Detailed guide: Import firewood into Great Britain

You must notify the Forestry Commission if you plan to import into England or Scotland non-regulated solid fuel wood from non EU countries as well as regulated solid fuel wood material from the EU.

Non-regulated solid fuel wood includes:

- logs
- kindling
- twigs
- billets
- faggots

We use the information from your notification to determine the level of pest risk from trade in fuel wood. We're concerned that some fuel wood imports do not meet landing requirements and might carry a risk of introducing harmful tree pests and diseases into the UK. We carry out risk-based and random inspections of some consignments to ensure that they meet GB landing requirements.

You must use the Statutory Firewood Notification Scheme to notify us about landings of firewood for all relevant consignments, regardless of size/weight.

Enrolment on the scheme

Before you start to notify us of import consignments you must enrol. You'll get an enrolment number to use in further correspondence. Enrolment is not compulsory, but you're encouraged to enrol. You can only do this online.

Notification

You have 2 options:

Paperless

You can submit your notification online.

Once you've completed and submitted the form for each new consignment, you'll be sent an automated email reply with a unique reference number for that consignment. Use this number in any correspondence with us.

Paper

Complete the Statutory Firewood Notification Scheme form electronically or by

hand. You can email your form to plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or post it to:

Plant Health Service

Forestry Commission

Silvan House

231 Corstorphine Road

Edinburgh

EH12 7AT

Notice periods

For sea freight and consignments coming through the Channel Tunnel you should send your notification form at least 3 working days before the material is expected to be landed.

For consignments arriving by air, you must give at least 4 working hours' notice.

Failure to comply will be seen as a contravention of the Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005 as amended.

Notes on the form

Most of the information required in the notification form is self-explanatory, but these notes are provided for clarification.

Estimated date of arrival

Enter the estimated date of material landing at a port or airport in England and Scotland.

Place of arrival

Enter the specific port/airport/Channel Tunnel terminus in England or Scotland where the material will be arriving. This should be the first point of arrival in the country of final destination. You should be as specific as possible as some ports, such as Humber, cover a number of locations including Hull, Immingham, Grimsby and Goole, so specify exact ports if known. This might also be the location of any inspection by a plant health inspector if it is deemed necessary, although inspections might also take place at the first destination.

Name of importer

Enter the full name of the importer.

Address of importer

Enter a detailed postal address, including postcode.

Address of first destination after landing

Enter the details, including a postcode, of the first destination point after landing at a port or airport in England or Scotland. This could be a distribution centre or a final destination for the consignment, depending on the importer's requirements.

The shipping container

Enter a number or numbers, if appropriate. You can leave this field blank.

Genus and species

Ideally, you should state botanical names of tree species if you know them. If not, you can use common names. Use the list of frequently used names for tree species if you're unsure of the botanical name:

Conifers/softwoods — common name	Botanical name
Norway Spruce	Picea abies
Sitka spruce	Picea sitchensis
Scots pine	Pinus sylvestris
Corsican pine	Pinus nigra
European larch	Larix decidua
Japanese larch	Larix kaempferi
Hybrid larch	Larix eurolepsis
Douglas fir	Pseudotsuga menziesii
Silver fir	Abies alba
Western red cedar	Thuja plicata

Non-conifers/hardwoods — Common name	Botanical name
Ash	Fraxinus
Oak	Quercus
Birch	Betula
Willow	Salix
Maple/Sycamore	Acer
Beech	Fagus
Chestnut	Castanea
Alder	Alnus
Poplar/Aspen	Populus

Type of material being imported

Enter whether the solid fuel wood is in the form of logs, kindling, twigs, billets or faggots.

Quantity

Enter the quantity in tonnes as accurately as is feasible.

Country where the material is imported from

Enter the country from where the solid fuel wood was last moved. (Note that this is not necessarily the country where the firewood was grown.)

Country where the material was grown

Enter the country where the wood was originally grown and harvested.

Phytosanitary treatments

Enter details of the phytosanitary (plant health) treatments, if any, which might have been applied to the solid fuel wood or associated wood packaging material if present, before export, such as treatments undertaken to comply with ISPM15 requirements for third-country and certain EU country imports). Examples include bark freedom, heat treatment and kiln drying.

Exporting company name and address

Enter the full name and address of the exporting company of that species.

Press release: £500 fine for Loughborough man fishing in Rothley in close season

A Loughborough man has been prosecuted for fishing in the close season and has to pay almost £500.

Detailed guide: Prevent the

[introduction and spread of tree pests and diseases](#)

Updated: Added a URL and did some tweaking.

Biosecurity refers to a set of precautions that aim to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful organisms. These include non-native tree pests, such as insects, and disease-causing organisms, called pathogens, such as some bacteria and fungi.

Tree pests and diseases can be transported between or within countries via a number of pathways, including:

- [live plant and tree products](#), such as potted plants
- timber and wood packaging materials (WPM), such as shipping crates and pallets — [find out more if you're an importer using WPM](#)
- dirty tools, kit, machinery and vehicles, such as chainsaws, boots and all-terrain vehicles
- soil and organic material, such as leaf litter
- natural methods, such as wind and water

There has been a significant increase in the number of non-native tree pests and diseases being introduced to the United Kingdom since the early 2000s. This demonstrates the need for us all to take action to provide our trees, woods and forests with greater protection. By implementing appropriate biosecurity measures, we can significantly reduce the risk of introducing and spreading tree pests and diseases.

This page will show you how to maximise good tree health through biosecurity.

See Forestry Commission guidance on [importing and exporting wood and timber products.](#)

What you can do

Public

Tree pests and diseases can have a significant impact on our landscape, but there are some simple steps members of the public can take to help limit their spread:

- drive and park your vehicle only on hard-standing surfaces such as tarmac where possible when visiting outdoor areas such as woodlands, parks or gardens
- clean mud, organic material and water off your boots, bikes and buggies — and the dog — before you leave, because fungi, bacteria and insects

can live in these materials
- '[Don't risk it!](#)' – please don't bring any plant or tree products back from trips abroad, because these might be carrying harmful non-native tree pests or pathogens
- report any trees that you suspect are in ill-health to the Forestry Commission using [Tree Alert](#)

Industry professionals

People working in the arboriculture, forestry and landscaping industries are considered a particularly high-risk group for their potential to spread tree pests and diseases.

The Forestry Commission has therefore worked closely with the following organisations to develop industry-specific biosecurity guidance in an effort to reduce their members' risk of introducing or spreading pests and diseases:

- [Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA)](#)
- [Arboricultural Association](#)
- [British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI)](#)
- [Confederation of Forest Industries (ConFor)](#)
- [Horticultural Trades Association (HTA)](#)
- [Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF)](#)
- [Landscape Institute](#)
- [London Tree Officers' Association](#)

By following the three calls to action from our industry guidance ('Think kit, think transport, think trees') alongside the [public biosecurity guidance above](#), industry professionals can significantly reduce the risk:

'Think kit':

- make sure all equipment, including boots, clothing, ropes and saws, is free from soil and organic material before entering and leaving a site
- regularly clean ropes as per the manufacturer's guidance, or use dedicated ropes for particular sites
- clean and disinfect chainsaws (pruning saws and other cutting tools as part of regular routine maintenance, and before moving to new sites)

'Think transport':

- remove any build-up of soil and organic material on vehicles and machinery, including cabs, wheels and foot wells, before leaving each site
- use proper off-site wash-down facilities regularly

'Think trees, plants, and materials':

- develop relationships with nurseries you can trust so they can help you responsibly source plant and tree stock from pest- and disease-free areas
- keep accurate, up-to-date records of all purchases and supplies to assist with tracing exercises in the event of an outbreak

- regularly monitor plant and tree stock for signs of ill-health, and report any suspect symptoms to us using [Tree Alert](#)
- if you're responsible for importing or moving plants, [check your plant passport and registration requirements with APHA](#) before doing so
- source landscaping materials only from pest- and disease-free areas
- be aware of any restrictions in place, or phytosanitary (plant health) measures and treatments required when importing certain materials or their packaging
- consider specifying British-grown plants to avoid being party to an accidental introduction of a pest or disease

When working on a site that is subject to a Statutory Plant Health Notice (see below), or where a pest or disease has been confirmed, you must follow any additional biosecurity guidance for that pest or disease in addition to the measures above.

If you must remove infected or infested material from such sites for safety reasons, you must ensure that:

- it's kept separate from other arisings
- it's not used for mulch or firewood
- it's disposed of at a [licensed handling facility, or through deep burial or incineration](#) on site
- you obtain a movement licence if required

Land owners and managers

As a land owner or manager, it's particularly important that you implement appropriate biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction and spread of tree pests and diseases. Not only can these organisms affect the economic value of your trees, they can also have a wider negative impact on other species and habitats.

By following the [biosecurity guidance provided above for the public](#) and [industry professionals](#), you can significantly reduce the risk of tree pests and diseases spreading on to your land. If, however, a tree pest or disease is confirmed on the land you own or manage, there are some additional measures you need to follow:

Statutory Plant Health Notices (SPHNs)

If the tree pest or disease found on the land you own or manage is classified as notifiable, you may be issued with an SPHN. The Forestry Commission and other plant health authorities issue these notices requiring the owner or manager to take certain steps to eradicate or contain notifiable pests and diseases.

SPHNs requiring eradication may require measures to kill the infected or infested trees, such as by felling or ring barking. SPHNs ordering containment measures may allow the infected or infested trees to remain standing, but require any susceptible material to remain on site.

If you're issued with an SPHN, you must follow any instructions provided within the document. If you have any questions about an SPHN you have been issued, [contact the Forestry Commission](#).

Note that receipt of an SPHN doesn't mean that you're in any trouble. Nor does it imply that you have committed an offence, or are at fault for the pest or disease being present on your land. However, failure to comply with the requirements of an SPHN can result in enforcement action and prosecution.

Non-notifiable pests and diseases

You're not required to take any action if the tree pest or disease found on your land is not notifiable. We do, however, recommend that you take the following measures to ensure people's and animals' safety, and to minimise any further spread of the pest or disease. You should:

- continue to implement the biosecurity measures in the [public](#)and [industry professionals](#) sections above
- make any visitors aware of the presence of pests and diseases on your land through information boards, posters at entry points, and/or by adding information and biosecurity guidance to your site's website, if available
- monitor the trees' safety as the infection or infestation progresses, and prune or fell affected trees if they threaten to cause damage or injury
- in low-density situations, such as in parks or gardens, slow the spread of pests and diseases by removing and disposing of (by burying, composting or, where permitted, burning) infected trees and their fallen leaves and branches

Biosecurity kit

Putting together a simple, portable biosecurity kit can help you implement simple measures every day to help limit the introduction and spread of tree pests and diseases. The following are cheap and easily obtained items to include in your kit.

- bucket (big enough to fit your boot and a few inches of water)
- boot pick
- brush
- disinfectant
- hand sanitiser
- water container (or a large re-used water bottle)
- portable pressure washer (optional, but handy for cleaning bikes or other equipment that won't fit in a bucket)

Disinfectants

Propellar and Cleankill Sanitising Spray are effective against Phytophthora species and other plant pathogens. Note that 'Cleankill Sanitising Spray' should be distinguished from 'Cleankill', which is a commonly used animal health disinfectant. 'Cleankill' has not been tested for its effectiveness

against plant pathogens such as Phytophthora species.

We make the following recommendations for using these disinfectants:

- disinfectants are only effective when sprayed on to clean surfaces, so clear all soil and organic material from the surfaces being disinfected before spraying
- use Cleankill Sanitising Spray rather than Propellar to disinfect work boots and outerwear, to avoid any damage to their fabric and glue
- propellar should be used on metal tools to prevent rusting, but it must be stored in a flame-proof container when not in use because of its flammability

[COSHH (control of substances harmful to health) and data safety sheets](#) (PDF, 657KB, 18 pages)

for both of these products are available and should be consulted before use.

If using disinfectant, you should also include these additional items within your kit:

- eye protection
- protective gloves
- flame-proof container

E-learning

The number of introductions of tree pests and diseases has increased. It is therefore more important than ever that we all learn how we can help to minimise the risk of further introductions and spread through the effective application of biosecurity measures.

Our biosecurity e-learning package was developed with the [Animal and Plant Health Agency](#), the [Arboricultural Association](#) and the [British Association for Landscape Industries](#). It provides background information about biosecurity issues, and clear guidance on the most effective and appropriate biosecurity measures for different situations.

The package can be accessed via the Forestry Commission's [e-learning portal](#). Before you first use it, you'll be asked to register and create an account. Once your account is verified you can enrol for the online courses.

The package is divided into five modules:

- Module 1: Biosecurity awareness
- Module 2: Biosecurity – dispersal pathways
- Module 3: Biosecurity measures
- Module 4: Biosecurity – personal controls
- Module 5: Biosecurity – import and export requirements for wood packaging material

At the end of each module is a short test to establish your understanding of

the subject. The pass mark for each test is 80 per cent, and there is an option to re-take the test if required.

If you have any queries about the e-learning package, [contact the Forestry Commission](#).

Resources

'Keep it Clean'

The Forestry Commission's 'Keep it Clean' campaign is a simple, memorable call to action to everyone to incorporate biosecurity measures into their daily routine. You can support the campaign by downloading the media and tools and using them within your organisation any way you can.

- ['Keep it Clean' logo](#)
  (JPEG, 14.4KB)

- [Industry leaflet (arboriculture)](#)
  (PDF, 1.16MB, 2 pages)

- [Industry leaflet (forestry)](#)
  (PDF, 979KB, 2 pages)

- [Industry leaflet (landscaping)](#)
  (PDF, 992KB, 2 pages)

- ['Think kit, think transport, think trees' poster](#)
  (PDF, 43.8KB, 1 page)

- ['Think kit, think transport, think trees' window sticker](#)
  (PDF, 38.2KB, 1 page)

You can also show your support on Twitter by using the Forestry Commission's ['Keep it Clean' Twibbon](#)

Other useful resources

- [UK Plant Health Risk Register](#)
  Records the main threats to the UK's plants and trees, and provides

prioritised actions to help us improve our defences against them

- [UK Plant Health Information Portal](#)
  Provides a hub for plant health information, data and resources
- [Plant Biosecurity Strategy](#)
  Provides a high-level overview of the activity that Defra and the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales are undertaking to improve plant biosecurity across Great Britain
- [Tree Health Management Plan](#)
  Sets out the government's approach to tree health in England, which is in line with the Plant Biosecurity Strategy
- [Tree Health Resilience Strategy](#)
  Sets out the UK's plans to reduce the risk of pest and disease threats, and how we will strengthen the resilience of our trees to withstand threats
- [Generic Contingency Plan for Plant and Bee Health in England](#)
  A working document describing how Defra and operational partners will prepare for, and would respond to, an outbreak of a plant or bee pest or disease in England
- [Countryside Stewardship](#)
  Apply for tree health grants all year round to restore or improve woodland trees

Contacts

For tree health and biosecurity related queries:

- email: tree_health_england@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- phone: 0300 067 4321

For e-learning enquiries:

- forestryelearning@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Use [Tree Alert](#) to report a suspected tree pest or disease to the Forestry Commission.

Sign up to [Tree Health News](#) for the latest information on tree and woodland health.

Follow [@ForestryComm](#) on Twitter for updates on forestry grants, regulations and tree health in England.

[Detailed guide: Find a specific tree pest or disease](#)

The pests and diseases listed below are either present in Great Britain or

posing the greatest threat of entering.

Some of the information below is still being developed, and will be fully updated by March 2019.

Tree pests in alphabetical order

- Asian longhorn beetle (Anoplophora glabripennis)
- Bronze birch borer (Agrilus anxius)
- Budworms (multiple species)
- Citrus longhorn beetle (Anoplophora chinensis)
- Eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (Ips typographus)
- Elm zig-zag sawfly (Aproceros leucopoda)
- Emerald ash borer (Agrilus planipennis)
- Great spruce bark beetle (Dendroctonus micans)
- Gypsy moth (Lymantria dispar)
- Horse chestnut leaf miner (Cameraria ohridella)
- Oak pinhole borer (Platypus cylindrus)
- Oak processionary moth (Thaumetopoea processionea)
- Oriental chestnut gall wasp (Dryocosmus kuriphilus)
- Pine processionary moth (Thaumetopoea pityocampa)
- Pine-tree lappet moth (Dendrolimus pini)
- Pinewood nematode (Bursaphelenchus xylophilus)
- Siberian coniferous silk moth (Dendrolimus sibiricus)
- Two-spotted oak buprestid beetle (Agrilus biguttatus)

Tree diseases in alphabetical order

- Acute oak decline
- Chalara dieback of ash (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus)
- Chronic oak dieback
- Conifer root and butt rot
- Dothistroma needle blight of pine (Dothistroma septosporum)
- Dutch elm disease (Ophiostoma novo-ulmi)
- Elm yellows phytoplasma (Candidatus Phytoplasma ulmi)
- Horse chestnut bleeding canker (Pseudomonas syringae pv. aesculi)
- Massaria disease of plane trees (Splanchnonema platani)
- Neonectria disease of fir trees (Neonectria neomacrospora)
- Oak wilt (Ceratocystis fagacearum)
- Phytophthora diseases — an overview
- Phytophthora alni of alder
- Phytophthora austrocedri
- Phytophthora kernoviae
- Phytophthora lateralis
- Phytophthora ramorum
- Pitch canker of pine (Fusarium circinatum)
- Plane tree threats
- Sirococcus blight (Sirococcus tsugae)
- Sweet chestnut blight (Cryphonectria parasitica)
- Xylella (Xylella fastidiosa)

[Speech: PM speech at the Africa 'Call to Invest' UNGA event](#)

I am delighted to be here, alongside President Kagame, President Akufo-Addo and Prime Minister Trudeau, to open this meeting.

Today we make a call to invest in Africa.

Africa stands on the cusp of playing a transformative role in the global economy. A more prosperous, growing and trading Africa is in all of our interests. But its incredible potential will only be realised through a concerted partnership between governments, global institutions and business.

That's why we are bringing together today, political leaders, business leaders and the African leaders of tomorrow. For together we can work in partnership to unleash the transformative power of trade and investment to work across the continent of Africa.

Last month, I made my first official visit to Africa — I met leaders, entrepreneurs and young people who are building an exciting future for their countries and their continent.

I saw a continent full of potential. One with a young population that is eager to embrace the opportunities of the 21st century — and ready to play its part in tackling the challenges we all face.

I was delighted when I was there to meet a young fashion designer in Nigeria, and a young jewellery designer in Kenya — examples of the next generation.

I am delighted that we are also joined by representatives of that next generation today.

But Africa's potential will only be realised if we invest in the next generation.

Just to keep pace with its growing population, Africa will need to create 18 million new jobs every year between now and 2035.

And creating those jobs is not just important for Africa's future. In our interconnected world, where new jobs in Africa drive new markets, new trade and investment opportunities, and greater global stability, these new jobs are important for everyone's future.

That is why high-quality investment and job creation forms the centrepiece of the UK's new partnership with Africa.

It is why I want the UK to be the G7's number 1 investor in Africa by 2022, with our companies investing billions into African economies.

It is why the UK is ensuring that the 0.7% of gross national income we spend on development will do more to support investment and job creation in Africa and in developing economies across the world.

While in South Africa, I announced plans for £4 billion of new UK government investment in African economies that will pave the way for at least another £4 billion of private sector financing.

And next year the UK will host an Africa investment summit in the UK — bringing African leaders together with private and institutional businesses and investors.

This partnership working is vital to delivering the high-quality investment we want to see.

Today, I am delighted to welcome the Sustainable Development Capital Initiative which, in partnership with UK Government, will develop the City of London's role in raising the capital needed to meet the sustainable development goals.

I am also pleased that the UK played a role in the International Finance Corporation doubling the investment it supports in Sub-Saharan Africa, to $10-12 billion a year by 2030.

These and wider shifts in the multilateral system are encouraging foreign investment in African countries by improving business environments, and addressing market barriers, such as regulation and risk mitigation.

But like everyone here today, I want us to go further still.

So together today, we are issuing a 'Call to Invest' in Africa. A challenge to governments, businesses, investors and organisations the world over, to redouble our efforts to address the youth jobs challenge, and to bring fresh ideas and practical commitments to the table.

When Africa succeeds, the world succeeds.

So let us together invest in Africa and — in doing so — invest in all our futures.