

Disposal of Timber

The IW Council is aware of the ongoing and developing issues concerning biosecurity in this country. These are particularly significant to the Isle of Wight because in some cases, the island status of this county means that there is an opportunity to limit the spread of invasive or infectious species and pathogens. Well-known examples include grey squirrel, mink, Lyme Disease and deer.

In the case of tree diseases there are several issues causing national and international concern at the moment, and of these the most significant are Chalara ('ash dieback'), Phytophthora ramorum ('sudden oak death'), and Oak Processionary Moth. All of these are now found in south-east England and there is little chance if any that biosecurity will keep all of these diseases out of the Isle of Wight, although some are more easily contained than others. Therefore it is sensible to assume that at some point infected plants with any of these diseases may be found on the Island.

The IW Council liaises with the Forestry Commission and in particular Forest Research; meeting quarterly with Forestry Commission beat foresters and ecologists via the IW Biodiversity Partnership, and in regular contact at other times. Any immediate threats or developments in forestry-related biosecurity are therefore quickly available to IW Council officers and contractors. The council does not respond directly to reports of infected trees but passes such reports to [THDAS](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/ddas) <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/ddas> for their assessment and action, if necessary.

Given the fast-changing situation there is no separate IW Council policy document on tree health nor is it appropriate to create one.

There is already national policy which fulfils this role. The current advice from DEFRA is the [Tree Health Management Plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-health-management-plan) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-health-management-plan> (published 30 April 2014) which contains a lot of advice and background into tree health and biosecurity, with particular emphasis on Chalara ('ash dieback'), Phytophthora ramorum ('sudden oak death'), and Oak Processionary Moth; as well as general principles which could apply to other diseases. In particular this document contains a range of sources of advice and best practice for managing these diseases and it is this that the IW Council would use for reference if any outbreak occurred on the Isle of Wight.

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