

**Biosecurity Programme Board  
Meeting  
Birmingham Holiday Inn  
15<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**Minute**

**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](#)),  
 Hugh Clayden ([Forestry Commission Scotland](#))  
 Chris Inglis ([The Confederation of Forest Industries](#))  
 Nick Boulton ([Timber Trades Federation](#)),  
 Martin Williams (Welsh Assembly Government)  
 Joan Webber ([Forest Research](#))  
 Andrew Sharkey ([Woodland Trust](#))  
 Stewart Snape ([Corporate and Forestry Support, Secretariat](#))

Apologies were received from:

David Sulman ([The United Kingdom Forest Products Association](#)), Jon Heuch ([Arboricultural Association](#)), John Speirs (Rural and Environment Directorate, Scottish Government), Charlton Clark ([Corporate and Forestry Support](#)), John Dye ([Timber Packaging and Pallet Confederation](#)).

## Summary of Action points

Agenda Item	Action
3. Matters arising re item 6 on restocking after SPHNs.	<b>Action: Roger Coppock to liaise with legal colleagues and set out a timeline for possible legislative change.</b>
4. Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Action Plan	<p><b>Action: David Slawson would confirm whether the full version of the TH&amp;PB Action Plan could be circulated.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Board members to confirm level of funding support for the Biosecurity exhibit proposed for the Chelsea flower show ASAP.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Andrew Sharkey would</b></p>

	<p>contact the England Woodland and Tree Partnership re nominations for working group 3 (Operational Biosecurity).</p>
<p><b>5. Dothistroma needle blight</b></p>	<p><b>Action: Countries reps to initiate action plans.</b></p>
<p><b>6. Pests and diseases update</b>          Andrew Sharkey questioned the effectiveness of communications from Natural England (P. <i>austrocedrae</i> OMT leader) in Upper Teesdale.</p>	<p><b>Action: John Morgan would raise this at the next P. <i>austrocedrae</i> stakeholder meeting.</b></p>
<p><b>7. Private sector concerns re acute oak decline</b></p>	<p><b>Action (completed): Stewart Snape would circulate details of the Tree Health Research Programme.</b></p>
<p><b>12. Dates for next meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Action: Stewart Snape to arrange a doodle poll.</b></p> <p><b>Action: David Slawson to forward a link to the Defra booking system to Stewart.</b></p>

## 1. Welcome and Introductions (Andrew Smith)

Roger Coppock and colleagues were slightly delayed so Andrew Smith acted as chair for the first three agenda items.

## 2. Minutes of last meeting (Andrew Smith)

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and accepted.

## 3. Matters arising (Andrew Smith)

3a. Network Mapping. List has been distributed by Stewart. The Board felt that the list needed some work to get this into shape and will need to be maintained by the Plant Health Service. Question was asked – who will be using this list and for what? A better structure may well be to have the list split between:

- a) major stakeholders that operate on a UK/GB or Country level who usually have leads on plant health, and
- b) smaller organisations that are Country/sub Country usually with a lower level of engagement on this area.

3c. This needs to link to the Tree Health and Biosecurity Action Plan – Comms workstream. It was felt that the Board were not best placed to say which forum for communication were best given we did not know the messages or the market segment being targeted. This was best left to comms specialists.

3d. Sent by David Slawson to Stewart Snape and transmitted onwards.

6. No meeting yet. However it was agreed at the meeting by FC reps that a change to the Plant Health Act is required to include restocking conditions as part of the SPHN. Whilst supporting evidence and support from the sector must support the need for change, it was agreed that we should make a start on this now. This is especially the case for developing the argument for increasing regulation. Suggested that Roger Coppock should set out a timeline for change to the legislation and take legal advice.

**Action: Roger Coppock to liaise with legal colleagues and set out a timeline for possible legislative change.**

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

David gave a précis of the current position and noted that a 12 month update seminar was planned for September. David was waiting for confirmation from FC (Wilma Harper).

Hugh Clayden asked whether the detailed plan could be circulated. David agreed to check and confirm in due course.

**Action: David Slawson would confirm whether the TH&PB Action Plan could be circulated.**

David provided a brief update on the recent Defra research competition for OPM and agreed to provide a summary of the calls.

**Action (completed): David Slawson would provide a link to the research competition information.**

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/evidence/science/research-funding/competitions/>

Roger Coppock emphasised the need to get information out to stakeholders promptly.

The Board discussed various awareness raising issues. David reported that Fera intended to be present at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2012 and 2013 and asked for contributions from Board members.

**Action: Board members to confirm level of funding support for the Biosecurity exhibit proposed for the Chelsea flower show.**

John Morgan asked the Board for views on who should be invited to join the stakeholder working group that would direct delivery of the Practical Actions theme.

**Action: Andrew Sharkey would contact the England Woodland and Tree Partnership re nominations for working group 3 (Operational Biosecurity).**

## 5. *Dothistroma* Needle Blight GB Strategy (Hugh Clayden/Anna Brown)

Hugh Clayden presented the paper that he had prepared with Anna Brown and asked for feedback. There was general support for the strategy. John Morgan praised Hugh and Anna for simplifying a very complex problem and producing a pragmatic solution. Chris Inglis commented that some of the language could be adjusted e.g. is it possible to prevent introduction? Roger Coppock said that next steps are up to countries to write action plans in response to the strategy.

**Action: Countries reps to initiate action plans.**

## 6. Pest and diseases update (John Morgan / Stewart Snape)

John Morgan and Stewart Snape provided updates on a wide range of pests and diseases.

Andrew Sharkey questioned the effectiveness of communications from Natural England (*P. austrocedrae* OMT leader) in Upper Teesdale.

**Action: John Morgan would raise this at the next *P. austrocedrae* stakeholder meeting.**

OPM in London: Andrew Smith confirmed that funding for a project officer and an enhanced communications effort had been secured for 2012.

Andrew Smith asked, with reference to the Interim Tree Health Strategy, when the annex of tree health threats would be reviewed. John Morgan explained that the list was currently under review as part of the risk management workstream of the Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Action Plan (D4.1).

## 7. Private sector concerns re Acute Oak Decline (Andrew Sharkey)

Andrew explained that this was largely a communications issue. The private sector is willing to help but it needs to understand where the gaps in research provision are. Andrew asked for more information about the research being done into AOD.

**Action (completed): Stewart Snape would circulate details of the Tree Health Research Programme.**

Andrew Smith confirmed his desire for FCE to become more engaged with Tree Health generally and AOD specifically as resources permitted.

## 8. Communications report

Deferred to the next meeting for an update.

## 9. Fera/FC work protocol

John Morgan referred to his revised Contingency Plan. Andrew Sharkey agreed that the structure looked fine but questioned whether the capacity was in place to fully implement it. Roger Coppock stated that this needed to be resolved internally within the FC to ensure we targeted resources at the highest priorities.

## 10. Tree and Plant Health Advisory Group and governance

Roger Coppock noted that the issue of funding for Urban Tree Health issues remained unresolved. In particular there was no clear policy lead or mechanism for rapid response. This needs to be taken up under the TH and PB Action Plan.

## 11. AOB

David Slawson noted that a 1 day workshop on plant sentinel species had been arranged with Fera. Richard Jinks would be attending from FR.

## 12. Date for the next meeting

Stewart Snape will arrange a doodle poll for the next meeting in three months time. David Slawson agreed that it could be held in Foss House, York and would send Stewart a link to the Foss House booking system.

**Action: Stewart Snape to arrange a doodle poll.**

**Action: David Slawson to forward a link to the Defra booking system to Stewart.**