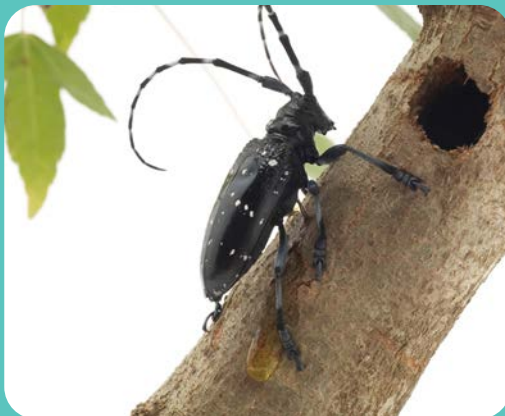


Delivered online via



Plant Biosecurity

How should local councils meet the threats to our trees and plants?



Thursday 21 March

MS Teams

* Cover image sources: Fera; Paul Beales and David Crossley

Programme

09:30 Session one

Plant Biosecurity – what is it and why is it important for UK local authorities – an introduction.

Mo Baines APSE Chief Executive and Clare Bowen, Tree Council

Plant Health – strategic overview and public engagement.

- Overview of the Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain 2023-2028, what are its aims, and key actions, and what does it mean for you?
- Engaging the public in plant health – what are the opportunities and challenges?

Stephanie Godliman, Plant Health Strategic Advisor, Defra & Jake Morris, Head of Plant Health Social Research, Defra

Emerging Threats and Current High Risks

- How we identify potential pests and upcoming threats
- A brief overview of some examples of current threats
- A brief overview of some examples of pests that are on the horizon that could be an issue in the future.

Duncan Allen, Pest Risk Analyst, Defra

Preventing the spread of invasive non-native species

- Introduction to the GB Non-native Species Secretariat and Non-native Species Inspectorate
- Invasive non-native species to be aware of and how to report sightings.
- Ways to help prevent their spread and resources available to help.

Audience question and answer session

Speaker: Lucy Cornwell, GB Non-native Species Secretariat

11:20 Short Break

11:30 Session two

Preventing Unwanted Hitchhikers Through Reduced Risk Sourcing

- The importance of sourcing healthy trees and plants.
- Traceability - Production to Planting
- Biosecurity - Reducing risk on nurseries.

Andrew Gaunt, Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, Animal and Plant Health Agency

Sourcing trees of local provenance and biosecurity

- Local authority tree strategies
- Introduction to community tree nurseries
- Understanding community tree nurseries and biosecurity

Speakers: Jessica Allan, Science & Research Projects Manager, The Tree Council and Maddie Dixon, Tree Health Policy Officer, Defra & Sophie Rudgewell, Trees Outside Woodlands Project Manager, Defra

Improving Biosecurity Across Plant Supply Chains

- The Plant Health Management Standard
- Overview of the Plant Healthy Certification Scheme
- Responsible sourcing - biosecure procurement pilot

Alistair Yeomans, Scheme Manager, Plant Healthy & Alison Wilson, Senior Plant Health Policy Advisor, Defra

Audience question and answer session

12:45 Lunch Break

13:15 Session three

Your Biosecurity Toolkit – Public Engagement in Tree Health

- Arrive clean, leave clean.
- Keep it Clean Campaign – think kit, think transport, think trees.
- Report it – Tree Alert and other resources.

Katharine Farrell – Biosecurity and Awareness Manager, Emma Aspin – Biosecurity Officer and Lydia Haydon – Biosecurity Officer, Forestry Commission

Developing a Local Authority Plant Biosecurity Policy

- Why was a plant biosecurity policy needed?
- How has the policy changed council working practices?
- Raising the profile of plant biosecurity both internally and externally

Speaker: Caroline Gaze, Commons and Biodiversity Officer, South Gloucestershire Council

Plant Biosecurity in Practice

- Considering plant biosecurity in our operational practices
- Current issues with invasive plant species in our parks and greenspaces
- Reducing our herbicide usage and its impact
- Awareness training provided to operational staff.

Debbie Sutton, Amenities Manager (South), The Highland Council

APSE Concluding Statement: Lucy Carson-Taylor, Plant Health Engagement, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Audience question and answer session

15:00 Seminar close

Seminar Objectives

About the Seminar

Ash Dieback, Oak Processionary Moth, Asian Longhorn Beetles, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed are just a few examples of the diseases, pests and non-native invasive species which UK local authorities are struggling to control,

It's likely that most of these pests and invasive species, could have been avoided, or at least controlled, through the use of plant biosecurity measures.

As well as grappling with UK diseases and pests, now due to the effects of climate change, and the increased global sourcing of plants and trees (UK imports of live plants have increased by 71 per cent since 1999), we are now finding that opportunities for more plant related problems could arrive in the UK the future.

Recently local authorities have been embarking on large scale tree planting programmes as well as looking at ways of adapting their horticultural practices in order to both plant and grow resilient plants which are more able to cope with the impacts of climate change. Sourcing many of these trees and plants could also increase the possibility of accidentally introducing new pests and diseases as was the case with Ash Dieback. Therefore, the need to adopt greater levels of plant biosecurity measures is imperative if our future tree and plant stocks are to be healthy and sustainable and to ensure that the financial investments made, particularly regarding new tree planting, are justified.

To help local authorities with these growing problems, APSE is holding an online seminar on the whole issue of plant biosecurity; outlining what it means, the pests and invasive species we are currently dealing with, and may have to deal with in the future, how government agencies are working to support local authorities and most importantly, explaining how local authorities, by adopting plant biosecurity measures, can deliver solutions to these problems.

The seminar will hear from nationally recognised experts on plant biosecurity, from organisations such as Defra, the Animal and Plant Health Agency, the Tree Council, the Forestry Commission, Plant Healthy and the Invasive Non-Native Species Secretariat. There will also be best practice case studies from several local authorities who have developed plant biosecurity policies and measures which are helping ensure staff are aware of the threats, and operational and procurement policies and practices are being adapted to ensure healthy and sustainable plants and trees.

Who should attend?

This online seminar is a critical learning opportunity and must attend event, for all those who are involved in sourcing, purchasing, and caring for plants and greenspaces, including portfolio holders, elected members, planners, parks professionals, tree officers, ecology and biodiversity officers, climate change officers, economic development officers and indeed any external stakeholders and community groups and volunteers who are involved in helping local authorities manage greenspaces.

Plant biosecurity is not simply about ensuring we have healthy plants it is about ensuring biodiversity is protected, health and well-being is cared for, wider food security is maintained, and economic growth is not affected. And now with the need to ensure the negative impacts of climate change are managed and reduced, a healthy plant and tree cover is vital.

'Biosecurity is increasingly recognised not just as an important tool in the fight against climate change, but also in reducing poverty and hunger, and boosting economic development. We all have a collective responsibility to protect plant health.'

The Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain 2023 - 2028.

Image provided by Paul Beales and David Crossley

Booking Information

Who should attend?

- Service Directors
- Managers and officers
- Grounds maintenance, greenspace, climate change and environmental services
- Ecology officers and Biodiversity officers
- Policy advisors, accountants and lawyers
- Performance Management officers
- Health and Safety Managers
- Trade Union representatives
- Contractors and suppliers
- Friends groups
- Wildlife groups supporting local authorities on biodiversity enhancement

Venue

This is an online event to be held on Microsoft Teams

A meeting link will be set after booking

Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance, delegates' documentation.

APSE member delegate fee:	£99+ VAT
Non member delegates fee:	£184 + VAT

Click [here](#) to reserve your place on this event

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY:

Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by email to iali@apse.org.uk. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event, and will incur a 20% administration fee. No refunds can be given for cancellations received less than 10 working days before the event or for nonattendance. In the unlikely event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to the refund of fees paid. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, speakers or mode of delivery should this become necessary. If due to emergency action by UK Governments/Administrations or Public Agencies this event is postponed, for example for reasons of public health and safety, the organisers will transfer your booking to the replacement event or provide a credit voucher against a future event booking.