

# **Biosecurity in Urban Areas**

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# Biosecurity & Urban Complexity

- 80% of the UK population live in urban areas
- Urban populations are not “plugged in” to nature
- Tend to be less deferential to authority and more willing to robustly articulate grievances
- Greater expectations of action
- Multiple land ownership, tenancy and absentee landlords predicate against swift and effective action via existing legislation
- Dense human populations and their rapid movement creates disproportionate risk factors compared with non-urban areas













**So in urban areas what is an effective and realistic methodology for protecting the UK from current and future threats?**

## LTOA actions:

- Established a working group
- sourced expert advice on the pest
- Obtained training on control
- Published guidance leaflet
- worked locally with communities
- Informed Chief officers & Councillors
- Argued for increased resources
- worked co-operatively with private landowners
- Understood the environment in which they were operating

### *BROWN TAIL* *MOTH CATERPILLAR*



*Photo: Dr Paul Waring, Zoologist*



CARING FOR THE CAPITAL'S TREES



## **The Threats to urban tree and human populations:**

- OPM, ALB, AOD, Ash dieback, Massaria, Ceratocystis etc.
- Biggest Driver in urban areas will always be the impact of these pests and diseases on human health.
- Landscape, amenity and economic issues will be secondary to healthy and safety considerations



[www.ntsg.org.uk](http://www.ntsg.org.uk)









## **In urban areas effective biosecurity measures should encompass:**

- **More stringent border controls and notification protocols**
- **Working co-operatively with all stakeholders and partners**
- **Understanding the nature of the environment in which you are operating: political, cultural, built and financial.**
- **Galvanising swift and decisive action**

### **As well as**

- **Being inquisitive about the provenance and mileage history of tree planting stock when making purchases.**
- **making procurement decisions based on low risk no regrets choices**
- **Building a long term relationship with your supplier**

**Thank you for Listening**

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