



Plant and Tree Health Policy & Practise in the Welsh Government

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RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANT & TREE HEALTH IN WALES



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Plant and Tree Health is a devolved matter within the UK.

The Welsh Government is responsible for implementing all EU and UK legislation in Wales.

Welsh Ministers with Forestry responsibility –Carl Sargeant Minister for Natural Resources together with Rebecca Evans-Deputy Minister for Farming & Food

Welsh Ministers are responsible for legislation relevant to Sustainable Forest Management and have a duty under the Forestry Act to have:

‘due regard to the national interest in maintaining and expanding the forestry resources of Wales’

Welsh Ministers have delegated operational management of tree health in Wales to NRW.

Pests and diseases do not recognise borders, so UK plant health authorities cooperate to safeguard plant health in the UK



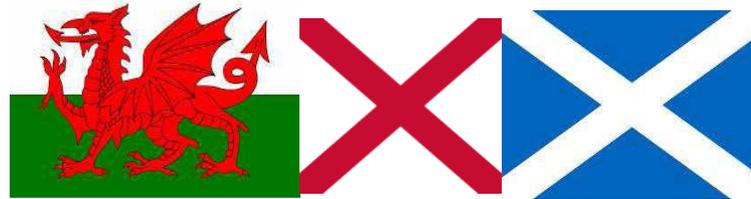
UK Roles and Responsibilities



- co-ordination of UK policy
- International representation
- Administers UK PH risks register



- Operational management of tree health in wales
- Management of the impact of pests and diseases is a key role.



- Participate in UK decision making
- Devolved implementation

Forest Research



- Participate in UK decision making
- Forestry/wood implementation



- Diagnostics for England and Wales



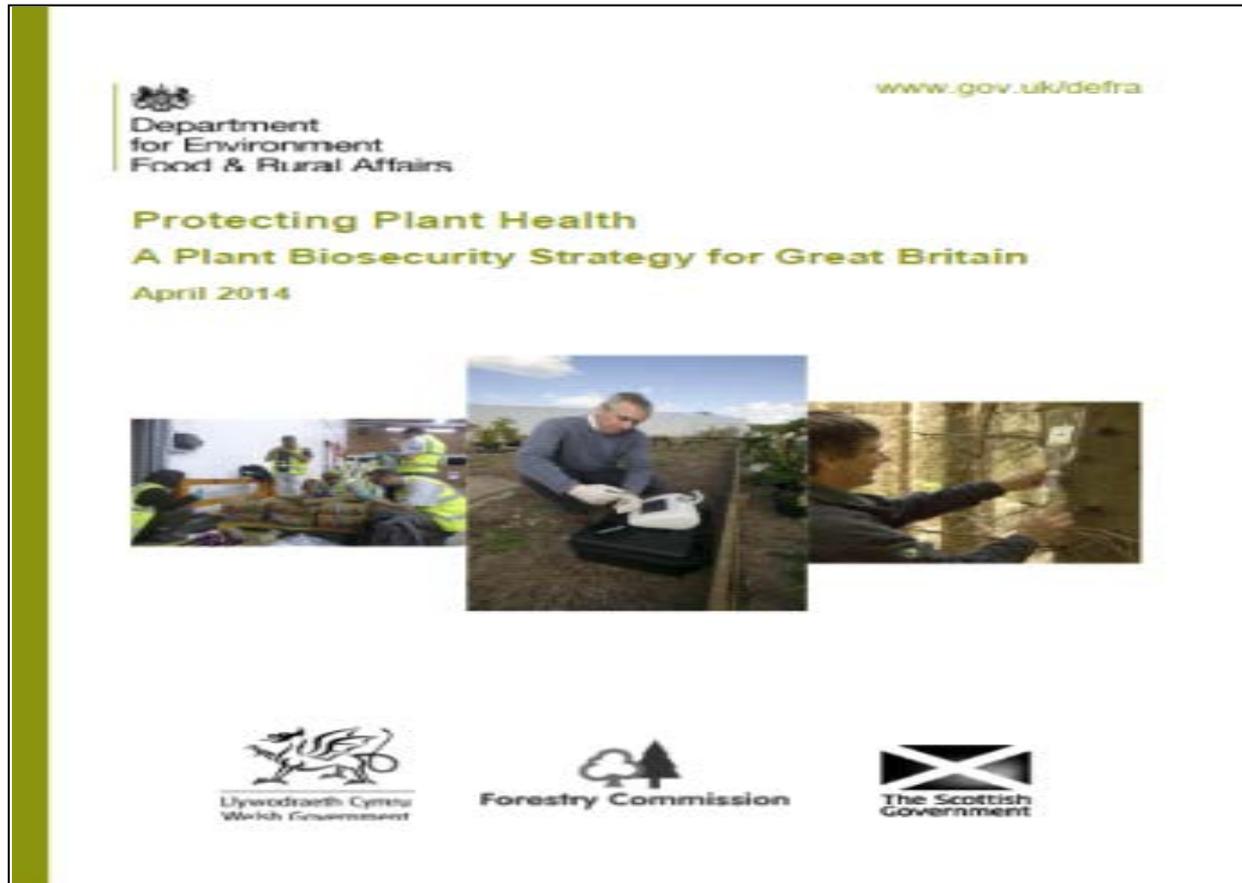
- inspectorate for England and Wales

This coordinated approach is evidenced through strategy documents like the UK Plant Health Biosecurity Strategy.



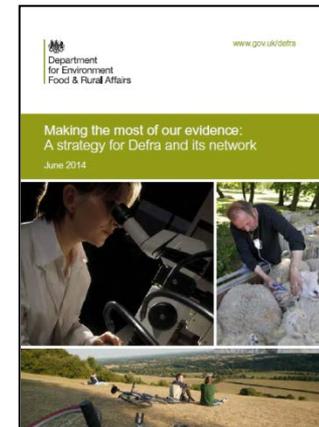
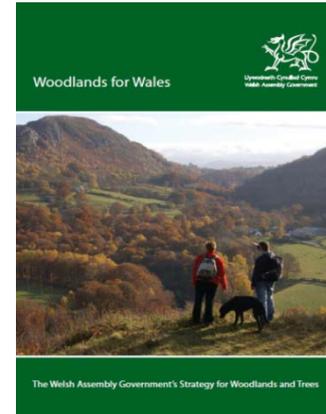
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How do we protect the country from Plant Health disease.





Plant Health Strategy

Threats to plant and tree health are increasing with international trade, travel and the predicted effects of climate change.

Plant Health policies and regulations are designed to prevent the introduction or spread of serious plant pests and diseases which threaten agriculture and the environment.

They also ensure as far as possible that markets in agricultural produce are not adversely affected by plant health problems.

To guard against the spread of harmful organisms, official controls apply to the:

- Import;
- movement; and,
- keeping of certain plants, plant pests and other material.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (DEFRA's) Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) operate in Wales on the Welsh Government's behalf. PHSI ensures enforcement of the Welsh plant health and seeds regulations.

Research & Development is an crucial part of safeguarding our Plant and Tree Health.

R&D budgets are held by Defra and operate on an England & Wales basis.



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- APHA's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate are responsible for implementing the plant health regulations in England and Wales.
- For tree health, operational management rests with Natural Resources Wales and Forestry Commission .





TREE HEALTH STRATEGY

In October 2013 the Wales Tree Health Steering Group published an overarching Tree Health Strategy for Wales. It's key objectives are to:

‘Preserve the health and vitality of trees and woodlands in Wales through strategies which exclude, detect, and respond to, existing and new pests and pathogens of trees, whether of native or exotic origin.

Take proactive measures to reduce the impact of pests and diseases on trees and woodlands in Wales.’





- Wales currently has 2 major tree diseases - Phytophthora ramorum in larch and Chalara disease of ash



- Our fundamental approach to these wind borne diseases has been to recognise that eradication is not a realistic option and to focus on reducing the rate of spread of disease through Disease Management Strategies

Impact of *P ramorum* in the Afan Valley



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P RAMORUM DISEASE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

- The strategy is a pragmatic approach linked to the priorities expressed in *Woodlands for Wales and* has been approved by the WG Tree Health Steering Group as the most appropriate and effective way to respond to this disease.
- The strategy is reviewed in June and December each year as new evidence comes to light such as the extension of the Core Disease Zone to include infections in Pembrokeshire.
- Although a disaster for larch in Wales, P ramorum is an opportunity to diversify a significant area of our woodland estate and increase its resilience to future threats in a much faster timescale than envisaged by *Woodlands for Wales*.





FUTURE ACTION

- We are developing Plant and Tree Health Risk Registers to identify priority threats and focus resources
- We must increase the resilience of our ecosystems – especially our woodlands to enable them to meet the challenge presented by pets and diseases.
- We must support a greater depth of scientific expertise across plant and tree health organisations



FUTURE ACTION

- We must improve prevention through biosecurity communication including through IT and horizon scanning
- We need to develop a stronger EU Plant Health regime that is faster to implement, targeted and priority threats and supports more collaboration
- We must gain a better understanding the pathways and behaviour and spread of pests and diseases – IMPACT

Thank You