

**Biosecurity Programme Board
Meeting
Foss House, York
12th June 2012**

Present: Roger Coppock ([Corporate and Forestry Support, Chair](#))
 Richard Siddons ([Forestry Commission Wales](#))
 John Morgan ([Corporate and Forestry Support](#))
 Andrew Smith ([Forestry Commission England](#))
 David Slawson ([The Food and Environment Research Agency](#)),
 Nick Boulton ([Timber Trades Federation](#)),
 Martin Williams (Welsh Assembly Government)
 Joan Webber ([Forest Research](#))
 Andrew Sharkey ([Woodland Trust](#))
 Stewart Snape ([Corporate and Forestry Support](#))
 John Dye ([Timber Packaging and Pallet Confederation](#)).
 David Sulman ([The United Kingdom Forest Products Association](#)),
 Jon Heuch ([Arboricultural Association](#)),
 John Speirs (Rural and Environment Directorate, Scottish Government),

Apologies were received from:

Charlton Clark ([Corporate and Forestry Support](#)), Hugh Clayden (Forestry Commission Scotland), Chris Inglis ([The Confederation of Forest Industries](#))

Summary of Action points

Agenda Item	Action
3. Matters arising: Restocking on sites under a statutory PH notice-Phytophthora)	<p>Action: Andrew Smith agreed to provide a more detailed analysis of the England position.</p> <p>Action: Roger Coppock would commission a formal study.</p>
4. Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Action Plan	<p>Action: Stewart Snape would circulate the workshop paper prior to the next meeting in September</p> <p>Action: John Morgan would provide an update on BS39364 (NURSERY STOCK PART 4: SPECIFICATION FOR FOREST TREES, POPLARS AND WILLOWS) for the next meeting.</p> <p>Action: Helicopter surveillance (pressure on FCE staff) Roger Coppock would raise the issue of capacity with senior staff.</p> <p>Action: Defra Research calls: Roger</p>

	Coppock would ask Alan Inman to report on the research calls.
5. Importation of landscape-scale trees	Action: David Slawson, John Morgan and Jon Heuch would discuss this further.
6. Pests and diseases update	Decision: The Board agreed that imports of Sweet Chestnut from nurseries within the infected area should be prohibited.
7. Tree Health and advisory group:	Action: David Slawson would circulate the Fera diagram via Stewart Snape
9. AOB Life+ proposal	Decision: The Board agreed that the Life+ proposal should proceed.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Roger Coppock welcomed everyone and thanked David Slawson for hosting the meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and accepted.

3. Matters arising

Network Mapping: Jon Heuch asked what the purpose of the list was. Stewart replied that the original request had come from Laura Jones who had identified a need to better coordinate board members' communications efforts. This list would help achieve that.

Andrew Smith commented that he was confident that FC communications was now better coordinated under the new Communications team structure.

The board agreed that the list was useful and that it needed to be maintained to ensure its future usefulness. It was agreed that Charlton Clark would act as a central contact.

Securing Restocking on sites under Statutory Notice:

The board recognised that it was a complex issue and it was important to ensure a proportionate response to the risk perceived. Current legislation including the Forestry Act, the Plant Health (Forestry) Act, EIA regulations, Country policies and incentives provided a powerful tool box that could be used to minimise the risk of land-use change. Richard Siddons emphasised that regulation was the only approach that was likely to secure woodland. Andrew Sharkey expressed his support for a regulatory approach. Roger Coppock emphasised that it was important to develop the evidence base before agreeing the most appropriate approach. Andrew Smith noted that FC are still collating evidence and would report at the end of the season. The Board noted that it was also important to consider the significance of Dothistroma Blight of Pine in Scotland. Roger Coppock proposed to commission a formal study to collect more evidence.

Action:

Andrew Smith agreed to provide a more detailed analysis of the England situation.

Roger Coppock agreed to commission a formal study to collect evidence.

4. Tree Health and Biosecurity Action Plan (David Slawson and John Morgan)

David and John referred to the papers they had circulated. Roger Coppock asked if the Risk Framework would be available by September. Stewart Snape explained that a workshop was being organised for August and that the report from that meeting would be circulated in due course.

Action:

Stewart Snape would circulate the Workshop paper prior to the next BPB meeting.

John Morgan would provide an update on BS39364 (NURSERY STOCK PART 4: SPECIFICATION FOR FOREST TREES, POPLARS AND WILLOWS) for the next meeting.

Jon Heuch asked where the Forest Nursery sector ended and the Horticultural sector began? John Morgan replied that the boundary is Forestry Trees.

Andrew Smith reported resourcing issues around the provision of helicopter surveillance. Roger Coppock agreed to raise the issue of capacity with senior staff.

Action:

Roger Coppock to discuss capacity with senior staff.

David Slawson reported that Defra had issued various research calls. Roger Coppock noted that he hoped to leverage research funding via LWEC and the Research Councils.

Action: Roger Coppock would ask Alan Inman to report on the Research Calls.

5. Importation of Landscape trees – significant risk but what is the message to the trade? (Jon Heuch)

The Board agreed that it was a complex situation involving controlled trade (i.e. from third countries) and uncontrolled trade (i.e. intra-EU trade).

Action: David Slawson, John Morgan and Jon Heuch agreed to discuss further.

6. Pest and diseases update (John Morgan, Nick Mainprize)

John Morgan and Nick Mainprize provided updates on a range of pests and diseases.

In relation to *Phytophthora austrocedrae*, Joan Webber explained that there were two sides to the debate. One is that the organism is established in the wider environment and is therefore not subject to statutory control. The other is the converse.

Joan also commented on importation of sweet chestnut. The Board agreed that a ban of such imports from French nurseries should be considered.

7. Communications report

Stewart Snape referred to Charlton's report and asked for comments.

8. Tree and Plant Health Advisory Group and governance

John Morgan referred to his UK Strategic Plant Health Advisory Forum paper. John reported that Chris Inglis was content to represent the Board on the tree nursery group. The board agreed.

Martin Williams commented that the obvious gap was local authority and Landscape Institute.

David Slawson agreed to circulate the Fera diagram.

Action:

David Slawson to send the Fera diagram to Stewart Snape for circulation.

9. AOB

Joan Webber and David Slawson reported on a Life+ bid and highlighted that at best FC/Fera would be expected to contribute match funding of 50%. The Board agreed to support the proposal.

Richard Siddons commented that as *Phytophthora lateralis* was not a quarantine organism, should we reconsider our approach? John Morgan replied that as it was present in all four countries but not widespread there was case for taking action, but only if action were likely to achieve something.

Date for the next meeting

Stewart Snape would circulate dates for a September meeting.