

# [Detailed guide: Manage a tree pest or disease: overview](#)

*Updated:* Incorrect text summarising one of the strategies. Replaced with summary of strategy paper.

There's a lot you can do to help prevent or minimise the introduction, establishment, spread and impacts of tree pests and diseases.

The threat to our trees, woods, forests, parks and gardens from damaging insect pests and organisms such as bacteria and fungi is significant. Some organisms can damage or kill dozens of different plant species, including trees. They can be spread in many ways. such as:

- in the movements of plants, wood, and wood products
- by wind and water
- on vehicles, clothing, footwear, equipment and tools

As well as causing economic losses for the forestry, timber and plant-based industries, they can disrupt other sectors, such as tourism, and threaten woodland biodiversity, ecosystems and native species. The gardens of private homes are also under threat from tree pests and diseases, and private homeowners can help minimise the impact of tree diseases.

The following documents explain the approach to preventing and managing tree pests and diseases:

## [England tree health management plan](#)

This document covers a range of diseases and gives specific examples. It sets out management approaches to tackling a range of important pests and diseases. It also provides a framework for managing future threats, and the strategy underpinning the approaches.

## [England tree health resilience strategy](#)

This strategy builds on the Tree Health Management Plan and explains how the government will improve protection against pests and diseases, and how it will work with the industry and others to build resilience in our trees.

## [Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain](#)

Overview of the activity that Defra and the devolved administrations are undertaking to improve plant biosecurity.

## Useful resources

See the [UK Plant Health Information Portal](#), a hub for plant health information, data and resources.

Use the [UK Plant Health Risk Register](#), a tool to help guide action against pests and diseases that threaten our crops, trees, woods, forests, gardens and countryside.

## Tree health funding

If your woodland has been affected by a pest or disease, you might be eligible for [funding to improve tree and woodland health](#).

## Wood and timber products: import and export

Importing and exporting wood, timber and wood products provides information about the plant health regulations governing the import, export and some inland movements of wood and wood products.

---

## [Form: Register to apply for a phytosanitary certificate](#)

When we receive your original signed registration form, we will email you a unique customer reference number and instructions for using the system.

---

## [Detailed guide: Tree health legislation](#)

Relevant plant health forestry legislation is listed below. In many cases, the initial legislation is subsequently updated by amending statutory instruments, which should be consulted as well.

### [Plant Health \(Forestry\) Order 2005](#)

Includes

[Unofficial Consolidation January 2018](#)

(PDF, 683KB, 87 pages)

, incorporating amendments:

- [SI 2006 No. 2696](#)
- [SI 2008 No. 644](#)
- [SI 2009 No. 594](#)
- [SI 2009 No. 3020](#)
- [SI 2012 No. 2707](#)
- [SI 2013 No. 2691](#)
- [SI 2014 No. 2420](#)
- [SI 2016 No. 1167](#)  
(PDF, 103KB, 20 pages)
- [SI 2017 No. 1178](#)

This order:

- prohibits the landing of specified tree pests, trees and 'relevant material' (defined as wood and bark, soil, growing medium or used forestry machinery)
- lays down the conditions under which other relevant material may be permitted entry
- sets out the protected zones for various pests, and prescribes the conditions for entry into and movement within the zones for relevant material
- prohibits the keeping, storage, sale or release of tree pests
- sets conditions for sending relevant material to other Member States
- sets rules for registration of importers, forestry traders and producers
- sets rules for the issue of plant passports to accompany certain relevant material circulated in trade
- sets out the powers of inspectors to enter premises (other than private dwellings) and to undertake examinations etc, or order remedial action to be taken
- prescribes offences and penalties for failing to comply with the order

The order is the principal instrument in Great Britain implementing the plant health requirements in the European Union in respect of forestry material, as set out in Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

## **[The Plant Health \(Forestry\) \(Wood Packaging Material Marking\) Order 2006](#)**

This order formalises the procedures for becoming accredited within the programme in Great Britain. It makes it an offence for any person to apply a mark to wood packaging material without the authority of the Forestry Commission. It also gives inspectors powers to enter premises (other than private dwelling houses) without a warrant where they believe wood packaging material is being fraudulently marked, or is being stored, to:

- seize marking equipment

- require any marks found on wood packaging material present there to be obliterated or removed

The order also prescribes the fees payable on application for a certificate and for renewal of certificates, which will no longer be subject to VAT.

## **The Plant Health (Export Certification) (Forestry) (Great Britain) Order 2004**

This makes provision for the issue of phytosanitary certificates and re-forwarding phytosanitary certificates for export of relevant material (any tree, wood, isolated bark, soil or growing medium, non-manufactured wood or used forestry machinery) to third countries to satisfy the requirements of those countries' phytosanitary regulations.

## **The Dutch Elm Disease (Local Authorities) Order 1984**

Subsequent amendments include [SI 1988 No. 604](#).

This order sets out the powers available to certain local authorities, as listed in the schedule to the order, to take steps to prevent the spread of Dutch elm disease. Each local authority may exercise the powers only in respect of their own area. Officers (appointed by the local authority) who suspect the presence on any premises of elm trees infected by this disease may, on production of their authority (if so required), enter on any land to inspect trees and to take samples. Where the disease is present the officer may either take action himself, or he may require the owner or occupier to do so, to prevent the spread of the disease by destroying the tree, usually by burning on site. Exceptionally, the officer may authorise the removal of the tree to another place for destruction. The order also prescribes offences and penalties for failing to comply with a notice served.

## **Plant Health Act 1967**

The primary legislation governing plant health in Great Britain is the Plant Health Act 1967 (c.8). This prescribes the Forestry Commissioners as the "competent authority in Great Britain as regards the protection of forest trees and timber".

The Act empowers the Forestry Commissioners to:

- make orders to prevent the introduction and spread of forestry pests and diseases
- require local authorities to undertake certain work to prevent the spread of specified pests or diseases

It also makes provision for the creation of offences and imposition of fees for certain work.

The Forestry Commissioners are also designated under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 (c.68) in relation to measures relating to the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union in respect of forestry.

## **European Plant Health Review**

The European Union plant health regime was set up to protect the union from harm caused by the introduction and spread of pests and diseases affecting plants, including trees. Although this has largely worked well over the years, a full evaluation was conducted to ensure that it continues to be able to meet its objectives. The evaluation set out a number of options to improve the regime, concluding that the best way forward was to:

- simplify the legislation converting it from a directive to a regulation
- increase prevention by introducing a new category of high-risk plant materials that will require completion of a risk analysis before entry, and by the removal of passenger luggage exemptions for such material
- implement further obligations for surveillance and contingency planning to be introduced

It's expected that these changes will take several years. [Read about current progress.](#)

---

## **Notice: C09 3AG, Mr D, Mr A and Mr J Newton and Mrs E, Mrs G, Mrs N and Mrs L Newton, trading as GB Newton and Sons: environmental permit issued**

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: Mr D, Mr A and Mr J Newton and Mrs E, Mrs G, Mrs N and Mrs L Newton, trading as GB Newton and Sons
  - Installation name: Little Lodge Farm
  - Permit number: EPR/WP3134JB/A001
-

# Detailed guide: Access Forestry Commission datasets

You can access Forestry Commission datasets through the Forestry Commission Open Data website, [data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk) website and Forest Research website.

## **Spatial datasets for use in a Geographical Information System (GIS)**

You can download a wide range of Forestry Commission spatial datasets for use in a GIS. Map layers available for either England, Scotland, Wales, or all of Great Britain include:

- The National Forest Inventory woodland map
- Forestry Commission England woodland creation headline performance indicator
- woodland grants
- felling licences
- surveys of tree pests and diseases
- National Forest Estate boundaries, recreation features and roads
- National Forest Estate sub-compartments showing tree species and habitats

To access these datasets, visit the [Forestry Commission Open Data website](#).

## **Open Datasets**

You can download further Open Datasets from the Forestry Commission from the [data.gov.uk website](#), including:

- Forestry Commission England managed woodland headline performance indicator
- meteorological data from woodland sites

To access these datasets, visit the [Forestry Commission webpages on data.gov.uk](#).

## **Forest Research statistics**

You can download spreadsheets of statistics on a wide range of forestry topics from the [statistics pages](#) of the [Forest Research website](#).

Spreadsheets include statistics for England, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain, or all of the UK, and include tables from the Forestry Statistics publications covering, for example:

- woodland area and planting
- timber

- trade
- UK forests and climate change
- environment
- recreation
- employment and businesses
- finance and prices
- international forestry

To access these datasets, visit the [statistics data download webpage on the Forest Research website](#).