



# Tree Damage Alert No 152

AAIS ● Alice Holt Lodge ● Wrecclesham ● Farnham ● Surrey ● GU10 4LH

Call the Tree Helpline on: 09065 161147

Calls cost £1.50 per minute

6<sup>th</sup> Nov  
2012

## Unwelcome Visitors

Recent years have seen apparently increasing numbers of reports of pests and diseases hereto unrecorded in Britain. Details of these organisms are posted on the Forestry Commission website [www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk).

Although imported pests and diseases pose a real threat to trees growing in Britain, probably the greatest threat since Dutch elm disease arises from Ash dieback caused by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea*. Details of this disease, including a picture guide to the symptoms are available at [www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara)

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012 there has been a ban on the import of Ash plants into Britain.

NOTE: This is a new disease and is distinct from the Ash Dieback that was written-up as Forestry Commission Bulletin 93 (published in 1991)

Other pests and diseases currently assailing our trees include:-

- The number of *Phytophthora* species affecting trees in Britain appears to be increasing! Details of *Phytophthora* species in Britain are available at [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-6abl5v](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-6abl5v)
- To date, Oak processionary moth *Thaumetopoea processionea* appears to have a comparatively restricted distribution, although where it is present it is having a considerable impact as a defoliating insect on species including Oak. Early identification of this pest should allow destruction and hopefully its control/elimination. For details see [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-6abl5v](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-6abl5v)
- Larvae of the Asian longhorn beetle *Anoplophora glabripennis* tunnel into the wood of standing trees for two/three years before they pupate and adults eventually emerge. The relatively large holes left by the emerging adults are often the first indication that a tree has been attacked by this insect pest. As a result spread of the insect is much more difficult to track and sanitation measures are too late. Interception of the adults is therefore highly desirable. What to look for may be found at [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/HCOU-4U4J45](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/HCOU-4U4J45)

If there are trees that you suspect are affected by any of the above pests and diseases it is important that they are reported to:-

**Forestry Commission Plant Health Service; tel: 0131 314 6414:**

**e.mail: [plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)**

**Forest Research Tree Health Diagnostic & Advisory Service; tel: 01420 23000:**

**e.mail: [ddas.ah@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ddas.ah@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)**

**Fera Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate; tel: 01904 465625;**

**e.mai: [planthealth.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk)**

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This is one of an occasional series of Tree Damage Alerts produced for the benefit of the arboricultural profession and issued by the Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service.