
Oak Processionary Moth

OPM Advisory Group Meeting minutes 15 June 2016, Friends House, Euston

Present: Sue Ireland (Chair), Julia Branson, Colin Buttery, Andrea Deol, John Edwards, Alison Field, Craig Harrison, Andrew Hoppit, Dave Lofthouse, Miranda Mindlin, Amanda Mitchell, Jake Morris, Mark Parsons, Henry Penner, Craig Ruddick, Stewart Snape Richard Trippett, Adam Wallace, Gill Brown (Notes).

Apologies: Charlton Clark, John Deakin, Andrew Jones, Mike Robinson, Nigel Straw, Mark Townsend.

1. Introduction & Welcome

Sue Ireland welcomed everyone to the meeting including Henry Penner, Senior Environmental Health Advisor, Highways England. Henry will be joining the group as a representative of Highways England.

2. Summary of actions from this meeting

Action Point	<i>Details</i>
1	Miranda Mindlin to find out contact for HSE re occupational health.
2	Andrew Hoppit to clarify/confirm if OPM is a notifiable pest.
3	To include SPHN discussion as an agenda item for next OPM Advisory Group meeting.

3. Review of Actions from last meeting

AP	Details	Progress
1	John Edwards to forward details of Surrey County Council boundaries to Julia Branson.	Completed
2	Gill Brown to contact John Morgan to clarify protected zone status for Guildford district.	Completed – circulated 16/05/16
3	Colin Buttery to forward copy of Royal Parks OPM report to John Edwards.	Completed
4	Andrew Hoppit to locate OPM banners previously issued to London boroughs.	Completed
5	Miranda Mindlin to clarify who is responsible for OPM work related to occupational health – PHE or HSE?	Completed – see new action point
6	Andrew Hoppit to invite member of Highway England as representative on OPM Advisory Board.	Completed
7	Craig Harrison to arrange introduction between Arb Association and PHE/HSE	Ongoing

The group reviewed actions from the last meeting:

Miranda Mindlin to clarify who is responsible for OPM work related to occupational health – PHE or HSE? Miranda Mindlin advised that discussions within PHE suggest that occupational health falls to HSE.

Action point 1: Miranda Mindlin to find out contact for HSE re occupational health

4. Operational Update

Andrew Hoppit gave an update on OPM operations as follows:

- Spraying programme of over 300 sites completed end of May;
- 97% of sites successfully sprayed. Couple of sites problematic including one in the Bromley area where landowner had concerns re foxes in garden. Following conversations with Plant Health GB it was agreed that as there were no nests found in 2015 season we could not prove reasonable action to spray. Contractors will carry out two follow up inspections;
- 7075 trees sprayed at an average cost of £50 per tree;

Andrew acknowledged and thanked the control contractors for getting the job done in challenging weather conditions.

Other:

- Visual survey now underway and expected to be completed by 2nd/3rd week of August;
- Pheromone Trap programme underway with approximately 1500 traps being erected;
- Recent analysis of spraying shows that footprint has been reduced by control programme, for example trees not sprayed in 2015 show 1.65 mean nests per tree compared to 0.44 where trees have been sprayed. Also, analysis shows that spraying significantly reduces the number of nests on tree height classes up to 20m. However, the effect is reduced on heights over 25m;
- 4 OPM Training Events have been held, 3 at Richmond Park and 1 at Surbiton Golf Course; opportunity to engage with over 120 people; events well received with lots of good, positive feedback.
- Comms programme appears to working well; lots of reports and information coming in – including sightings from the core area and other species, such as brown tail moth;

Discussions continued on notifying OPM to Forestry Commission:

- Dave Lofthouse asked why do we request the reporting of infestations in the core.

-
- Richard Trippett asked if contractors should send reports to us noting the implications of customer privacy;
 - Henry Penner confirmed that Highways England have procedures in place to keep FC informed;

Craig Harrison explained the value of continued reporting –it helps develop an understanding of OPM distribution and impact including the core area where control activities vary.

Action point 2: AHo to clarify/confirm if OPM is a notifiable pest.

5. AOB

Sue Ireland requested that a discussion needs to be held on the issue and challenges of SPHNs as unless we can use SPHNs properly there is little point in issuing them. The complexity of control measures makes SPHN wording difficult to keep simple and will be part of the fundamental review, but agreed worth further discussion.

Action point 3: To include SPHN discussion as an agenda item for next OPM Advisory Group meeting.

Jake Morris thanked the group for their input on the OPM Evaluation Report.

6. Date of next meeting

The date of the next OPM Advisory Group meeting is to be confirmed.

The meeting was followed by a presentation and workshop on the OPM Evaluation Report and the OPM Policy Review. An update will be provided at the next OPM Advisory Group meeting.