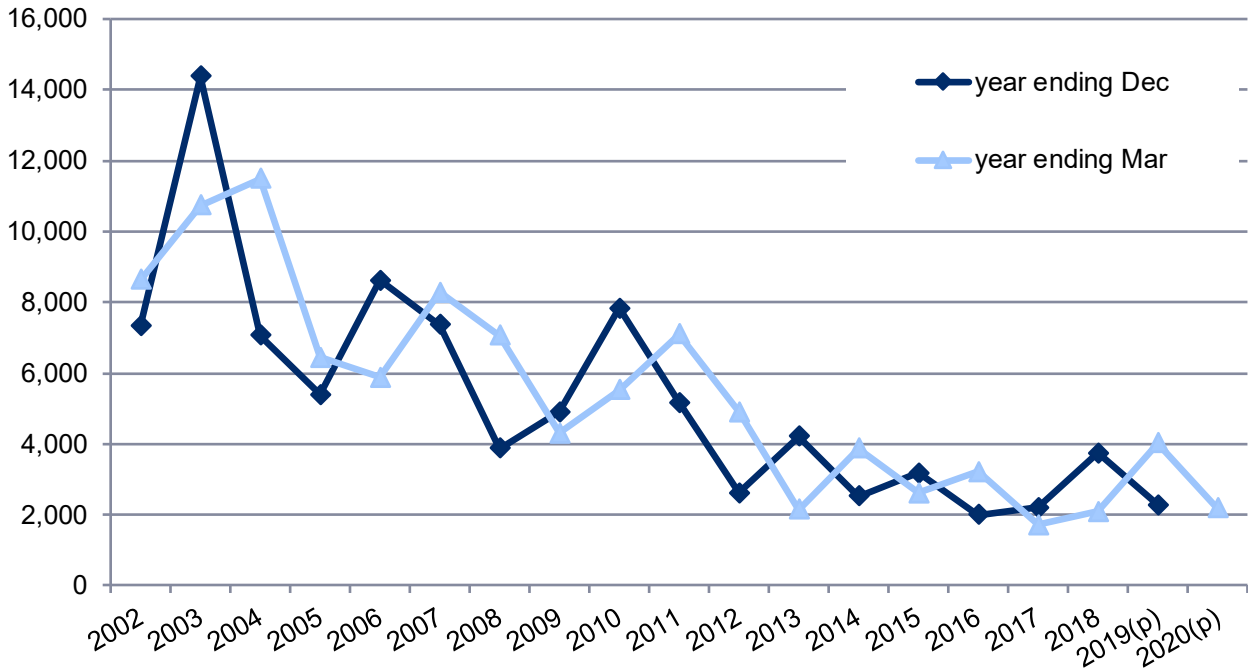
(p) Provisional data

(r) Revised data

## Comparisons between calendar year and financial year

A comparison between calendar years and financial years as shown in Chart 17 shows similar patterns with peaks and troughs displaced by 3 months (i.e. a peak seen in calendar year 2003 will be seen in financial year 2003-04). This is intuitively true since calendar years and financial years have 9 months in common (e.g. calendar year 2003 shares 9 months with financial year 2003-04).

**Chart 17: Grassland, woodland and crop fires - comparing calendar year data with financial year**



(p) Data for financial year 2019-20 and calendar year 2019 are provisional.

## Easter holidays

Table 11 shows the numbers, percentages and daily rates of grassland, woodland and crop fires occurring around Easter each year.

The Easter periods in 2019 and 2020 occurred wholly within the April of that year. Therefore Easter 2019 falls entirely within 2019-20 and Easter 2020 within 2020-21 (and so outside the scope of this bulletin).

Since the 16 days of Easter 2019 fall within April, the figures in the table below for financial year 2019-20 and calendar 2019 are very similar.

The numbers of grassland fires in this Easter period increased for both financial and calendar years and the percentage of grassland fires occurring at this time increased from less than 0.5% in the financial year 2018-19 to 23% in 2019-20. Similarly in the calendar year the proportion at Easter went from 1% in 2018 to 22% in 2019.

The table also makes a comparison with the daily rate for the year and the daily rate for the combined months of April and March (usually numbers of fires are high in these two months and span the Easter period). In both 2019-20 and 2019 the daily rate at Easter 2019 was higher than the daily rate in March and April combined and the annual daily rate.

**Table 11: Analysis of grassland, woodland and crop fires at Easter (a)**

	Year Ending March						Year ending December					
	Days of Easter	Fires (b)	% of fires occurring at Easter	Daily rate			Days of Easter	Fires (b)	% of fires occurring at Easter	Daily rate		
				at Easter	April & March (c)	Each year				at Easter	March /April (c)	Each year
2010	21	644	12	31	53	15	16	490	6	31	73	21
2011	11	467	7	42	64	19	16	1,264	24	79	51	14
2012	17	1,341	27	79	46	13	16	498	19	31	27	7
2013	24	658	31	27	18	6	16	906	21	57	30	12
2014	7	669	17	96	27	11	16	467	18	29	17	7
2015	20	482	18	24	16	7	16	551	17	34	32	9
2016(d)	19	565	18	30	33	9	17	94	5	6	15	5
2017	10	65	4	7	11	5	16	550	25	34	18	6
2018	24	579	28	24	14	6	16	48	1	3	4	10
2019(p)	8	19	0	2	8	11	16	510	22	32	16	6
2020(p)	16	510	23	32	17	6	16	~	~	~	~	~

(a) For the purposes of this table, Easter is defined as the 16 day period starting on the Saturday before Good Friday and ending on the Sunday after Easter Monday. For most years this period matches the Easter school holidays. See Key Quality Information for dates.

(b) Grassland, woodland and crop fires.

(c) In the financial year April is at the beginning of the period whilst March is at the end (e.g. April 2017 and March 2018 in 2017-18) whilst in the calendar year March and April are consecutive months.

(d) The period used in 2016 starts on Friday 25th March to Sunday 10th April, mirroring the school holidays in this year.

(p) Data for financial year 2019-20 and calendar year 2019 are provisional.  
~ Data not available yet

## Glossary

**Accidental** fires include those where the fire was ignited by accident or the cause was not known or unspecified.

The **cause of fire** is the defect, act or omission leading to ignition of the fire.

**Chimney fires** are reportable fires in occupied buildings where the fire was confined within the chimney structure and did not involve casualties or rescues or are attended by 5 or more appliances. Data on chimney fires do not fall within the scope of this bulletin.

**Deliberate** fires include those where deliberate ignition is merely suspected.

**Fire False Alarms** are events in which the Fire and Rescue Authority was called to a reported fire which turned out not to exist. This bulletin does not include data on Special Service Incident False Alarms. False alarms are categorised as follows:

**Malicious Fire False Alarms** are calls made with the intention of getting the fire and rescue service to attend a non-existent fire-related event, including deliberate and suspected malicious intentions.

**Good Intent Fire False Alarms** are calls made in good faith in the belief that the fire and rescue service really would attend a fire.

**Fire False Alarms Due to Apparatus** are calls initiated by fire alarm and fire-fighting equipment operating (including accidental initiation of alarm apparatus by persons).

**Fatal casualty** (fire related) is a person whose death is attributed to a fire even if the death occurred weeks or months later. There are also occasional cases where it becomes apparent subsequently that fire was not the cause of death. The figures for fatalities are thus subject to revision.

**Fire Data Reports (FDR1 and FDR3)** were the method of data collection via paper forms prior to the Incident Recording System (introduced in April 2009). FDR1 was used to record primary fires, FDR3 for secondary fires, chimney fires and false alarms.

**Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs)** are the statutory bodies which oversee the policy and service delivery of a fire and rescue service. The three authorities in Wales are North Wales, Mid and West Wales and South Wales.

**Grassland fires**, from 2009-10, include fires in gardens, crops, woods, nurseries/market gardens, heathland/moorland, grassland/pasture/grazing etc., scrub land, railway trackside vegetation, roadside vegetation and roadside vegetation. Prior to this date grassland fires referred to primary fires in allotments, gardens, crops, woods and other agricultural locations and secondary fires on grassland, heathland and as a result of intentional straw and stubble burning. This is a broader definition than the land use definition in agricultural publications.

**Incident Recording System (IRS)** is the electronic based system for recording fires, false alarms and Special Service Incidents. IRS replaced the FDR1 and FDR3 paper forms in April 2009.

**Location** is the type of premises, property or countryside in which the fire started. This is not necessarily the type of premises in which most casualties or damage occurred as a result of the fire.

**Non-fatal casualties** are recorded as being in one of four classes of severity as follows:

- (i) Victim went to hospital, injuries appear to be serious
- (ii) Victim went to hospital, injuries appear to be slight
- (iii) First aid given at scene
- (iv) Precautionary check recommended – this is when an individual is sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor as a precaution, having no obvious injury or distress.

Non-fatal casualties marked as 'not fire-related' have not been excluded due to widespread inappropriate use of this field.

**Primary fires** include all reportable fires in non-derelect buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues, or fires attended by five or more appliances.

**Reportable fire** is an event of uncontrolled burning involving flames, heat or smoke and which the fire and rescue authority attended.

**Secondary fires** are the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or five or more appliances attend. They include fires in single derelict buildings. They are reported in less detail than other fires and consequently less information concerning them is available.

The **source of ignition** is the source of the flame, spark or heat that started the fire.

## Key quality information

The analysis in this bulletin relates to fire and rescue service incidents between April 2019 and end March 2020 and therefore covers a period largely prior to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, and the lockdown measures introduced on 23 March 2020.

On 10 November 2004 the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, which devolved fire and rescue services to the National Assembly for Wales (now the responsibility of the Welsh Government), was brought into effect. In Wales, these services are provided by three Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). The three FRAs cover varied geographical areas with a wide variety of risks including: fires in homes; outdoor fires; fires in business premises; road traffic collisions; rail or air crashes; chemical spills; building collapses; and trapped people or animals.

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority provides cover for a population of almost 700,000 across a geographical area of 2,400 square miles. It employs nearly 900 operational and non-operational support staff from its headquarters and its 44 fire stations.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority covers over half the area of Wales and a population of over 910,000. There are 58 fire stations and over 1,300 employees.

South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority serves a population of over 1.5 million people covering 1,085 square miles. It employs over 1,800 staff including around 1,400 fire-fighters who operate from 47 fire stations throughout South Wales.

## Prevention

Following the exceptional forest fires in Easter 2003 caused by weather conditions, Forest Research used geospatial mapping and qualitative techniques (interviews, observation, and surveys) to characterise and understand the problem of wildfires, focusing on the social factors behind the issue. Their [information paper includes details of measures put in place to avoid similar occurrences](#).

The Welsh Government has issued [guidance on heather and grass burning](#). Currently, burning is only allowed during the following periods:

- 1 October - 31 March in Uplands
- 1 November - 15 March elsewhere

A license is required at all other times and can only be obtained in very specific circumstances. Application for burning during restricted periods can be made through the Welsh Government Website at the above link. It is also illegal to burn between sunset and sunrise. In addition a Burning Management Plan has to be completed for all proposed burnings.

Burning in Wales is controlled by [The Heather and Grass etc. Burning \(Wales\) Regulations 2008](#) and [The Heather and Grass Burning Code](#), which gives advice on burning best practice.

## Relevance

The Welsh Government uses the information in this bulletin to monitor the trends in grassland fires occurring in Wales. This helps to monitor the effectiveness of current policy, and for future policy development. The data are also used as evidence for national fire safety initiatives and campaigns.

The data are used by the fire and rescue services for comparisons and benchmarking. The data aids the allocation of resources and the provision of community safety projects.

## Accuracy

Since April 2009 incident data (relating to fires, false alarms and Special Service Incidents) have been submitted by the Fire and Rescue Authorities via the Incident Recording System (IRS). On 5 January 2016 responsibility for fire and rescue policy in England transferred from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) to the Home Office, this resulted in IRS also being held by the Home Office. IRS does not currently collect data from FRAs in Northern Ireland.

Prior to IRS data were collected via the paper based forms FDR1 and FDR3. The change in collection method has allowed a greater volume of data to be captured:

- Data on Special Service Incidents are now recorded
- All fires are recorded; pre-IRS statistics were based on a sampled dataset.
- Some detail on secondary fires and chimney fires are now recorded; pre-IRS, only aggregates were previously available.

For more details of the information collected and held on IRS please see 'Further details' on page 36.

The incident data are extracted from IRS annually (usually around June/July) and marked provisional at first publication. All bulletins and StatsWales tables excluding the quarterly data usually published in February are based on this dataset. Due to the nature of the live system, whilst accurate at the time of extraction, totals may change and therefore be revised due to updated information. 2019-20 data are currently marked as provisional and may be revised in future publications.

The table below compares the provisional 2018-19 data (extracted from IRS in July 2019) which was published in August 2019 (and in Grassland, woodland and crop fires 2018-19 in October 2019) with the revised data (extracted in August 2020) as published in this bulletin. No revision was necessary to the total number of primary fires, whilst the secondary fires were slightly revised.

### **Comparison of provisional data with revised data (2018-19)**

	Provisional 2018-19 Published in August 2019	Revised 2018-19 Published in November 2020	Percentage change
Primary grassland, woodland and crop fires	253	253	0.0
Secondary grassland, woodland and crop fires	3,762	3,761	0.0

In earlier releases we have included a table showing a time series of the year on year revisions. . The table tends to show that the extent of revisions has been much lower in recent years.

A key piece of information that the IRS collects for all incidents is the accurate incident location. For all incidents it is mandatory to have the grid location (easting and northing co-ordinates), in addition for addressable locations the address details can be recorded.

Within the IRS forms system, for addressable locations the user locates the address using a gazetteer and this determines the co-ordinates. For non-addressable locations the user will either select the location on a map or use a mobile data terminal to determine the location. These grid references submitted by the FRAs are used to determine the local authority in which the incident occurred.

## **Rounding and symbols**

Data collected via the FDR1 and FDR3 paper forms (i.e. data prior to 2009-10) are based on sampled datasets. Items and totals have been rounded separately to the nearest final digit, and therefore totals shown may differ slightly from the sum of the items. No rounding has been applied to data from 2009-10 onwards.

The following symbols may have been used in this release:

- negligible (less than half the final digit shown)
- . not applicable
- .. not available
- ~ not available yet
- \* disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication
- p provisional
- r revised

## **Timeliness and punctuality**

This Statistical Bulletin is pre-announced and then published on the [Statistics & Research website](#).

Furthermore, should the need arise to postpone an output this would follow the Welsh Government's Revisions, Errors and Postponements arrangements.

Data for this bulletin are taken from the same dataset as the annual Fire Statistics (and the Deliberate fires bulletin if published) which is usually extracted in July each year. This bulletin is usually published in the October around 7 months after the year end. However, publication has been delayed this year due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic impacting resources available in Fire and Rescue Services as well as Welsh Government analytical services.



## Accessibility and clarity

Welsh fire statistics are published in an accessible, orderly, pre-announced manner on the Welsh Government website at 9:30am on the day of publication.

In our outputs, we aim to provide a balance of commentary, summary tables, charts and maps. The aim is to 'tell the story' in the output, without the output becoming overly long and complicated. We provide additional, detailed data on [StatsWales](#).

## Comparability and coherence

Since 2009-10 the three Fire and Rescue Authorities have recorded all their fire incidents using the IRS. This may affect some of the incident categories especially when data are compared with years prior to 2009-10. Following a quality assurance exercise carried out by CLG on the 2009-10 and 2010-11 two possible discontinuities (due to the change in data collection method) were discovered. One relates to types of incident, notably outdoor primary fires and the second to non-fatal casualties. More information is given on this subject in the Comparability section of [Fire Statistics publication](#).

Numbers of non-fatal casualties presented in this bulletin include those recorded as 'not fire related'. This is the result of an exercise CLG undertook which found that the 'not fire related' casualty marker had been widely misused. Data published by the Home Office for England and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for Scotland also include these casualties. However the second performance indicator (FRS/RRC/S/002) listed in Fire and Rescue Authority performance 2019-20 exclude those casualties and so the data are not directly comparable.

The [Fire Statistics Quality Report](#) covers the general principles and processes leading up to the production of our fire statistics. The report covers various topics including definitions, coverage, timeliness, relevance and comparability.

## Easter holidays

Numbers of fires in March and April may be affected by Easter holidays (bank holidays and school holidays). As the timing of Easter can change this can impact on the financial year in which the school holidays may fall. For the purpose of this bulletin 'Easter' is taken from the Saturday before Good Friday to the Sunday after Easter Monday.

Main school Easter holidays for the last few years are listed below:

- 2020 – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April, the whole period falling within the financial year 2020-21 and so outside the scope of this bulletin.  
Good Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April.
- 2019 – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April, the whole period falling within the financial year 2019-20. Some schools may have scheduled an inset day to occur before or after this holiday period.  
Good Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.
- 2018 – Local Authorities were grouped as per the linked [Minister's statement](#) with 16 LAs in Group A (Easter holiday Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018) and the remaining 6 in Group B (Easter holidays Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018)

Good Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March, Easter Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

- 2017 - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April, the whole period falling within the financial year 2017-18. Good Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April.
- 2016 - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April. The first week of the school holidays falls within 2015-16; the remainder of the holiday falls within 2016-17. Good Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March, Easter Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2015 - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Only the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March fall in the financial year 2014-15, the remainder of the holiday falls within 2015-16. Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Easter Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April.
- In academic years prior to 2014/15 Easter holidays may have varied slightly between local authorities but would have occurred around the time of Good Friday and Easter Monday
- 2014 - Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April. School holidays would have fallen wholly in financial year 2014-15.
- 2013 – Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April. School holidays would have partially fallen in financial year 2012-13 and partially in 2013-14.

## **UK comparisons**

Whilst England and Scotland do not publish specific grassland fires bulletins, data by location are available in their annual publications.

Data for England (published by the Home Office since April 2016):

[Fire statistics England](#)

[Fire statistics monitor](#)

Data for Scotland (published by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service since 2015)

[Data for 2014-15 onwards](#)

[Pre 2014-15 data](#) (published by the Scottish Government)

Limited Northern Ireland data are available in an annual report from [Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service](#).

## National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

The statistics last underwent a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice](#) in June 2012 (Report number 208).

Since the review by the UKSA, we have continued to comply with the [Code of Practice](#) for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- brought forward the publication date improving timeliness
- added Local Authority analysis
- extended the use of weather data
- improved Key Quality information
- publication of excel tables alongside the bulletin

## Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before Senedd Cymru. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

## Further details

The document is available on our website: <https://gov.wales/grassland-fires>

More information is available in the form of [StatsWales tables](#) that accompany this release.

Analysis of annual Welsh fire incident data can be found in the bulletin '[Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics, 2019-20](#)':

The bulletin includes charts and information on fires, false alarms and Special Service Incidents, on all location types (dwellings, road vehicles etc.), causes of fires and the presence of smoke alarms.

The [Evaluation of the Arson Prevention Programme](#) focuses on three of the main initiatives; Arson Reduction Teams (ARTs); the Arson Small Grants Programme; and the Grassland Fire Initiative.

## Next update

Grassland fires 2020-21 to be published in October 2021.

## We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [stats.inclusion@gov.wales](mailto:stats.inclusion@gov.wales)

## Open Government Licence

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