



## Fire Operations Group (FOG)

The Peak District FOG was setup in 1996 after a severe wildfire. Chaired by PDNPA, the group brings together land managers (NT, RSPB, PD Moorland Group), the Fire and Rescue service, utility companies, and Natural England to work in partnership to share knowledge, experience and expertise for the purpose of wildfire prevention.

### Who is involved in delivery?

Coordinated by the Engagement Ranger Team Leader (ops and partnerships), supported by the Engagement Rangers and other NP officers, such as comms.

### What is involved?

- Over 100 hectares of wildfire damage recorded in PDNPA wildfire log 2024
- 30 wildfires in Derbyshire Jan-March 2025.
- The Fire Operations Group members meet twice per year; at the beginning of the year (for preparation) and end of the year (evaluation).
- Annual training for Fire and Rescue Service personnel in September.
- Annual training for land managers in February.
- Regular comms and monitoring about fire conditions, with various collective actions in place for periods of high risk (i.e. signage, moorland closures, etc.).
- Membership of the England and Wales Wildfire Forum.
- A collective fund that can be used for training, equipment, PPE, and comms / signage.
- As members, FOG members received info about training, CPD, and information as appropriate.

### Who are the beneficiaries?

The collective work of FOG protects the investment of moorland restoration and helps to reduce the impact of catastrophic fires on nature restoration works. FOG also

improves the dialogue between the different sectors of the land management community, and is setting a standard for professional training and PPE within the land management sector.

All members of the Peak District FOG benefit from the work of the group, as do the wider Peak District communities, who receive a quicker and more streamlined response to fire incidents when they happen, as well as improved, collective prevention work at appropriate times of year. A big part is training the fire and rescue services in how to work on a moorland habitat in an effective and sympathetic way, which in turn reduces the ecological and health damage caused by wildfires by reducing the severity of incidents.

### What are the outputs?

- 35 FRS officers from 6 services trained in 2024.
- 10 land managers supported to undertake LANTRA accredited training.
- A new Concept of Operations document for land managers, outlining approach and for registering their capability and equipment (development of Fire Plan). Implementation over summer 2025.
- Wildfire Log, collecting data of all fires across PD, including near misses (i.e. BBQs, campfires).
- FOG members attended UK Wildfire Conference.
- Comms: High Risk fire signs put up (April 2025) & positive media coverage.
- Sharing of learning across partnerships (i.e. smoke sensors on NT Marsden Moor).

### What will be the outcomes of the project?

The Peak District FOG is in a period of growth and moving in a positive direction, which is timely considering the impact of climate change is increasingly altering weather patterns and upload ecology. The next step is to develop FOG to attract regular funding to enable the develop of central staffing and resource.

### What has been learnt from the project so far?

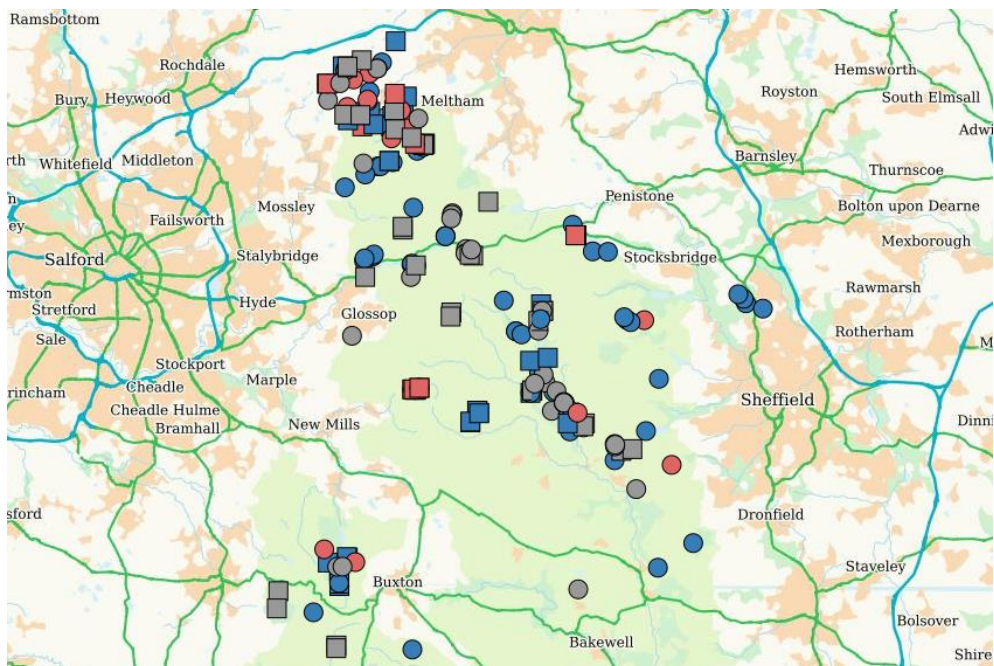
A partnership approach works best. Wildfires cannot successfully be dealt with by one organisation alone – the fire service need land managers and partners engaged with the issue and involved to help prevent and reduce incidents, while land managers bring expertise in habitat, ecology and topography, as well as skills in engaging with the public. Shared communication and messaging is much more successful than individual comms, and increased training and refining of approach is allowing everyone to work smarter and reduce the impact and cost (of incidents, but also comms and preparation).



Peak District FOG Training course, Sept 2024. Navigation training in the Goyt Valley.



Derbyshire FRS and Partners Training Exercise, Stanage Edge, May 2024



Screenshot from Wildfire Log (grey shapes recoded in 2024/25).