



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Implementing the Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain

Nicola Spence
Chief Plant Health Officer



Defra's five-year strategy

Purpose

Unleashing the potential of food and farming, nature and the countryside,
championing the environment and protecting us all from natural threats and hazards.

Objectives



A cleaner, healthier
environment which
benefits people and
the economy



A world-leading food
and farming industry



Excellent delivery,
on time and to budget
and with outstanding
value for money



A nation protected
against natural threats
and hazards, with
strong response and
recovery capabilities



A thriving rural economy,
contributing to national
prosperity and wellbeing



An organisation
continually striving to be
the best, focused on
outcomes and constantly
challenging itself

Themes

Boosting UK productivity Data availability and utilisation Better domestic regulation

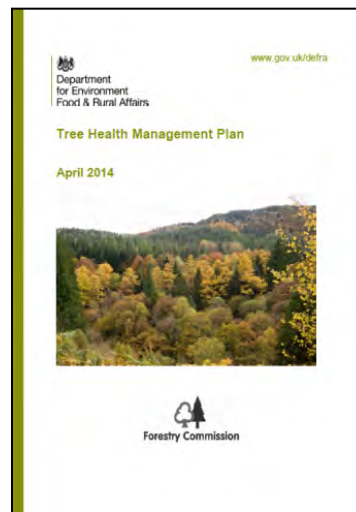
Delivering our priorities internationally (including EU reform, US and China)

Plant Biosecurity Strategy



**Expert
Taskforce Report
2013**

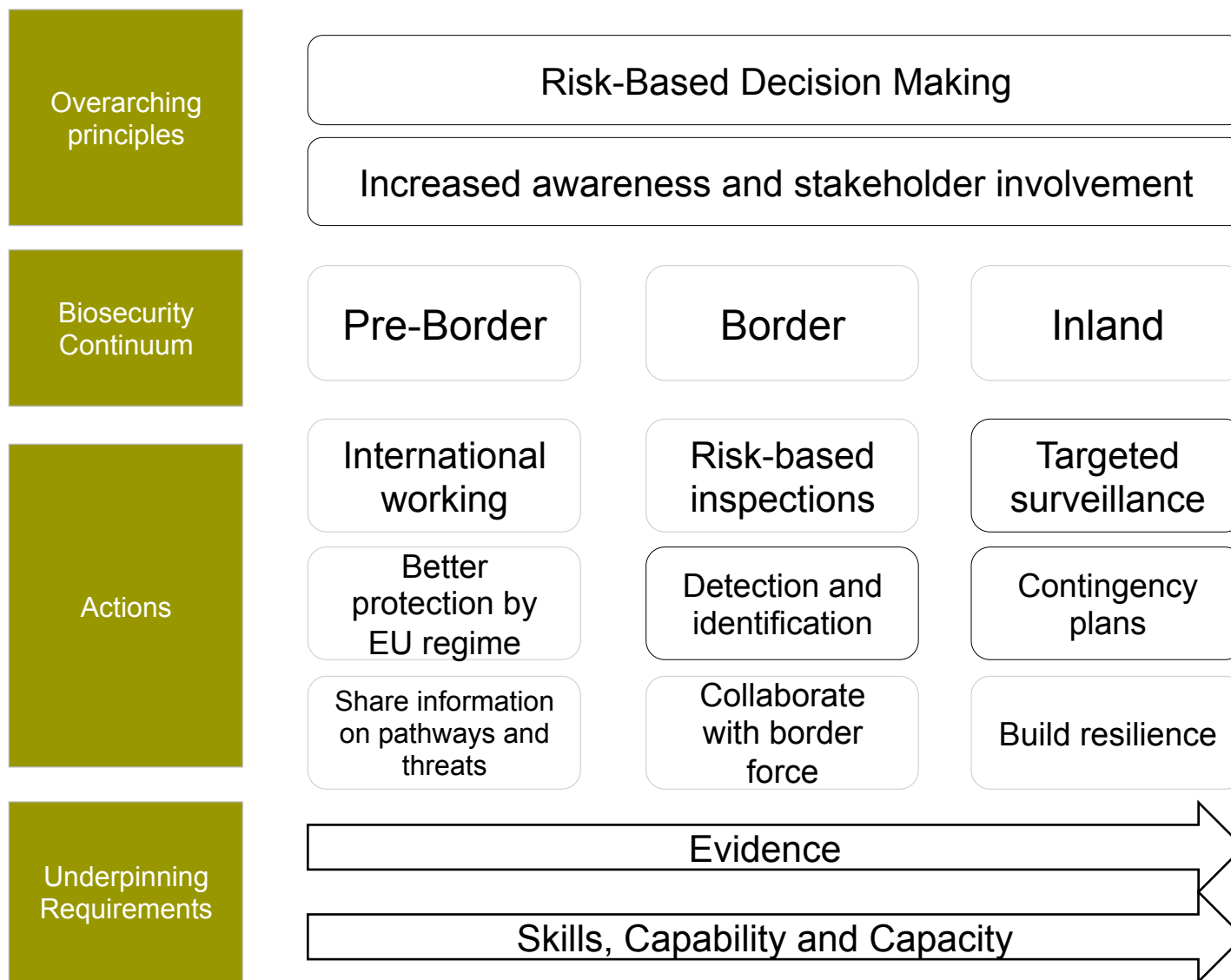
**Plant Biosecurity
Strategy
2014**



**Tree Health
Management Plan
2014**

- An overall approach to tree health in England
- Management approaches for Chalara, Phytophthora and OPM
- A framework for managing future threats to tree health in England

The Plant Biosecurity Strategy



Protecting GB from plant and tree threats

Numerous challenges

- Increasingly globalised trade
- Increasing imports of nursery stock, trees, mature plants and wood packaging
- Increasing risks from pests and diseases
- Direct sales – internet, post
- Pressures on industry to minimise costs and losses

Collaborative work as part of our published strategies and

- Work with suppliers and exporting countries to tackle pests at source to minimise their risk of arriving in GB
- Support the supply of cleaner plants and plant material
- Increase awareness with trade and public

A strengthened EU Plant Health Regime

1. Faster decision-making (to get ahead of new pests)
2. Better risk targeting including:
 - More focus on higher risk plants for planting
 - New requirements to assess risk from new trades before they start
 - Registration of all plant traders
 - Strengthened plant passporting regime
 - Better practical collaboration between plant health services (plant health / inspectorates / customs) and simpler passenger baggage controls
3. More controls on direct sales
4. Shared responsibility and joint working with UK Plant Health Advisory Forum

Risk-Based Decision Making

The screenshot shows the UK Plant Health Risk Register website. At the top, the browser address bar displays 'https://defra.gov.uk'. The website header features the title 'UK Plant Health Risk Register' in white text on an orange background, with a home icon to the right. Below the header, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs logo and name are displayed. The main content area is titled 'Search for a Pest or Organism' and includes a search bar with a 'Search' button. A status bar indicates '794 pests in the Risk Register'. Below the search bar, there are four checkboxes for search criteria: 'Preferred Name', 'Synonym', 'Common Name', and 'Host', all of which are checked. To the right of these checkboxes is a help icon. Below the search criteria, there are two buttons: 'Advanced Search' and 'Download Entire Risk Register'. The footer section is divided into four columns: 'About', 'Risk Register News', 'Example Searches', and 'About Plant Health'. The 'About' column contains a paragraph about the register's purpose. The 'Risk Register News' column has two sections: 'Additions to the Risk Register' dated 31/07/2015 and 'Pest Interceptions' dated 21/07/2015. The 'Example Searches' column contains three search examples: 'Show pests marked as a priority for...', 'Which entries are pests of *Fraxinus*?', and 'Which entries are pests of *Solanum*?'. The 'About Plant Health' column contains four links: 'What's New', 'Latest Pest Risk Assessments', 'Legislation', and 'Licensing of non-native biocontrol'.

UK Plant Health Risk Register

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Search for a Pest or Organism 794 pests in the Risk Register

Search

☒ Preferred Name ☒ Synonym ☒ Common Name ☒ Host ⓘ

[Advanced Search](#) [Download Entire Risk Register](#)

About

The UK Plant Health Risk Register is a major step in implementing the recommendations of the independent Task Force on Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity. It is a tool for government, industry and stakeholders to prioritise action against pests and diseases which threaten our crops, trees, gardens and countryside. The Register is publicly available.

Risk Register News

Additions to the Risk Register

31/07/2015

The following pests have been added to the Risk Register recently:...

[View More](#)

Pest Interceptions

21/07/2015

The following pests have all been recently intercepted or detected in the UK. They are considered to...

Example Searches

Show pests marked as a priority for...

Which entries are pests of *Fraxinus*?

Which entries are pests of *Solanum*?

About Plant Health

[What's New](#)

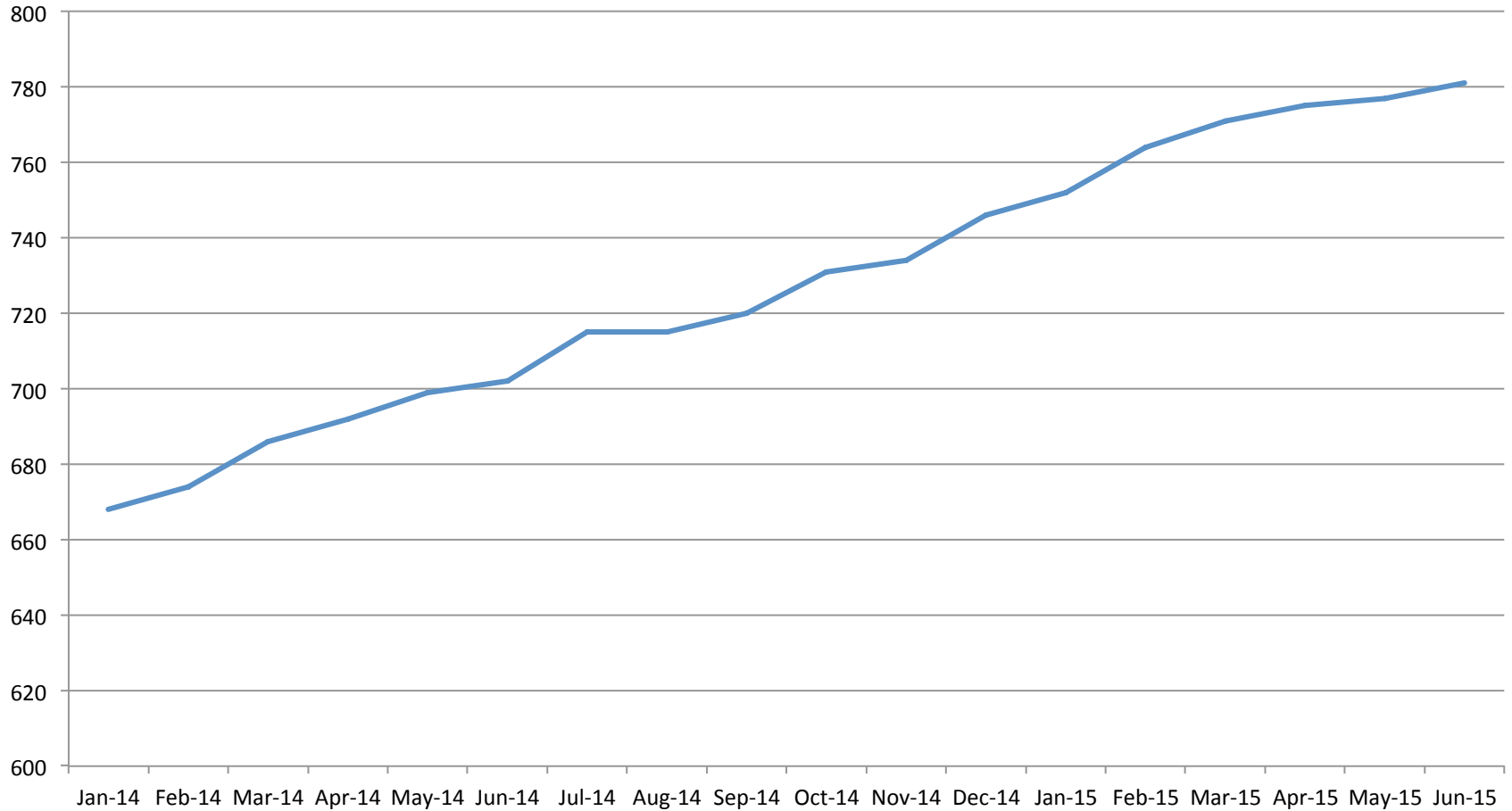
[Latest Pest Risk Assessments](#)

[Legislation](#)

[Licensing of non-native biocontrol](#)

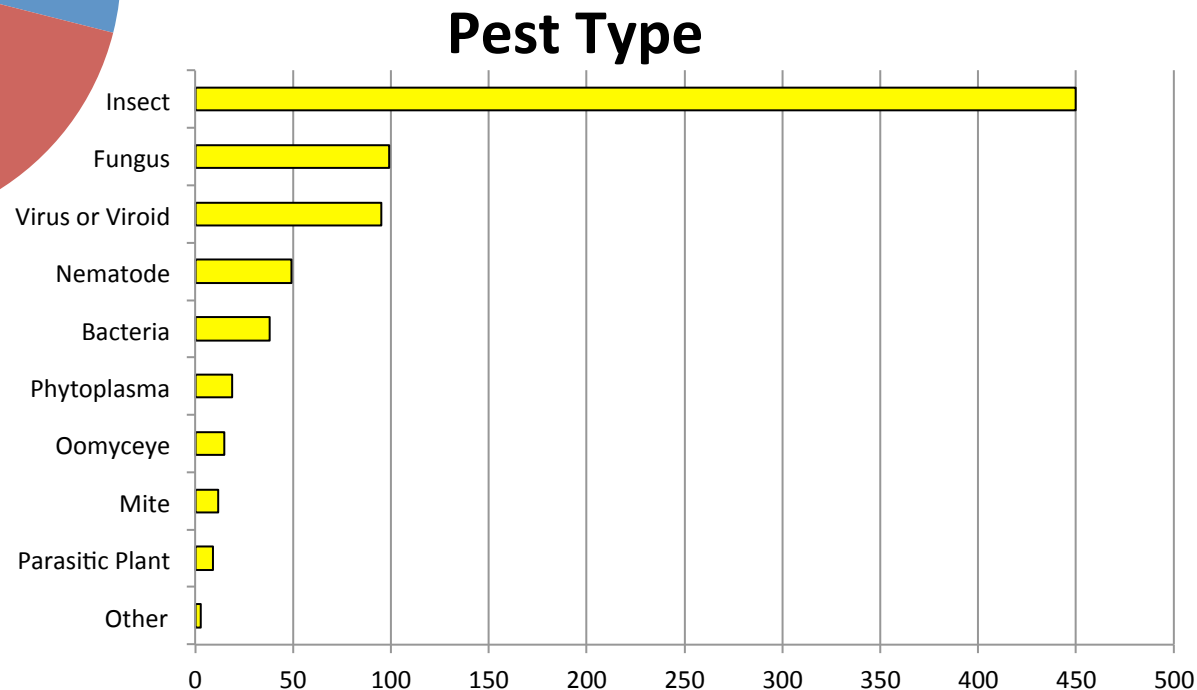
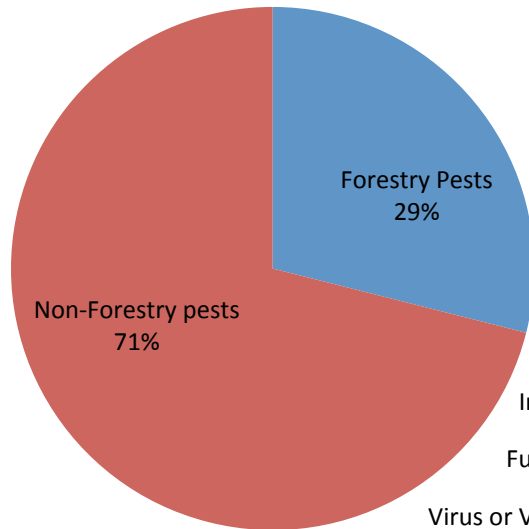
Risk register progress

Number of Pests on the Risk Register



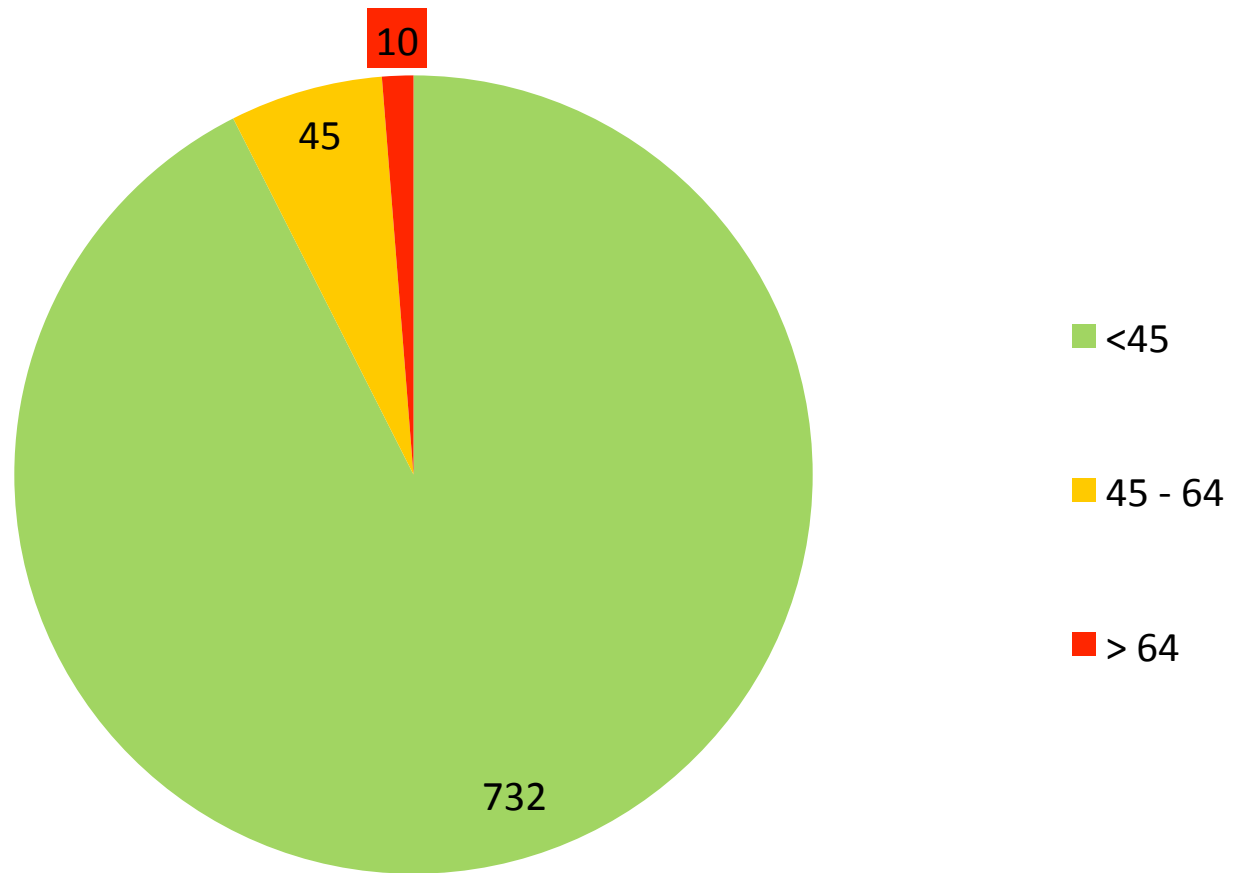
Priority pests

Forestry versus Non-Forestry



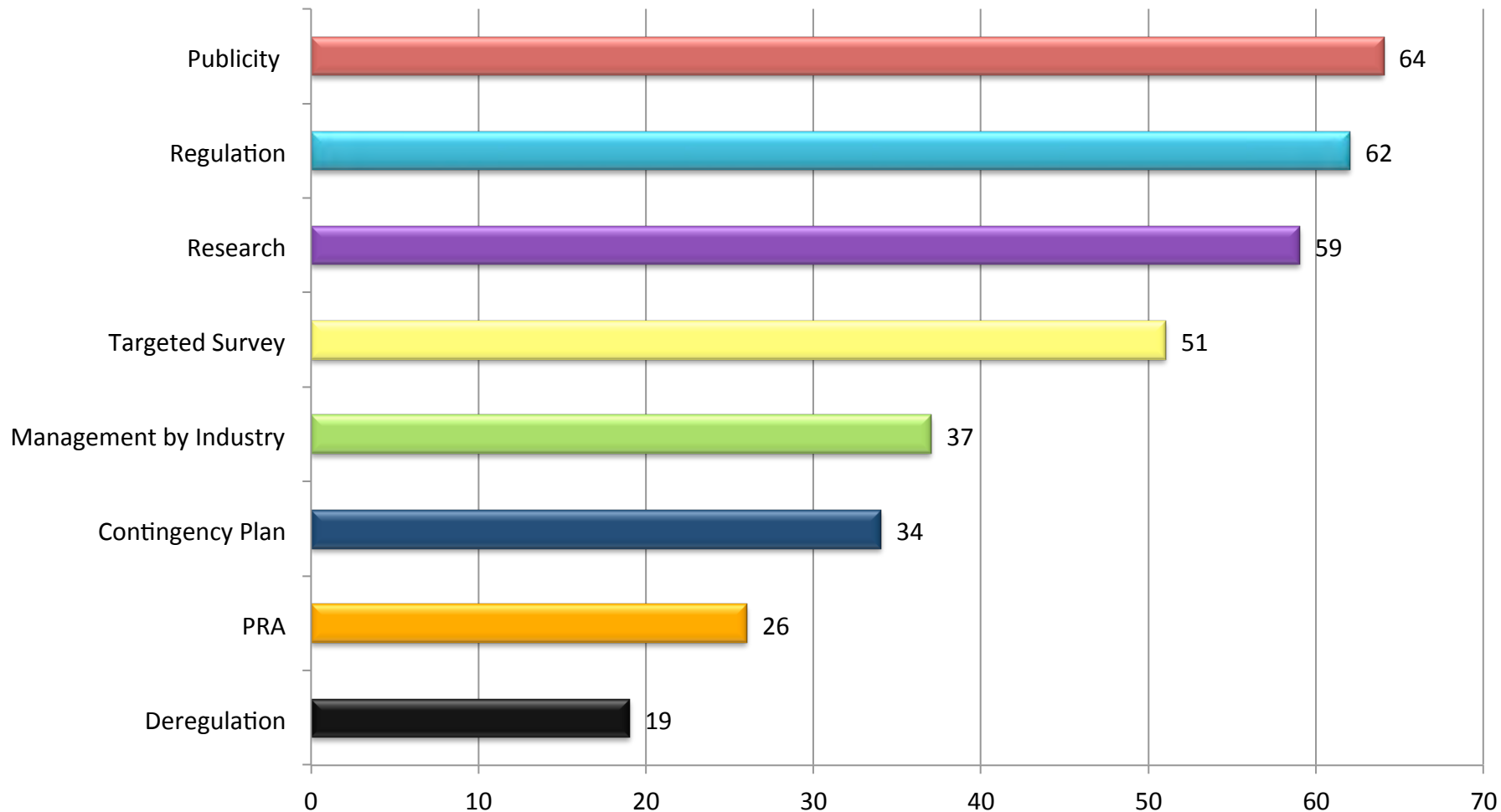
Risk ratings 0 - 125

Number of Pests by Mitigated Risk Rating



Priority actions

Number of Pests per Priority Action



Targetted Surveillance



Extensive arial surveys
conducted over large
areas of land -



Surveillance technology



Detection at point of inspection



LAMP for Ash die back

- LAMP is now being performed routinely by FC inspectors for Chalara fraxinea

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-20217453>



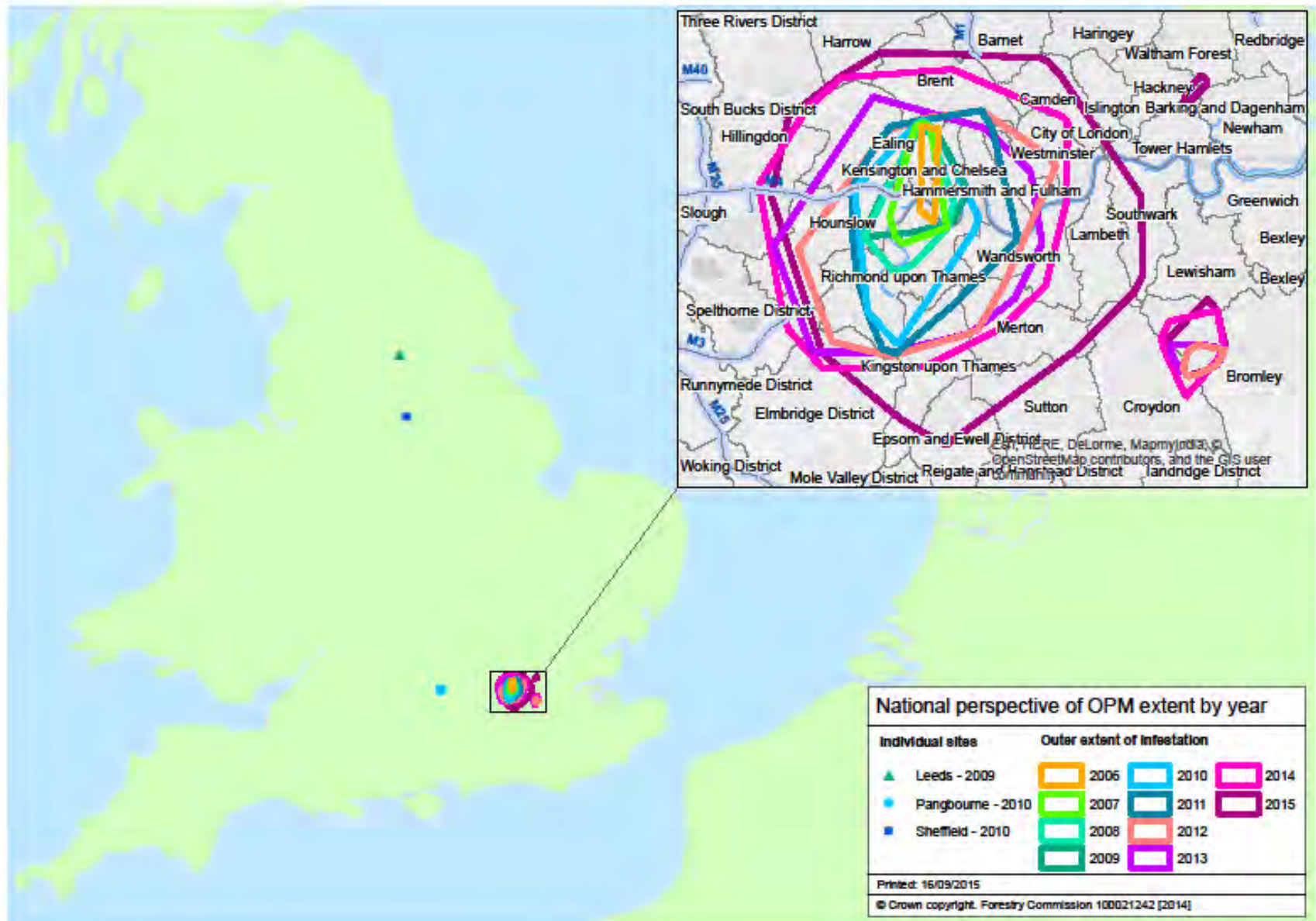
Oak Processionary Moth



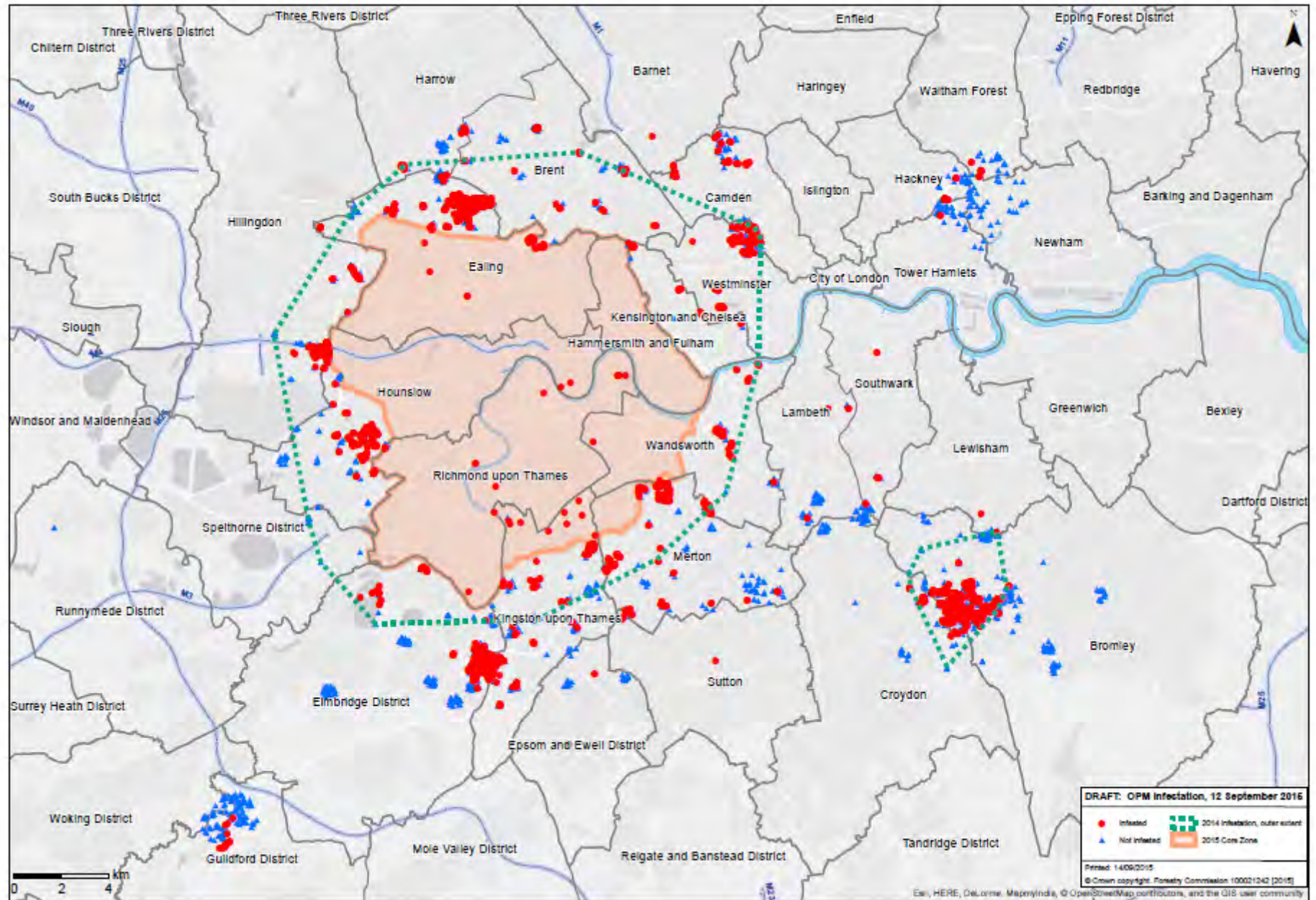
- Caterpillars feed on oak trees, and can weaken the tree.
- Additional risks as hazard to human and animal health
- In 2014 UK obtained protected zone status to help manage threats from the pest.
- 3 year pilot control programme led by Forestry Commission is in operation
- Current strategy based on mixed approach of containment and eradication
- Management through chemical treatment, nest removal, surveys and surveillance (inc. pheromone traps)



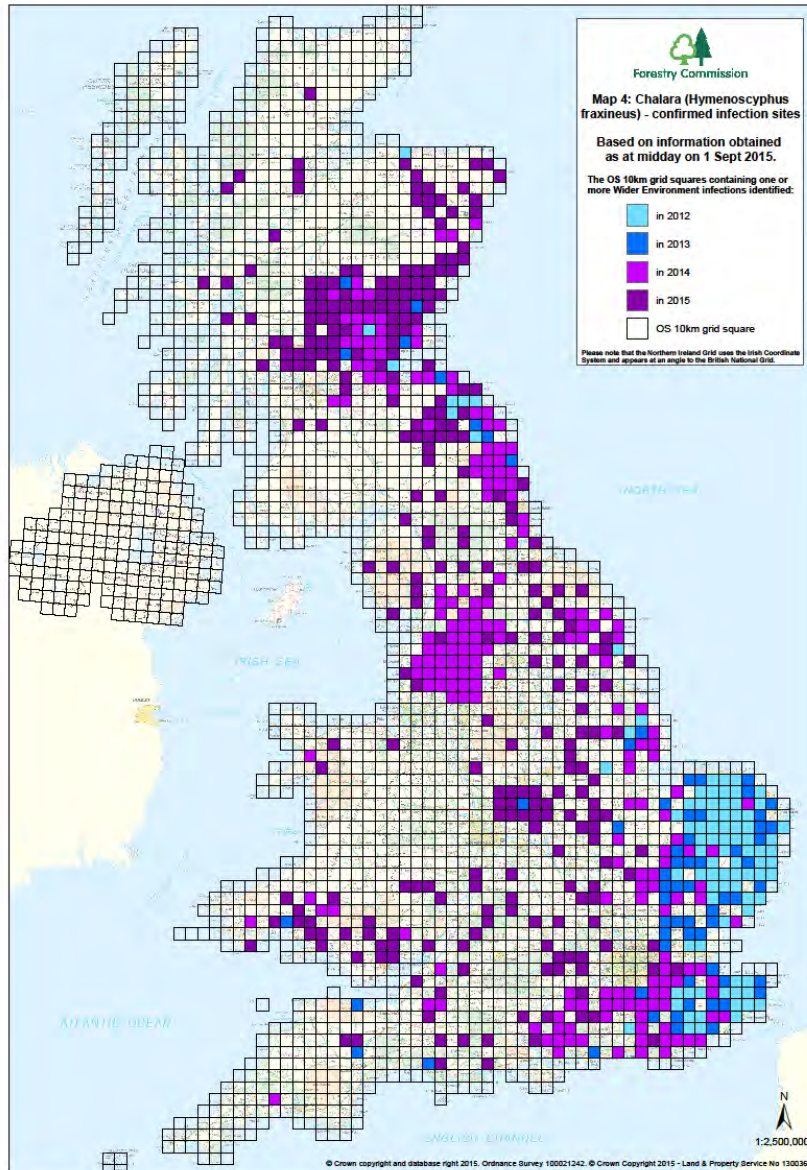
OPM National situation



OPM outbreak



Chalara fraxinea distribution



10 Km grid squares with one or more infections in the wider environment

	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	% of squares
Scotland	7	5	33	120	165	15
England	82	60	162	137	441	30
Wales	0	1	6	24	31	11.7
N I	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
UK (total)	89	66	201	281	637	22.5

Ash tolerance trials



Fraxinus americana in Suffolk



07.07.2015 14:22

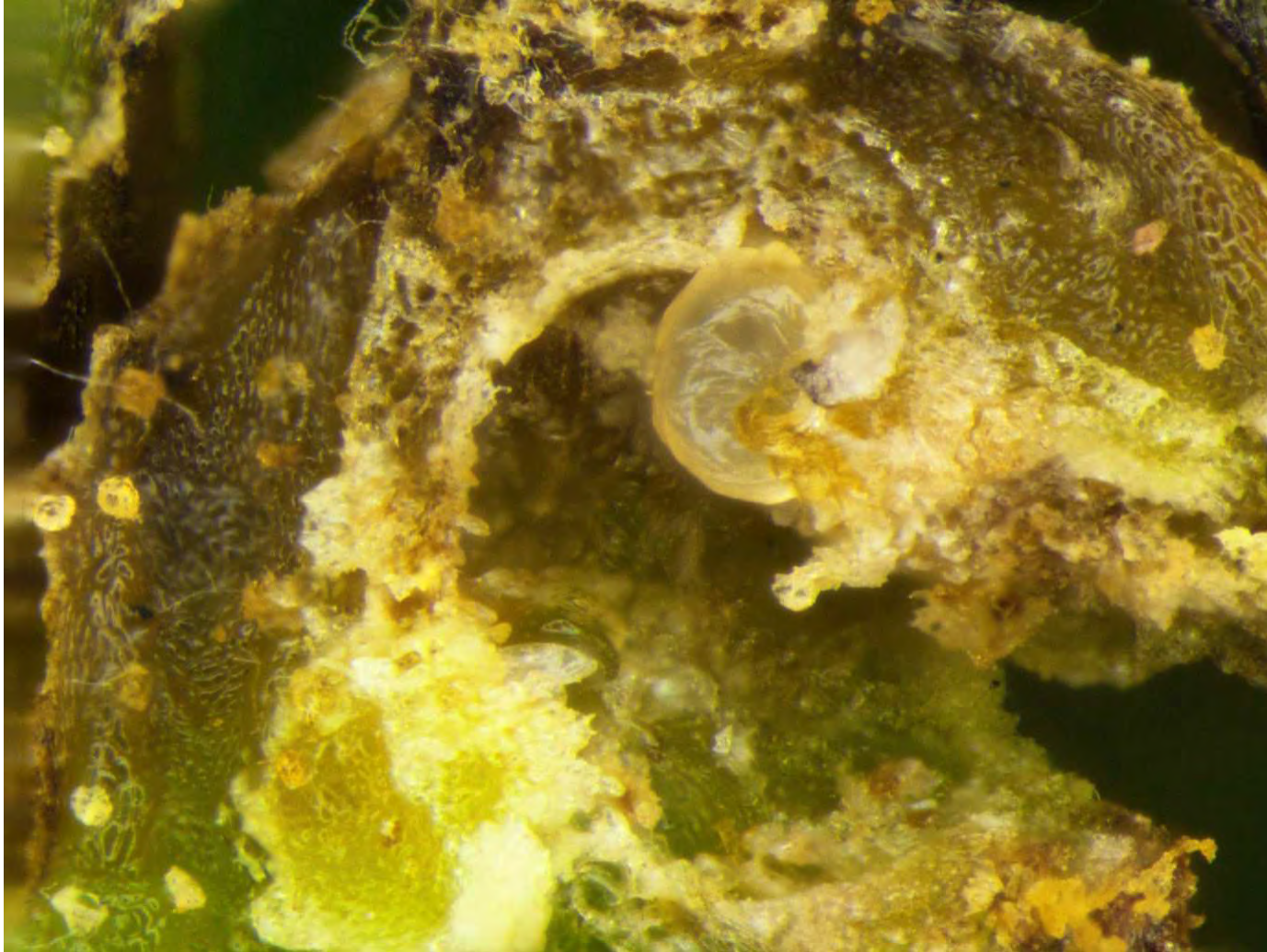
Kent 15 June



Unusual galls on sweet chestnut



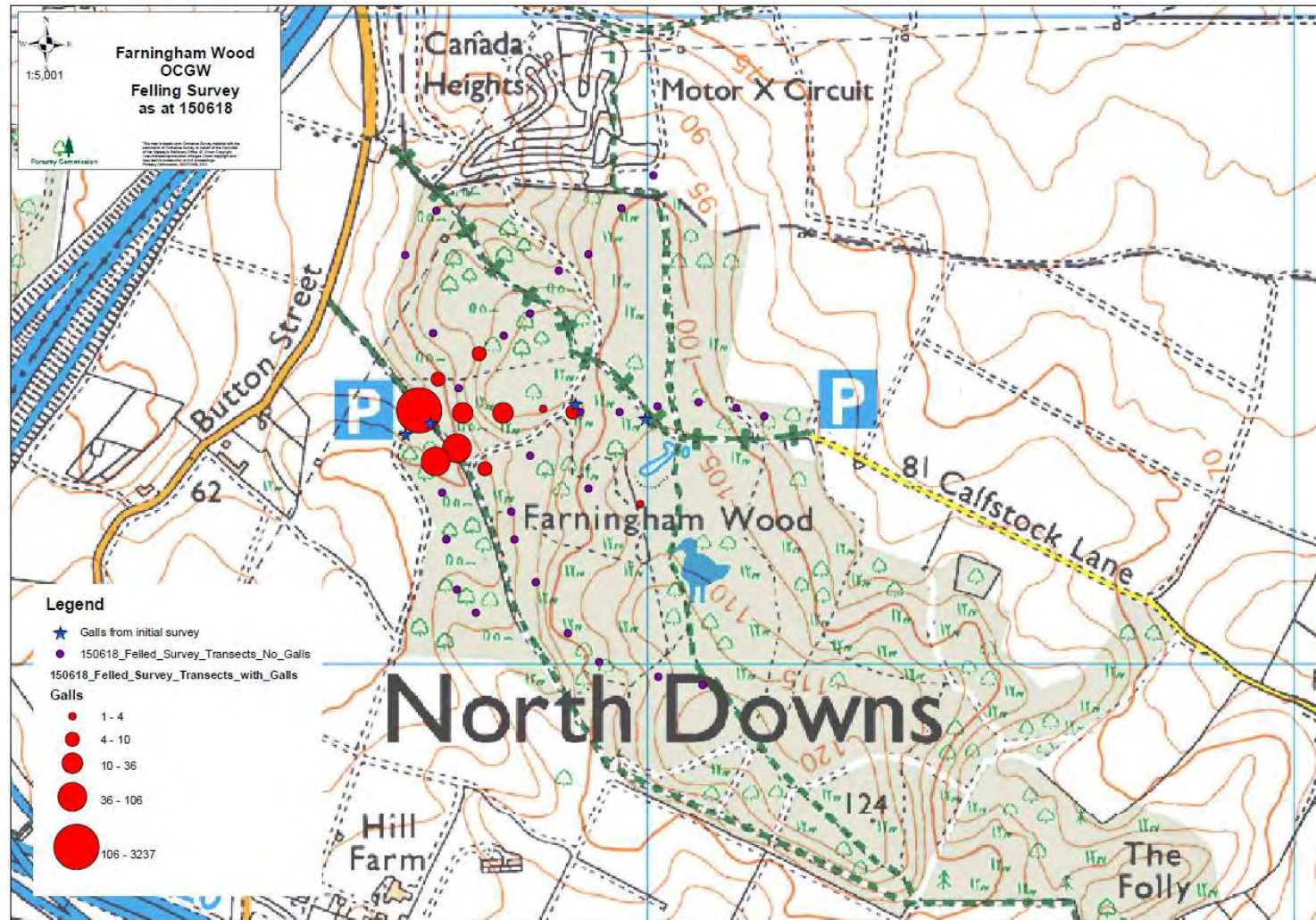
Identification 17th June



Oriental chestnut gall wasp: Dryocosmus kuriphilus

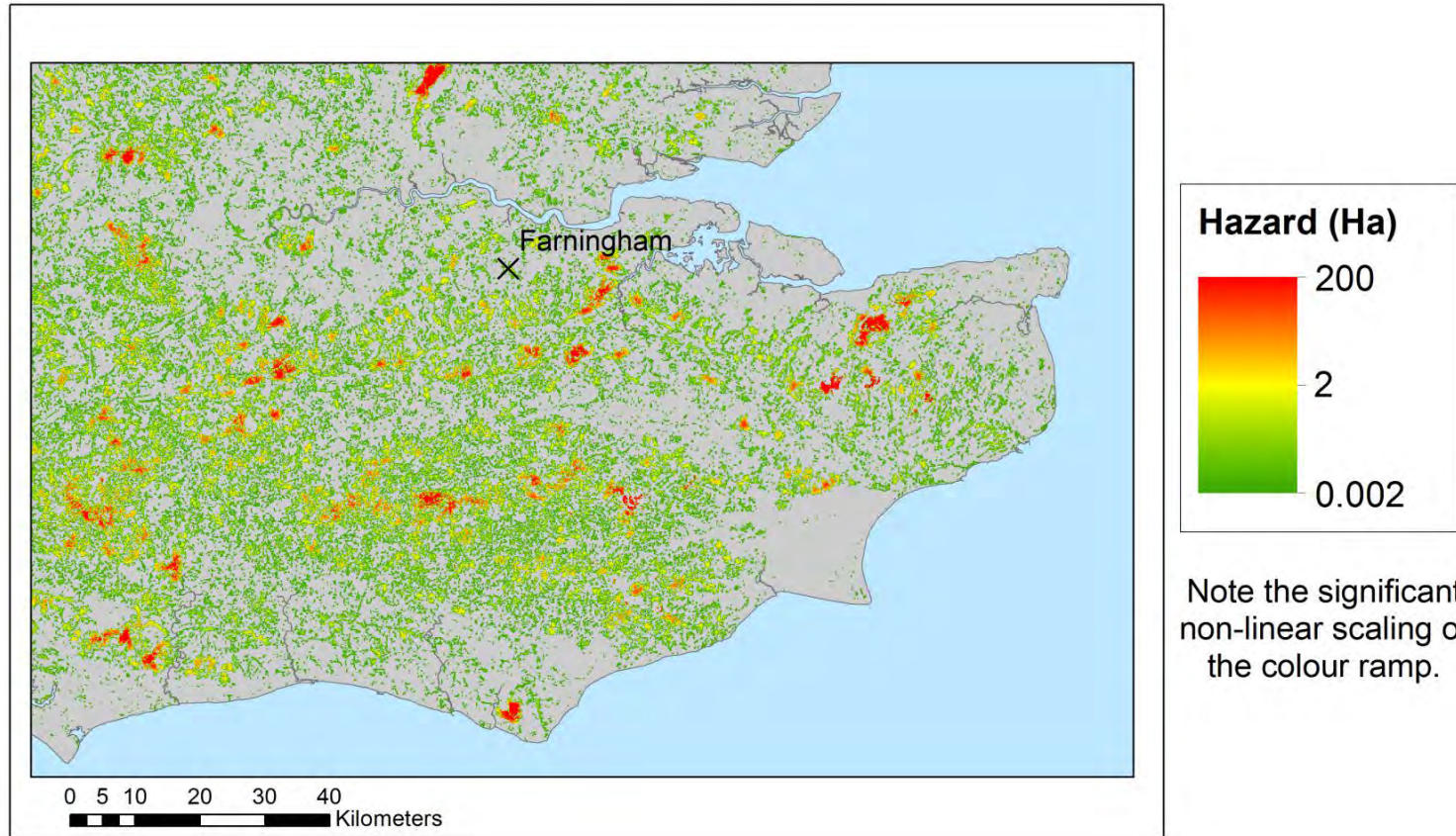


Distribution



Modelling and surveillance

Epidemiological
Hazard Map (250m cells)



24 June



Action 24 June



Farningham 23 July





Citizen science - Observatree

Funded by the EU's LIFE programme



Fill & Sign

Comment

Observatree Volunteers in England



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Date: 22.05.15
Scale: 1:3012000
Author:



St Albans 24 June



2 July



Parasitoids



Chelsea Flower Show 'Beyond our Borders'



The Daily Telegraph DAILY EXPRESS

HorticultureWeek

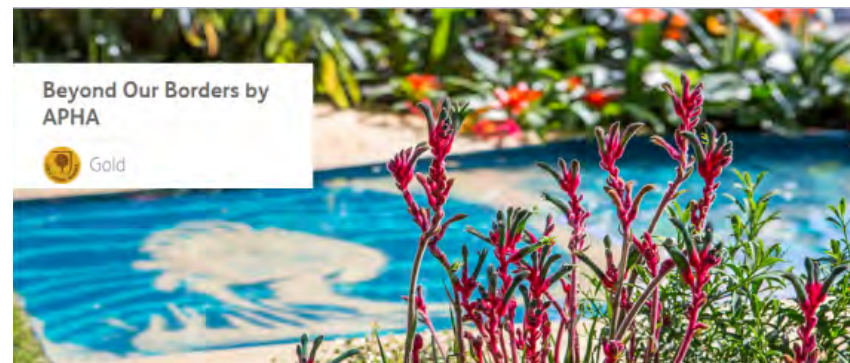


Approx. total news media reach:
34 million

YouTube GB



Approx. 60-70% of visitors had heard of at least one plant pest or disease vs. less than 20% of visitors in 2013.



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYMAKERS DON'T BRING BACK A BUG



IN YOUR BAGS!



MANY PEOPLE AREN'T AWARE OF THE RULES & RISKS OF BRINGING
LIVE PLANTS, MEAT & DAIRY PRODUCTS BACK TO THE UK FROM
OUTSIDE THE EU

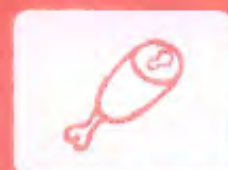
THE FOLLOWING PERCENTAGES OF PEOPLE WEREN'T AWARE OF THE
RESTRICTIONS AROUND THESE PRODUCTS



25%



25%



37%



Over 1/2 didn't realise that pests & diseases could be
carried on meat products

... nearly 2/3 didn't realise dairy products
could carry disease



Knew (42%) Didn't know (58%)

Knew (36%) Didn't know (64%)



The rules are in place to protect Britain from
pests & diseases which could harm our plants
& animals

break the rules & you could face travel delays, &
the item being confiscated



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

TRAVELLING ABROAD THIS CHRISTMAS? MAKE SURE YOU KNOW THE RULES

www.gov.uk/bringing-food-animals-plants-into-uk

Plant Health Skills and Careers

Visible Plant Health career pathway established

Plant health science is a 'valued' and an attractive career

National Plant Biosecurity Curriculum

Plant health science is a 'valued' and an attractive career

1. Plant Health taught in GCSE Biology Sept 2015
2. Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance to promote plant health as a desirable career
3. Internship portfolio to stimulate work based learning for current graduates to experience career opportunities and encourage graduate entry into plant health
4. National Plant Biosecurity Curriculum to identify and help meet stakeholders' skills' requirements
5. Plant Biosecurity training modules in collaboration with Harper Adams University and regional workshops hosted by the HDC in Plant Biosecurity for 2016
6. Plant Health Professionals register underpinned by the Royal Society of Biology launch in Sept 2015

Future priorities and actions

- Independent evaluation of OPM control by Spring 2016
- Review of options for OPM for 16/17 and beyond
- Review of *Phytophthora ramorum* control
- Review of National Measures for *Chalara* and deployment of tolerance
- Suppression of Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp
- Revise Tree Health Policy in England with future management approaches for key tree pests and diseases.

Thank you for your attention

