



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Oak Processionary Moth Policy – Industry awareness webinar

11th May 2023



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

What will this presentation cover?

Part 1

- What is Oak Processionary Moth?
- Signs and symptoms
- Current distribution in GB

Part 2

- Current policy
 - Oak Imports
 - Oak Movement within GB (upcoming changes in May 2023 and how to prepare)
- Guidance and support



What is Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)?

- Pest of oak trees
- Native to southern Europe
- Hazard to the health of oak trees, people and animals
- Present since 2006 OPM has limited geographical distribution in GB
- OPM management programme since 2012 to control and slow down the spread, protect the rest of GB and ensure oak remains in the landscape
- Control via insecticides or nest removal.
- OPM cannot be eradicated from GB
- Climatic conditions would support OPM establishment across a large proportion of England



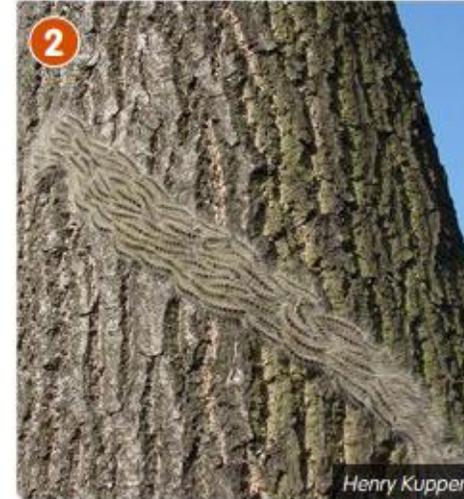
Human
and
animal
health



Tree
health

Signs and symptoms of OPM

- 1 Live almost exclusively on oak trees
- 2 Move in **nose-to-tail processions** in oak trees or on the ground
- 3 Often **cluster together**
- 4 Build **white, silken webbing trails** and **nests** – usually dome or teardrop-shaped – on oak trunks and branches (not among the leaves)
- 5 The nests soon become **discoloured**



The greatest risk period is June to August, but nests should always be avoided because they can contain thousands of shed hairs.

OPM Emergence

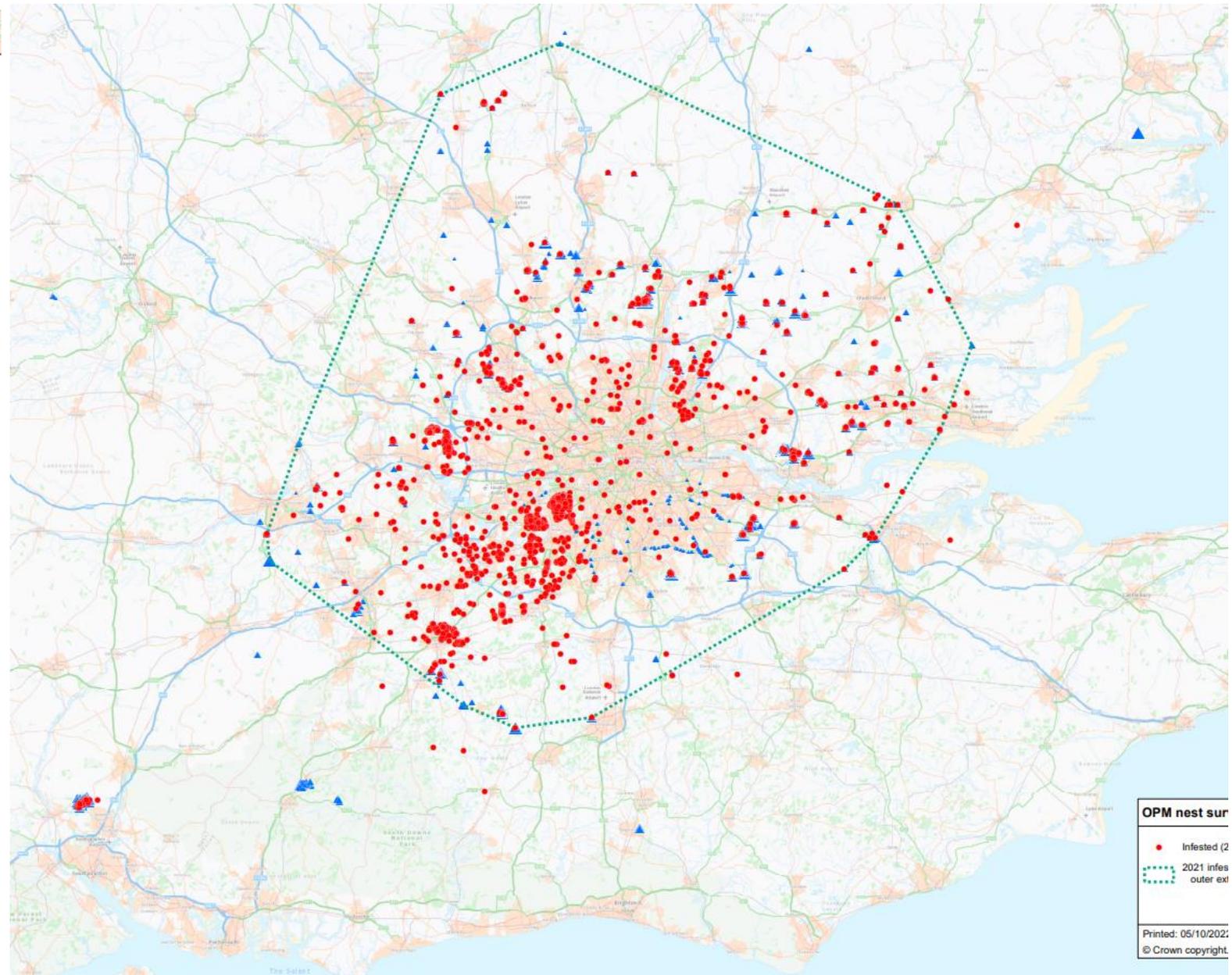
- OPM egg plaques are not visible – 20-30 mm long
- Emergence varies on a yearly basis from mid-March to mid-April, linked to leaf unfurling.
- Freshly hatched caterpillars 1-2 mm long



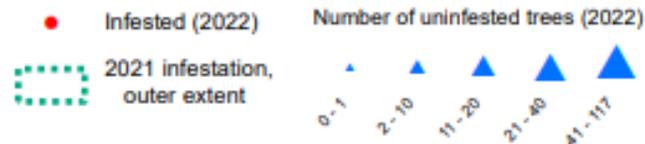
Forestry Commission surveillance

Annual surveillance programme.

In 2022 3573 infested trees in total, **807 infested sites**



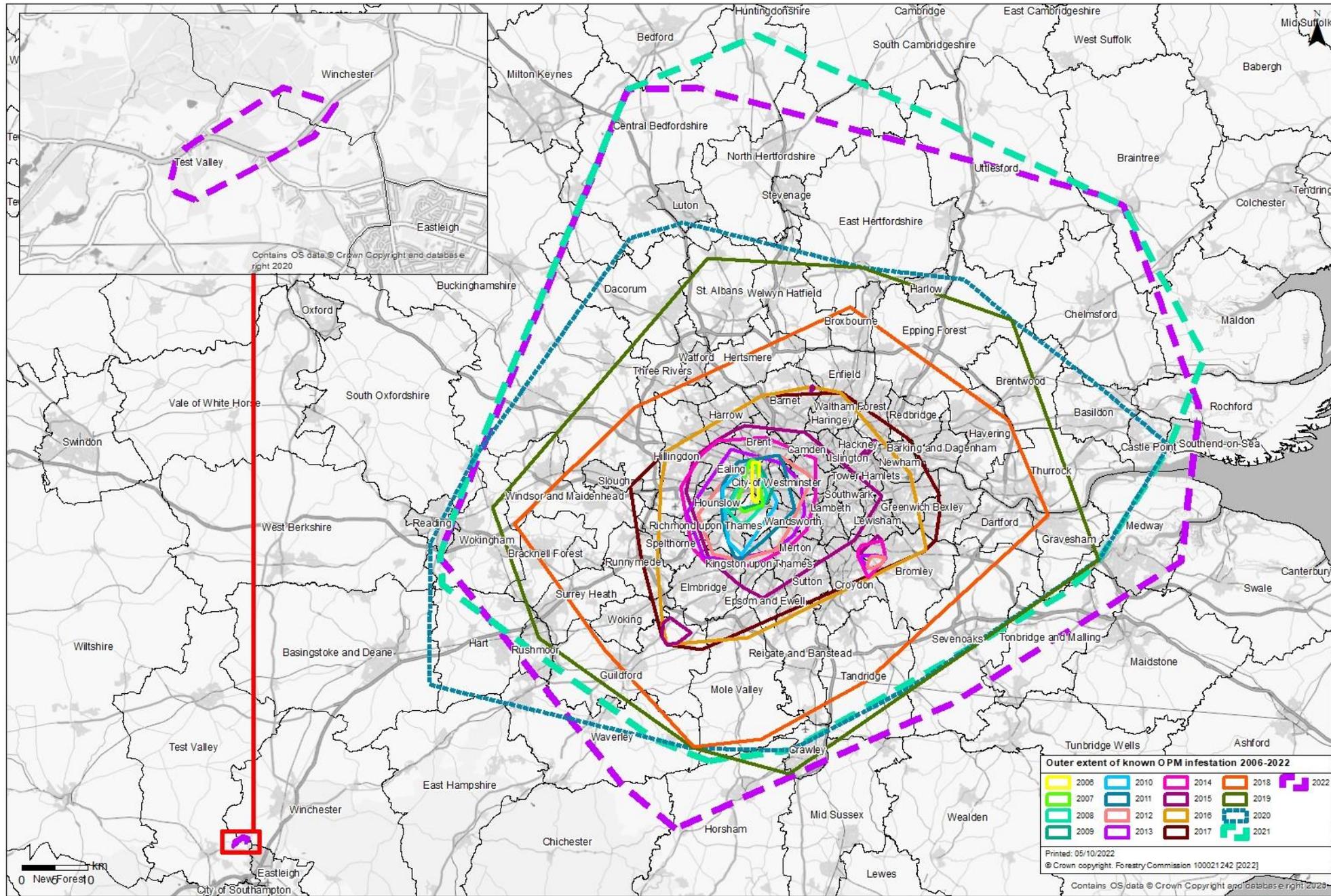
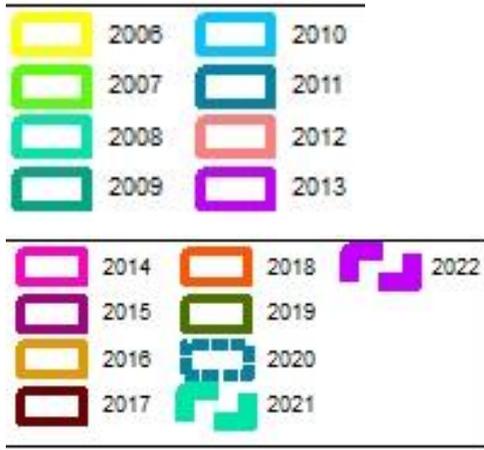
OPM nest survey - 2022



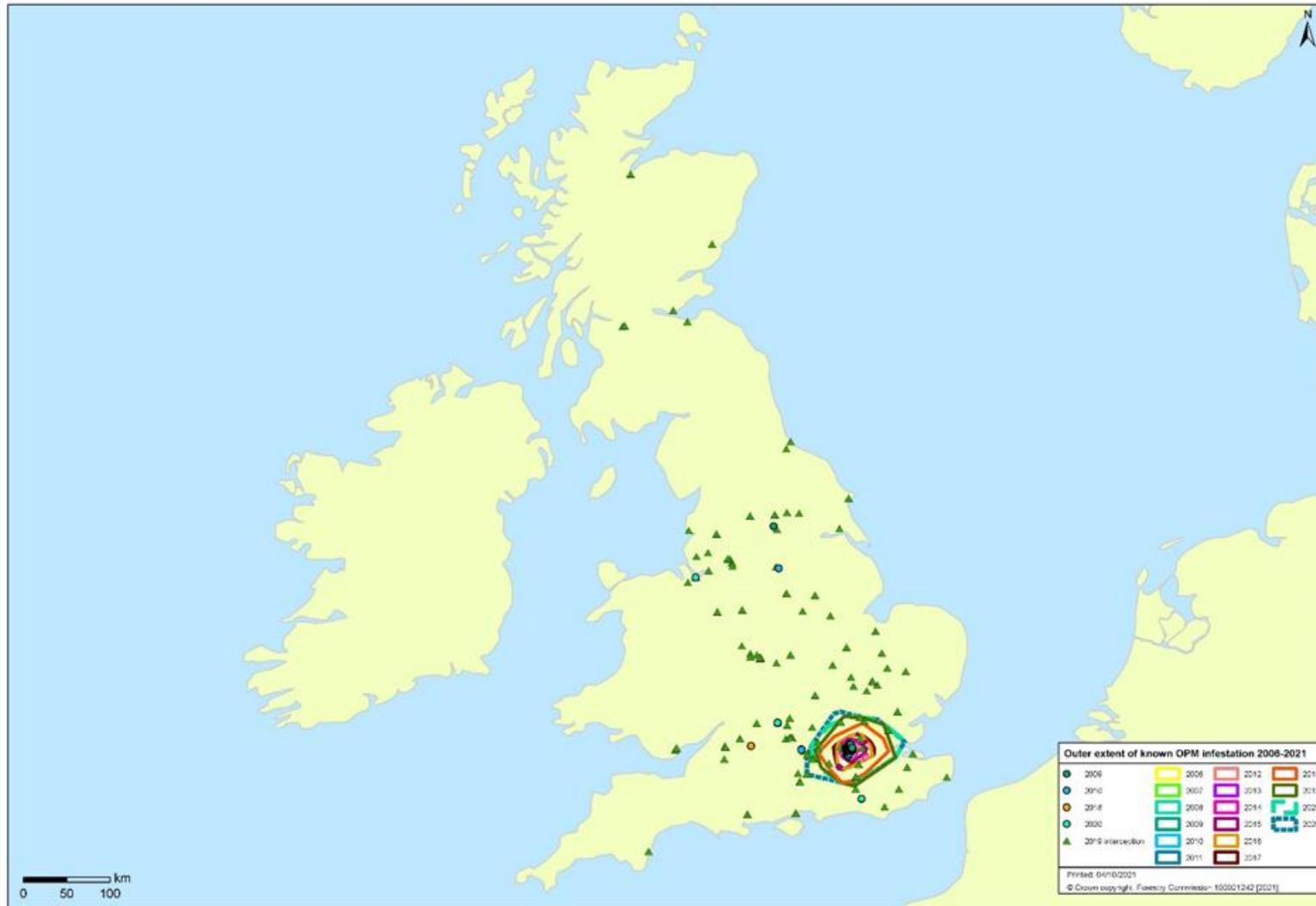
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Document Path: G:\LiveData\UC1346_OPMM\MapDocs\SummerSurvey\2021ForWe

Ongoing spread



Interceptions of OPM



- In 2019 large number of OPM interceptions on imported oak trees from Europe
- Found at 60 planting sites in the area free from the pest across GB.
- Action was taken to eradicate the findings.
- Strengthened our import requirements



Part 2...

Summary of policy approach



Oak Processionary Moth is regulated as a **GB Quarantine pest**.



Limit the rate of spread and reduce the impact of OPM on tree, human and animal health.



Government funding is **prioritised at treating infested trees and carrying out surveillance at the leading edge of infestation to maintain the area free from the pest.**



Investment into **research for control and management** and providing an operational 'test and development' function to build knowledge and evidence.

OPM Management Programme

-  Robustly deal with new findings to **prevent the development of a new outbreak hotspot** in the area free from the pest
-  Maintain the range of management activities (**survey, control and communications**)
-  Continue **building a partnership approach**, including integration of landowner/manager expertise in dealing with OPM.

Government actions and support differs depending on which OPM management zone OPM is found within

Oak imports

Since spring 2022:

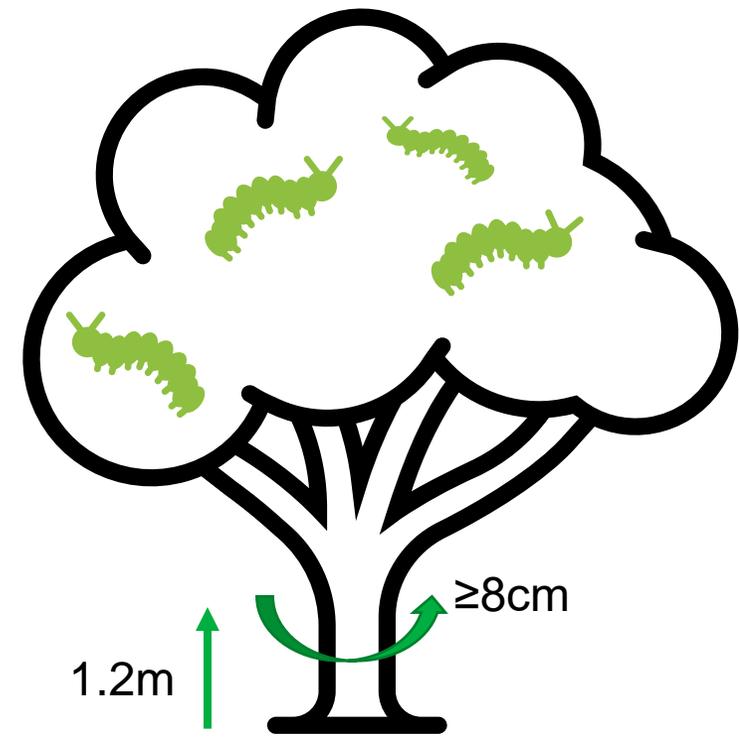
- **No imports** to GB of oak trees from outside the EU.
- **No imports** to GB of large oaks (*Quercus* sp.) from EU countries unless:
 - a) they originate from a Pest Free Area,
 - b) Pest Free Country (Ireland) or
 - c) have been grown throughout their life under complete physical protection and inspected

Moving oak trees within GB: Upcoming changes

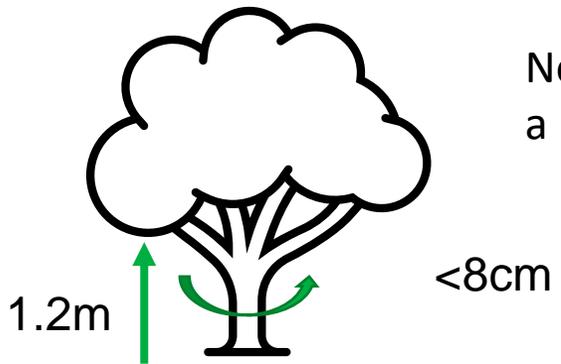
The **size** of the tree and **which OPM management zone** it is located in and **moving to will** impact the restrictions that apply.

Large oak trees are classified as having a girth at 1.2m above the root collar of at least 8cm - approx. 2.55cm diameter.

There are no restrictions on moving small oak trees (with a girth at 1.2m above the root collar of less than 8cm).



Note: Small oak trees still require a plant passport



Restrictions for large oak trees



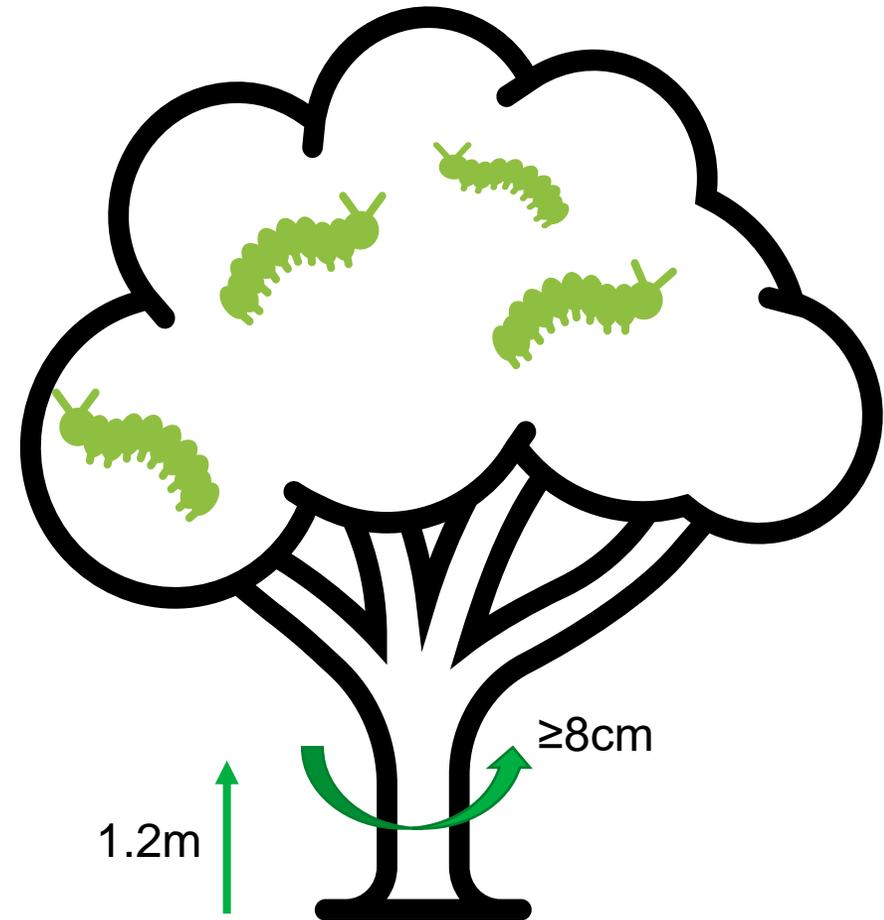
Large oak trees in the **area free from the pest can be moved** anywhere in GB.



Large oak trees **can be moved from the Buffer Zone or Established area** if they are **grown throughout their life under complete physical protection** and inspected.



Biosecurity requirements and movement restrictions apply to any other movement from the **Buffer zone or Established area from 24 May 2023.**

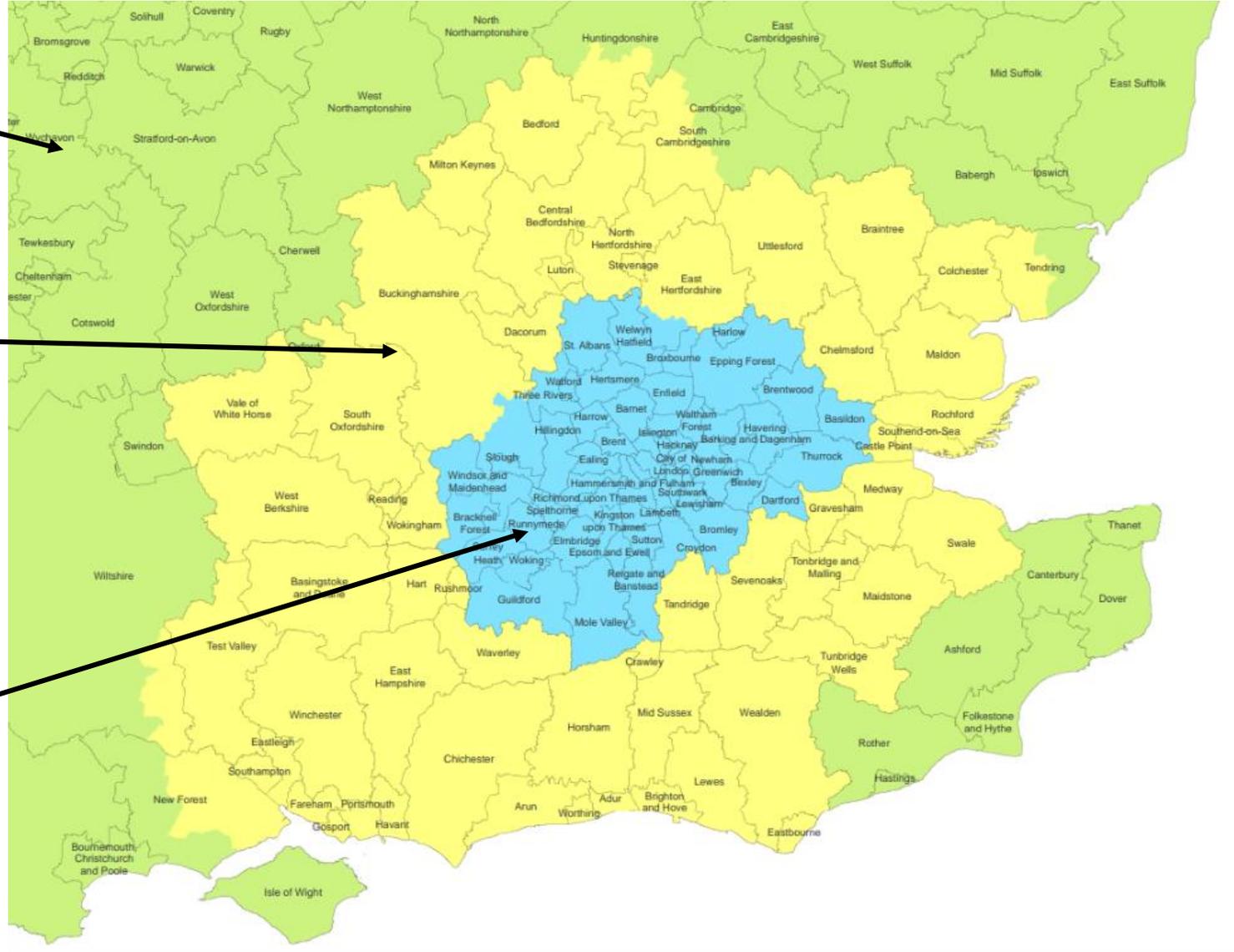


OPM 2023 management zones

Area free from the pest

Buffer zone

Established area



Biosecurity and movement requirements

Which biosecurity requirements and movement restrictions apply will depend on where in the buffer zone or established area you are moving large oak trees from and to

Biosecurity requirements

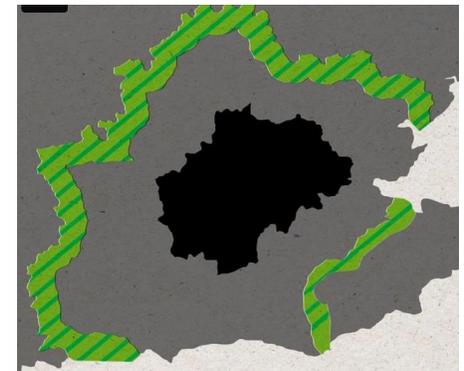
🔒 BIOSECURITY
COMPETENCE

🔍 OFFICIAL
INSPECTIONS

✅ CHEMICAL
CONTROL REGIME

🌱 RISK-BASED
POST-PLANTING
INSPECTIONS

Movement restrictions & 10km exclusion zone



What are the biosecurity requirements?

BIOSECURITY COMPETENCE

- Compliance with the Plant Health Management Standard through **Plant Healthy certification** or **Ready to Plant approval (FERA)**.
- Evidence of **on-site monitoring** for OPM and that nursery staff have inspected trees and have signed these off as pest free to the best of their knowledge.
- **Records of large oak movements** (min 3 years).

OFFICIAL INSPECTIONS

- **APHA checks during plant passporting inspection** to ensure you are meeting all the relevant requirements.
- Might include checking documentation of spraying regime, movement records and biosecurity competence certification.

Plant Healthy or Ready to Plant

The requirements of the Plant Health Management Standard can be met in one of two ways:



1) Plant Healthy

- Requires one application for the whole business.
- Certification scheme manual sets out the requirements to be met.
- Website explains the certification process and contact details of the two certification bodies.
- For general questions about the scheme contact the scheme manager Alistair Yeomans:
<https://planthealthy.org.uk/contact-us>

Growers, garden retailers, landscapers and arborists, together we can help protect our plants from destructive pests and diseases.

Plant Healthy Certification Scheme

PLANT HEALTHY SCHEME MANUAL DIRECTORY OF CERTIFIED BUSINESSES

STAGE 1 > **Self Assessment**
Register and complete the free Self Assessment Tool.

STAGE 2 > **Application**
Apply to an approved certification body for an audit.

STAGE 3 > **Continual improvement**
Key sources of information and training.

Help safeguard your business and our countryside.
Just one disease like ash dieback can cause billions of pounds worth of economic and environmental damage. That's why we need to work together to grow, buy and sell healthy plants.

www.planthealthy.org.uk

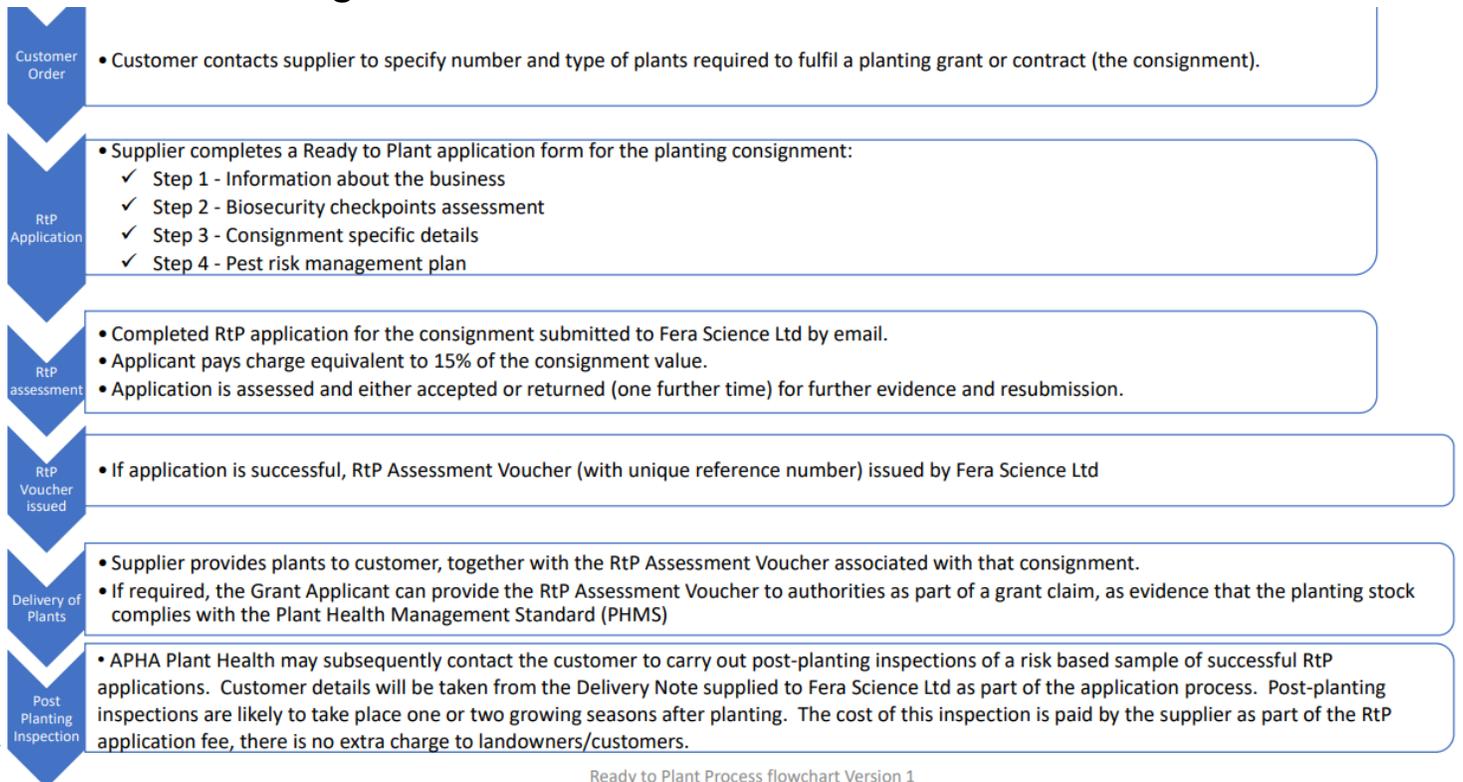
Plant Healthy or Ready to Plant

The requirements of the Plant Health Management Standard can be met in one of two ways:



2) Ready to Plant

- Operated by FERA, demonstrate that a consignment of plants complies with the requirements of the Plant Health Management Standard (PHMS).
- Each consignment will need its own application before the consignment can be moved



What are the biosecurity requirements?

CHEMICAL CONTROL REGIME

- A robust OPM control regime including **spraying in line with technical guidance** (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var *kurstaki* (e.g *Dipel DF*) or *Deltamethrin* (*Decis Forte*))
- Must record details of phytosanitary treatments applied

 **Treatment window is around late March to mid June – you may need to be spraying trees now**

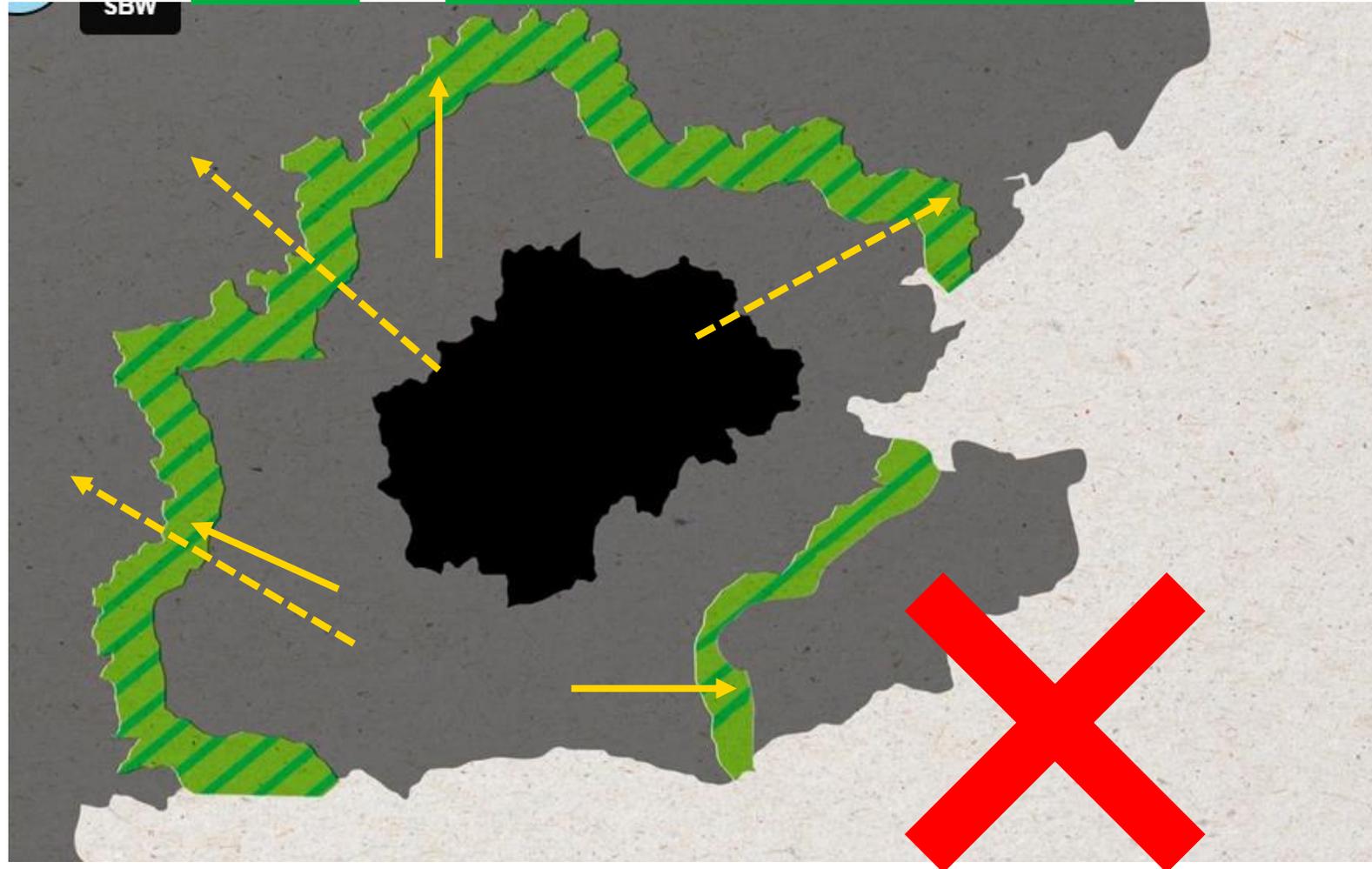
RISK-BASED POST-PLANTING INSPECTIONS

- A proportion of high-risk oak movements within the buffer zone will be subject to post-planting inspections.
- Legally required to record:
 - Date of movement
 - Identity, address, email address and phone number of recipient
 - Species and girth at 1.2m
- Must notify the recipient of potential for post planting inspection

How to apply the Biosecurity requirements



No moving large oak trees from the Established area or Buffer Zone into Area Free from the Pest or 10km exclusion zone



Moving oak trees within GB – Established Area

No moving from the Established area to the Buffer Zone



Moving oak trees within GB – Established Area

Where?

Professional operators can move trees that reside in the Established area:

Within the Established area only

How?

 BIOSECURITY
COMPETENCE

 OFFICIAL
INSPECTIONS



Moving oak trees within GB – Buffer Zone

Where?

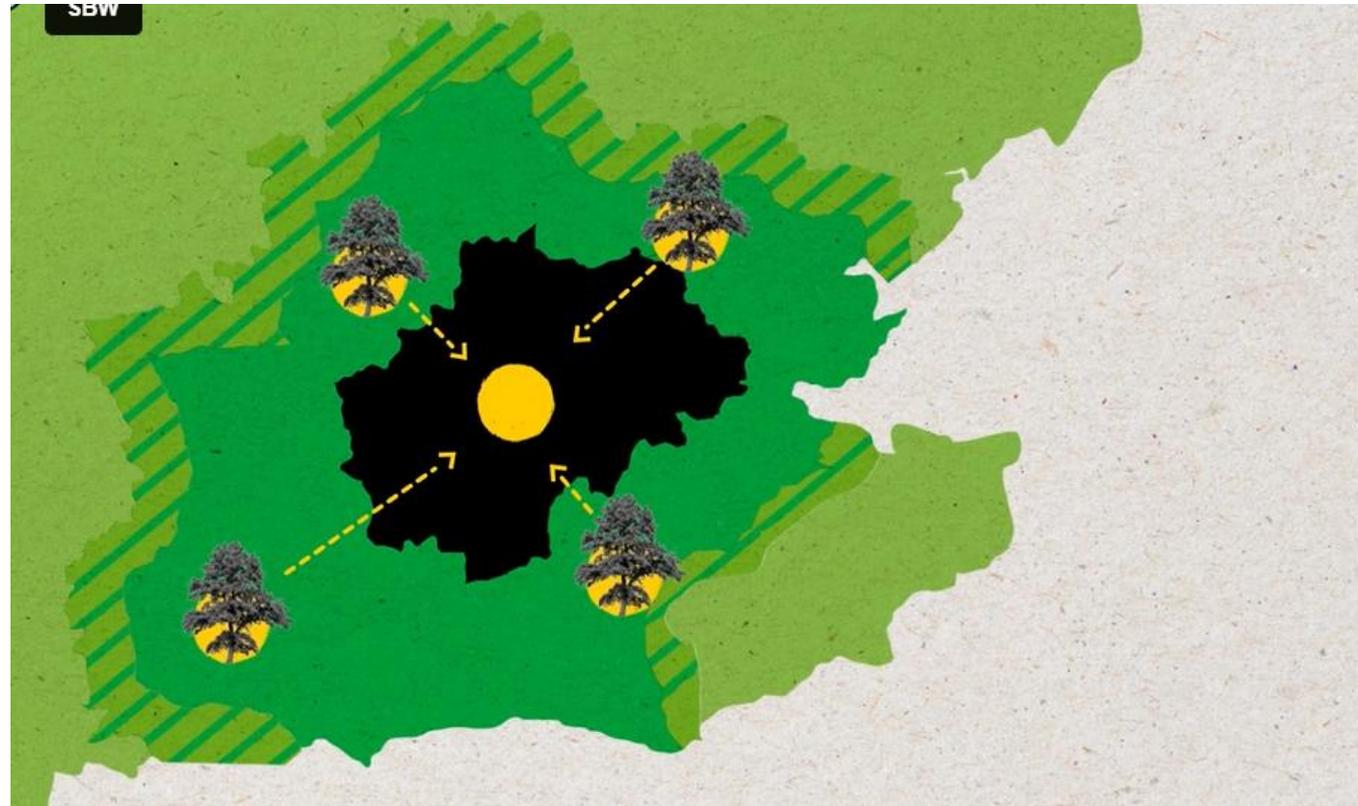
Professional operators can move trees that reside in the Buffer zone:

into the [Established area](#)

How?

 BIOSECURITY
COMPETENCE

 OFFICIAL
INSPECTIONS



Moving oak trees within GB – Buffer Zone

Where?

Professional operators can move trees that reside in the Buffer zone:

within the Buffer zone but not within 10km exclusion zone

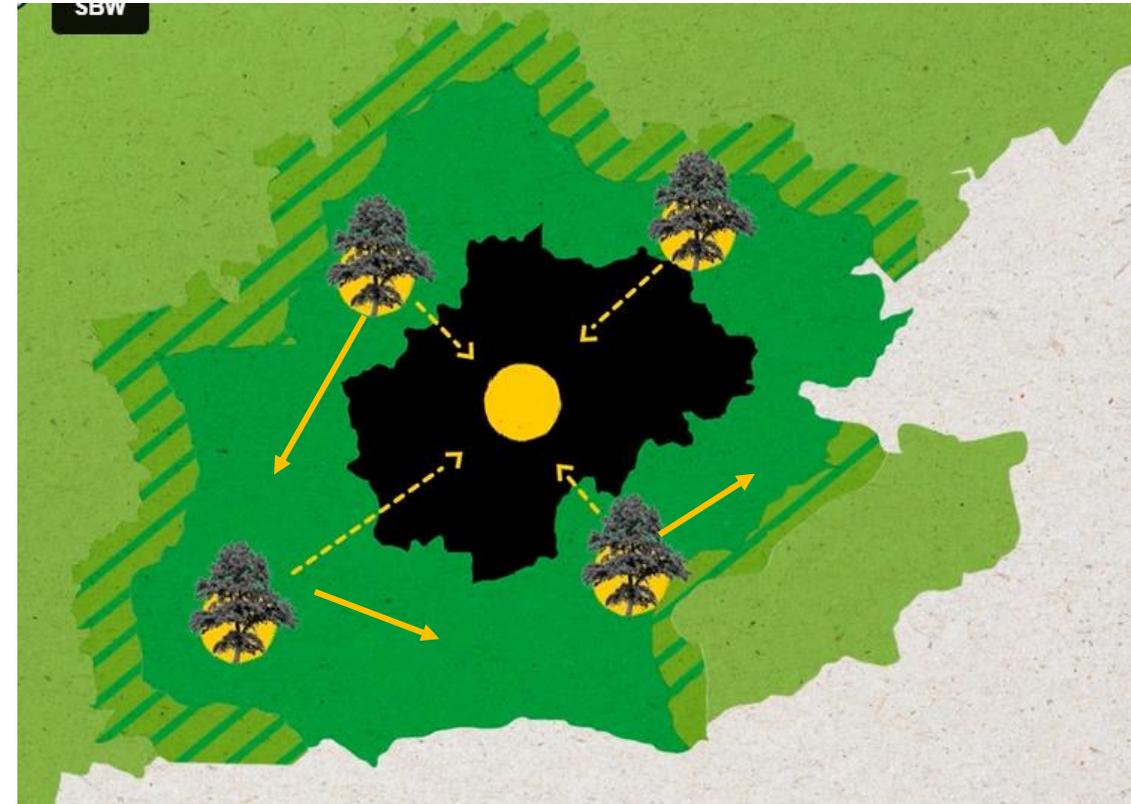
How?

🔒 BIOSECURITY
COMPETENCE

✅ CHEMICAL
CONTROL REGIME

🔍 OFFICIAL
INSPECTIONS

🌱 RISK-BASED
POST-PLANTING
INSPECTIONS



Transient movements

If you are **moving a large oak tree to the planting site within a period of less than 48 hours of taking possession**

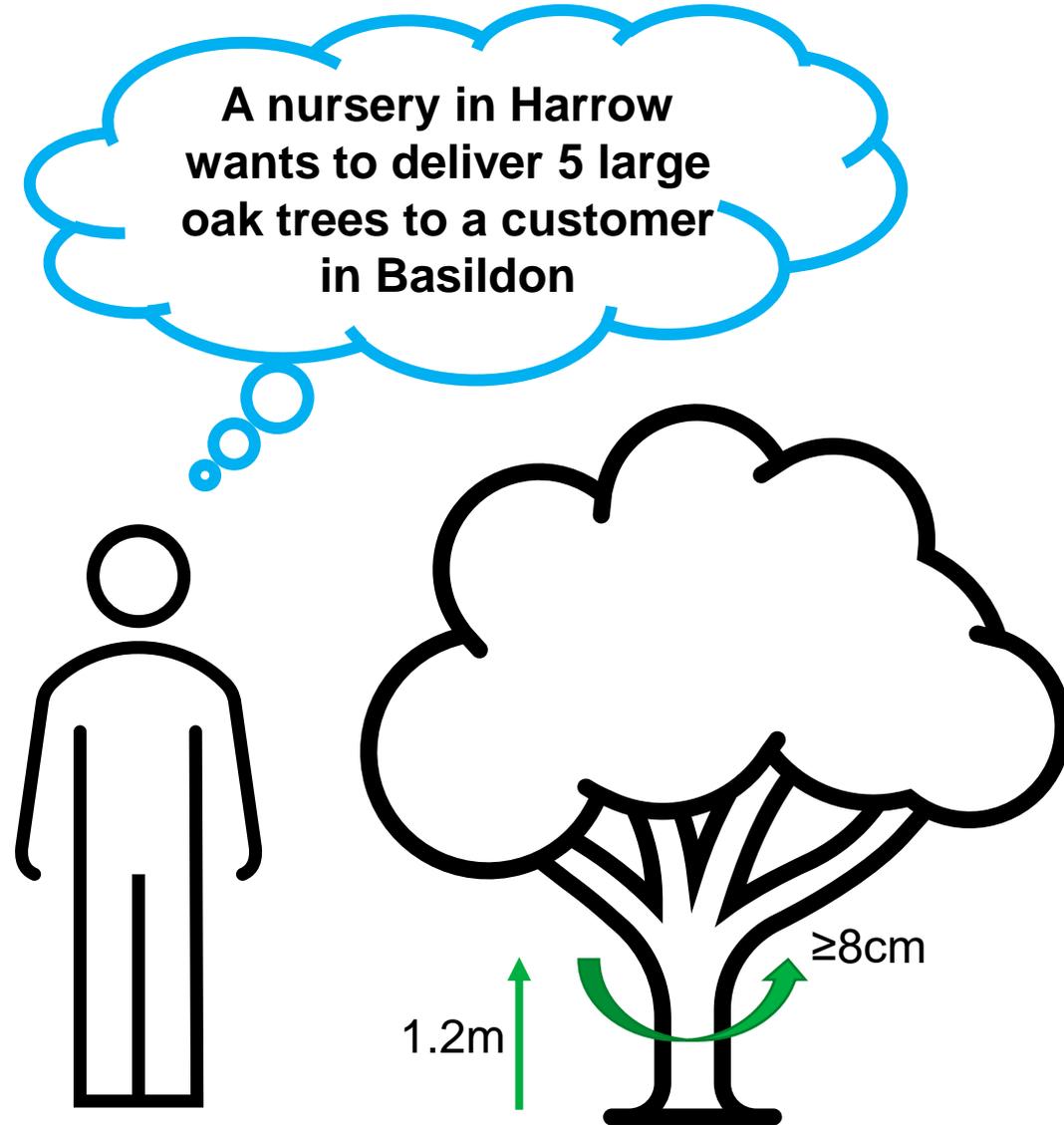
You do not need to:

- Hold Plant Healthy certification or Ready to Plant approval
- Apply phytosanitary treatments

You do need to:

- Follow the movement restrictions
- No movements from the Established area to the Buffer Zone
- No movements from the Established area/Buffer Zone to the Area Free from the Pest
- No movements into the 10km exclusion zone from the Buffer Zone or the Established Area
- Record and retain details of the recipient and tree being moved for post planting inspection
- Notify the recipient of the potential requirement for post planting inspection

Example 1

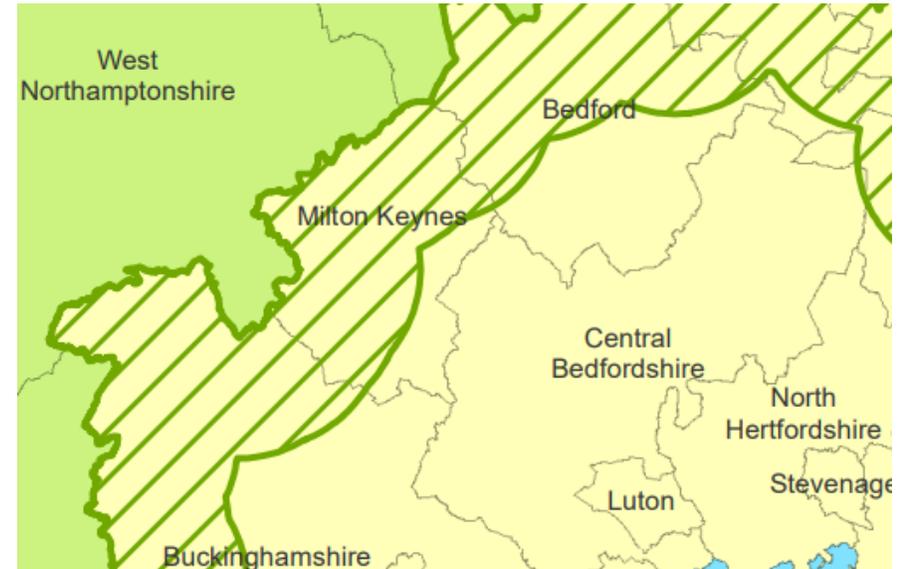


- 1) Can the trees be moved to Basildon? Yes. Harrow and Basildon are both in the Established area so the trees can be moved.
- 2) What conditions need to be met before the trees can be moved?
 - Biosecurity competence & official inspections
 - Plant Healthy Certified or have a Ready to Plant approval for the 5 trees.
 - A staff member on site needs to sign the trees off as pest free to the best of their knowledge and keep a record of this, along with the destination of the trees to show at their Plant Passporting checks with their inspector.

Example 2

A landscaper wants to use their usual supplier of large oak trees in Reading for a project in Milton Keynes

- 1) Can the trees be moved to Milton Keynes? Possibly. The supplier is in Reading (Buffer zone) but part of Milton Keynes falls into the 10km exclusion zone. Landscaper would first need to check the planting location for the project site and make sure this is not in the 10km exclusion zone.



Example 2



A landscaper wants to use their usual supplier of large oak trees in Reading for a project in Milton Keynes

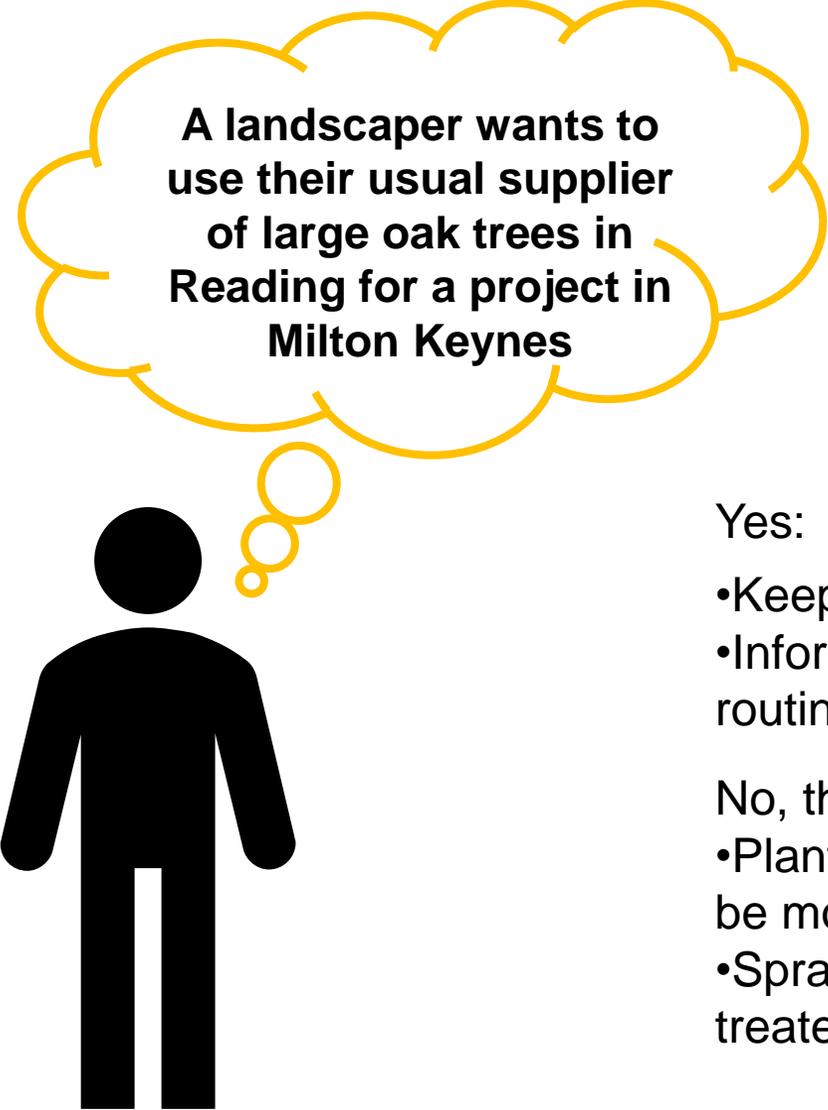
1) **Can the trees be moved to Milton Keynes?** Possibly. The supplier is in Reading (Buffer zone) but part of Milton Keynes falls into the 10km exclusion zone. Landscaper would first need to check the planting location for the project site and make sure this is not in the 10km exclusion zone.

2) **What biosecurity conditions need to be met before the trees can be moved?**

Nursery/supplier

- Biosecurity competence, official inspections, chemical control regime & post planting inspections
- Plant Healthy Certified or have a Ready to Plant approval for any trees to be moved.
- Need to spray the trees at the right time of year to make sure they have been treated.
- Keep records of treatments, biosecurity competence and signing the trees off as pest free for official inspections.
- Keep records of the movement & recipient (landscaper).
- Inform the landscaper that trees could be inspected as part of government routine biosecurity post planting inspections.

Example 2



A landscaper wants to use their usual supplier of large oak trees in Reading for a project in Milton Keynes

1) **Can the trees be moved to Milton Keynes?** Possibly. The supplier is in Reading (Buffer zone) but part of Milton Keynes falls into the 10km exclusion zone. Landscaper would first need to check the planting location for the project site and make sure this is not in the 10km exclusion zone.

2) **What biosecurity conditions need to be met before the trees can be moved?**

Landscaper

Is it moving direct to site within 48 hrs?

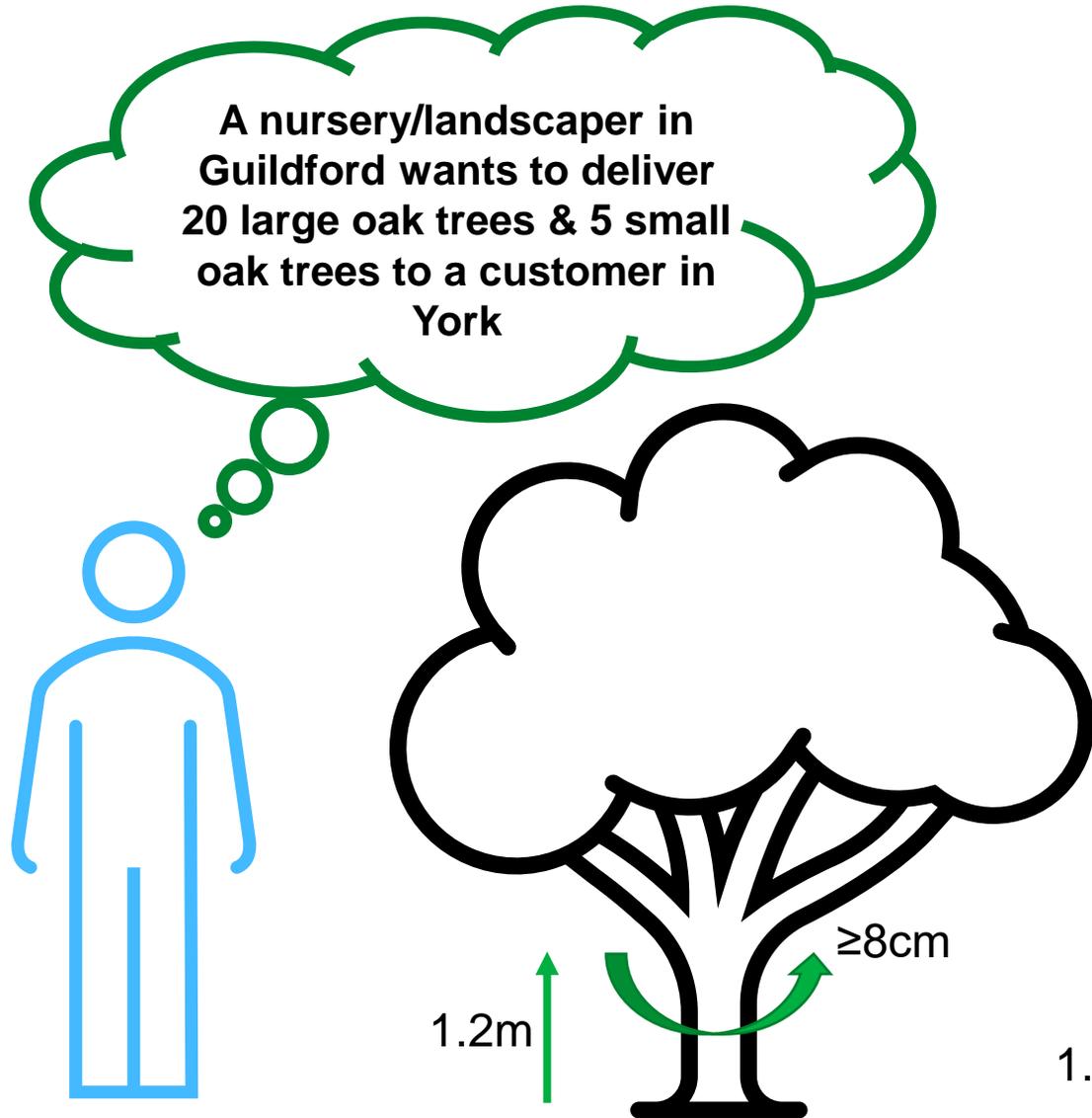
Yes:

- Keep records of the movement and recipient.
- Inform their client that trees could be inspected as part of government routine biosecurity post planting inspections.

No, then the landscaper also needs to:

- Plant Healthy Certified or have a Ready to Plant approval for any trees to be moved.
- Spray the trees at the right time of year to make sure they have been treated.

Example 3



Can the trees be moved to York?

The small oak trees can be moved to York without restrictions, other than plant passporting.

The large oak trees cannot be moved to York.

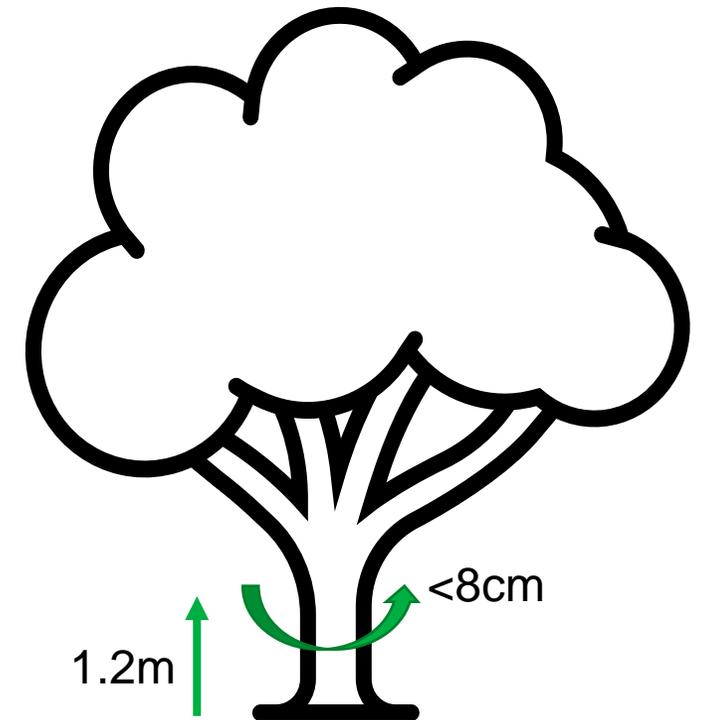
No movements of large oak are allowed out of the Established Area or the Buffer Zone to the Area Free from the Pest.

Reminder...

Movements of small oak trees are **not restricted** in GB.

These new requirements also do not apply for oak trees in the area free from the pest.

Check biosecurity requirements and movement restrictions beforehand and communicate to clients.



How do I know where I am moving trees to and from?

Interactive map tutorial

<https://opmhub.fera.co.uk/distributionmap>

What do I do if I find OPM?

 **OPM is still a GB Quarantine Pest.**

If you find OPM on trees you are holding as a professional operator:

- Do not move the trees
- Immediately report to your Plant Health and Seeds Inspector

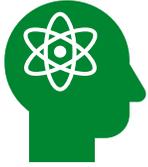
If you find OPM on trees in the wider environment:

- Report to Forestry Commission via [TreeAlert](#) or opm@forestrycommission.gov.uk

Support and resources

Most importantly - Speak to your Plant Health and Seeds Inspector

planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk



- [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) – Detail on new **policy and restrictions**, FC management plan



- **OPM Resource Hub** – Interactive map and management approaches



- **Digital guide** and **video** explaining recent policy changes to moving oak trees



- Receive updates via the Forestry Commissions **OPM programme newsletters**.

- **Newsletters & social media** from FC, Defra and APHA.

- **Trade association** – Speak to HTA, BALI, CLA,

Support and resources

- PDF map available on: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-oak-processionary-moth-in-england>
- Interactive map available at: <https://opmhub.fera.co.uk/distributionmap>
- Digital guide including video: [Oak Processionary Moth management policy changes guide - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/oak-processionary-moth-management-policy-changes-guide)