

Tree Borers: risk assessment, risk management and preparedness for emerald ash borer and bronze birch borer



Funding

Mixed funding mechanism. Each funder only pays for the participation of their own national researchers. Total funding € 313 000

Research consortium

Defra (GB), BMLFUW (AT), DAFM (IE), NVWA (NL), APHIS (US)

Contact information

Project coordinator: Hugh Evans
hugh.evans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Key outputs and results

The output of this project will fit within the following two categories:

- Evidence supporting policy and inspectorates (EU and national), regulation and risk management (exclusion/prevention/detection/management)
- Improved tools and approaches to predict spread and impact. Support decisions on policy and management options, including models, cost-benefit analysis, control methods and detection methods.

Goals

This project will focus on the two tree pests (*Agrilus* species): the emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis* (EAB) and the bronze birch borer, *Agrilus anxius* (BBB). It will address key questions and gaps in our knowledge on the pests' biology, control (including firewood risks and treatments and biological control agents), modelling and economics. The main objective is to provide research outputs to underpin contingency planning, policy development and policy communication through assessment of the entry, establishment and spread, impact and risk management of the pests. The key overall question that the research should address is: 'How can we best prepare for and manage the risks and impacts of EAB and BBB?' The specific questions that might be considered within this include: • What are the potential risks and impacts and main pathways for movement of the pests and how can we better protect against the risk of introduction? • What are the rates of natural spread and can we improve prediction of spread? • How can we improve early detection? • How can we develop or improve cost-effective management and control approaches and tools (including biological control)? • How can we best communicate and implement policy and engage with stakeholders (including policy makers, woodland owners and managers, academia and the public, importers and the wider nursery industry)?