

Wildfire Evidence Review – Establishment of Review search terms

Natural England is undertaking a rapid Evidence Review around the subject of wildfire. Wildfire is defined as any fire that takes place that is not under direct human control.

We have made the following assumptions:

- **The primary focus of the Review is on heathland and peatland.**
- The Review is to provide information that will improve both our understanding of the factors that lead to wildfires and our ability to prevent them.
- The searches in the first instance will be broad to try and capture not just vegetation characteristics and management of land that can be subject to uncontrolled fires but also such topics as weather conditions, school holidays and public rights of way.

The following questions are listed in priority order

- 1. What factors contribute to the severity of wildfire?**
- 2. What are the main factors that contribute to the risk of wildfire?**
- 3. What are the causes of ignition of wildfires?**
- 4. What are the most efficient prevention measures for wildfires?**
- 5. What are the characteristics of effective firebreaks?**
- 6. What are the mechanisms for reducing the negative impacts of wildfires?**
- 7. What is the effectiveness of the Met Office Fire Severity Index in reducing the incidents of uncontrolled fires?**
- 8. What is the evidence of the effectiveness of ‘fire watcher’ networks in preventing uncontrolled fires?**