

Meeting- 30/04/13

Attendees

FCGB- Roger Coppock (Chair), John Morgan, Nick Mainprize

FC England- Andrew Smith, Andy Hall

FC Scotland- Hugh Clayden

NRW- Richard Siddons

FERA- David Slawson

DERFRA- Martin Ward, Alan Inman

Welsh Government- Martin Williams

Scottish Government- John Speirs

Woodland Trust- Andy Sharkey

CONFOR- Chris Ingles

UKPFA- David Sulman

Arboricultural Association- John Heuch

Minutes and Actions Arising from previous Meeting- 28/09/12

Restocking sites + Statutory Plant Health Notices .

An Owner Motivation study was commissioned and should be delivered in May/June. Land owners were interviewed. **Action: Nick to circulate the project brief.**

John Morgan would provide an update on BS39364

There was no update available on the progress made.

Helicopter surveillance

The contracts are in place in Scotland and England. The programme of surveillance flights for *P.ramorum* are ready to commence.

Implication of Landscape scale trees

There were questions over whether a study is needed as the trade is within the EU so the normal regulations are not needed.

Tree Health + Advisory Group- David to liaise with Nick over diagram being circulated.

This will be discussed under Plant Health Mapping.

Nick to send the programmes for the FCS tree health events.

These events were successful. A programme of events can be found on the FC and FR websites.

The risk of disease transmission by seed

A paper by Steve Woodward and Eleni Siasou was circulated prior to the meeting and it was noted that this is not for wider distribution at this time. Nick explained that this was a literature review that deals with a narrow subject matter. This was largely seen as a quality control issue and the report concludes that plant health controls need to be more robust. However, there is no

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evidence that the current legislation is not effective. There was a discussion on the movement of seeds through the horticultural trade, the customs codes used and the chemical treatments used. It was proposed that nursery surveillance would provide evidence of wider spread. It was agreed that further discussion/ study was needed.

Chalara management plan and delivery progress

Andy Hall explained the progress being made in delivering the Chalara management plan in England. Areas have been mapped and prioritised and contractor resource is in place to survey. Basal lesions have been found in some older sites. There is guidance being published on removal and re-planting under grant schemes and on tree removal and disposal.

Scotland are taking a sheltered area approach, as Chalara has not been identified in the wider environment. There are no plans for activity out with the West of Scotland. There was significant effort in tracing batches from nurseries.

Wales have completed their trace forward exercise. The plant health team have developed a strategy which involves reactive monitoring. There will be 1.5Km surveys carried out around young infected Ash and monitoring in the wider environment.

The tree alert reporting system passes sightings to Alice Holt, who pass the appropriate information on. Non Governmental departments have offered their support and resources (where available).

Sector chain of custody scheme

There was a meeting of industry representatives which discussed potential pathways for pathogens. A chain of custody is being developed to establish a monitoring procedure. This would mean that every place where a seed has been grown would have to be noted. It is hoped that this will encourage better consideration of locally sourced seed. Grant schemes cannot stipulate the origin of seeds used. A coherent message is needed for landowners and there would be support for a press release.

Action: Draft press release to be circulated.

Plant health research

A presentation will be circulated following the meeting. There has been an increase in funding for research and there is £8million available, with £4million for applied research. Alan discussed the projects and commitments in place. Details of commissioned research projects are available following the link below.

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/>

EU Plant health regime review update

Martin Ward provided an update on the review. This has taken into account the lessons learned from Chalara and has recognised areas where improvement is needed. The focus has been on the action taken in response to outbreaks of infection. There were 15 recommendations made.

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Biomass wood imports

A paper by Geoff Hogan was circulated prior to the meeting. This is not for wider distribution as this has not been peer reviewed yet. This paper has relied on source data being correct. There are concerns over the import of woodchip, as material for compost and pet bedding is high risk. It was proposed that firewood be inspected, as there is suspicion that the figures are underestimated. It was suggested that the publication of this paper be timed to support the pest risk register.

Tree Health and Biosecurity Action Plan update

David provided a presentation for circulation with the minutes.

Pest and diseases update

John circulated a situation report prior to the meeting. A *P.ramorum* strategy has been passed for comments. It was agreed that the *P.lateralis* and the *P.autrocedrae* OMT membership be extended. FC Scotland are concerned about the GB DNB strategy and disagree with the proposal to scale down FR's involvement with nursery inspections.

Communications report

Charlton circulated a report prior to the meeting. The Scottish Tree Health Advisory Group have a tree health exhibit, which will be taken to key local events with the aim of raising awareness.

Plant health mapping

The map was circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed that a footer be added which notes the date and the version number. It was agreed that this was a useful document but it was suggested that the level of detail may lead to it becoming dated quickly and it may have to be updated regularly.

AOB

There was a discussion on the PRA process. The consultation response has been used as the information is needed quickly. It was suggested that JNCC and statutory bodies should be included in the consultation board/group.

Dates for next meeting

Sept/ Oct, York.