

Importing firewood

Requirements for landing
material into Great Britain



Plant Health Guide

Importing firewood

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Introduction

Plant Health controls apply to a wide range of wood products, including firewood. These controls are in place to prevent the spread of pests and pathogens that would be ecologically and economically damaging if introduced to Great Britain (GB). Import controls are tree species specific, and may vary according to the country of origin and by the type of wood or wood product imported. This note explains the current rules for regulated firewood (including kindling) entering GB, and covers imports from countries outside the European Union (EU) (Section 1), as well as consignments originating in other EU member States (Section 2). This guidance is based on the legislation set out in the Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005 (SI 2005 No. 2517) as amended by later legislation. Importers are advised to check for updates to the legislation before arranging for the supply of any consignment from outside GB.

Statutory Notification Scheme

In addition to the import regulatory requirements outlined in this document, your attention is drawn to the new firewood (solid fuel wood) statutory notification requirements. The imports covered by this new scheme are outlined below:

Criteria for new firewood notification scheme.

Firewood Origin	Regulated or non-regulated material	Notification
Non EU countries	Regulated material (See section 1 and Tables 1 & 2 for details)	Existing notification system and import controls as set out in article 6 of the Plant Health Forestry Order 2005. FC inspection at point of entry Customs clearance via PHF28 Certificate of Clearance form issued by FC Plant Health Inspector
Non-EU countries	Non-Regulated material	Notification is required as per the new statutory notification scheme from 2016 onwards
EU countries	Non-Regulated material	
EU countries	Regulated material (see section 2, table 3)	

The new notification system covers imports into England and Scotland. All relevant consignments, irrespective of size/weight must be notified. The purpose of this is to allow the Forestry Commission to monitor the extent of the firewood import trade where data is not already captured (data capture is already available on regulated firewood from non-EU countries). The Forestry Commission will carry out risk based and random inspections of consignments. This will ensure that they meet GB landing requirements when the firewood or its associated wood packaging material is regulated (and is not covered by existing inspections as outlined above) or the declaration that the firewood is from a non-regulated species is correct.

The process involves an initial enrolment, followed by completion of either an online or a paper notification form for each consignment of firewood being imported. Full details and guidance on the enrolment and notification process can be found at www.forestry.gov.uk/firewoodnotification.

Scope

This Guide sets out the requirements which have to be met when importing controlled firewood from non-EU countries into Great Britain or into the EU via Great Britain. The EU member states are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal (including Madeira and the Azores), Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. For the purpose of plant health controls, under the agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on Trade in Agricultural Products, Switzerland is treated in the same way as the member states and not as a third country. Separate but similar arrangements apply in Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

This Guide also covers the movement of controlled firewood of EU origin within the EU, some of which requires a plant passport.

GB import requirements from outside the EU

In accordance with legislation, all commercial importers and traders of regulated firewood must be registered with the Forestry Commission. Registration is free and traders must comply with certain obligations placed upon them as registered forestry traders. Registration also acts as a subscription to a newsletter and any consultations on changes to the way that we regulate forestry material. Applications to register should be made to the Cross Border Plant Health Service at the Forestry Commission in Edinburgh.

When a consignment of regulated wood is to be imported from a non-EU country (see Section 1, p4) the importer (or their agent) must give an inspector three days' advance notice of their intention to land the material. Any phytosanitary documents for the consignment must be presented to a Forestry Commission appointed Plant Health inspector within three days of landing and before the goods can be cleared through Customs. This documentation check and any physical check on the consignment will be subject to an inspection fee (see Forestry Commission Plant Health Guide: *Import inspection fees for wood, wood products and bark*) and, on satisfactory completion of inspection, a Certificate of Clearance (form PHF28) will be issued to enable the goods to be released from Customs' control.

GB import requirements from another EU country

Movements of regulated firewood within the EU must be accompanied by Plant Passports to confirm that they meet the landing requirements specified for GB (see Section 2, p8). Within the EU, plant health checks are focused on the place of production, and therefore it is the producer, not the importer, who must be registered to Plant Passport firewood. Regulated firewood that is bark-free (with the exception of conifer material from pine wood nematode demarcated areas and pine from other EU member states) does not need to be accompanied by a Plant Passport. In this Guide 'bark-free' means wood from which all bark, except ingrown bark around knots, and pockets between rings of annual growth, has been removed.

The Plant Passport includes a unique number which identifies the registered forestry trader. Plant passports may only be issued by a registered firewood producer, authorised to do so by the Plant Health Authority in the country of export, and should accompany the supply documentation or be incorporated into labels or delivery notes. The importer will need to ensure that a relevant Plant Passport accompanies regulated firewood landed in GB. Traders dealing with consignments from other EU Member States must retain their records of all transactions, including all Plant Passport documentation, which may be subject to annual inspection.

GB requirements for export to another EU country

The same registration process outlined above applies to businesses involved in the export of regulated material outside GB to EU countries that have protected zone status (see Section 2). If moving regulated firewood, businesses will need to be authorised to issue Plant Passports to accompany consignments of firewood (unless it is bark free, with the exception of plane). A business will need to demonstrate that it can meet other countries' landing requirements before authorisation is granted. An inspection fee will be payable for the granting of an authority to issue Plant Passports (as set out in the Plant Health (Forestry) (Fees) Regulations 2006 Schedule 1 (as amended)).

Wood packaging material

All wood packaging material used to package and transport firewood products from non-EU countries must comply with ISPM15 (see Figure 1 in Forestry Commission Plant Health Guide: *The UK Wood Packaging Material Marking Programme*). Wood packaging material made from regulated timber originating in the EU and used to package and transport firewood products from other EU countries must meet the same landing requirements as the regulated timber referred to in Table 3. Exceptionally, wood packaging material made from conifer wood originating in Portugal and demarcated areas in Spain must be compliant with ISPM15. For details of demarcated areas in Portugal and Spain see Useful websites on page 9.

Section 1 – Consignments from non-EU countries

Imports of all goods coming from non-EU countries must be declared to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) quoting the relevant Combined Nomenclature (CN) Code from the Integrated Tariff of the United Kingdom. For the purpose of this guidance, it is presumed that consignments will meet the description of CN 4401 10 for solid fuelwood. This covers fuelwood in the form of logs, billets, twigs, faggots and similar forms. Reconstituted wood in pellets, briquettes, etc. is not regulated, because the heat and pressure in the manufacturing process remove the plant health risk.

The following tables (1 and 2) detail the special entry requirements for regulated wood of different genera and species originating in countries where risks from quarantine forestry pests and diseases are known to occur. For imports of non regulated wood see details of the Statutory Notification Scheme on page 1.

Table 1 GB entry requirements for coniferous firewood originating outside the EU.

Material / Country of Origin	Entry Requirement
All coniferous wood, other than consignments comprised wholly of wood of <i>Thuja L.</i> , or <i>Taxus L.</i> originating in Canada, China, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Taiwan or the USA	<p>The wood shall be accompanied by an official statement that it:</p> <p>(a) has undergone an appropriate heat treatment¹ to achieve a minimum temperature of 56°C for a minimum duration of 30 continuous minutes throughout the entire profile of the wood (including at its core). There shall be evidence thereof by a mark of 'HT' put on the wood or on any wrapping. In addition, for wood that is not bark free, one of the following additional requirements must also be met:</p> <p>(b) after its treatment the wood was transported, until leaving the country issuing that statement either,</p> <p>(i) outside of the flight season (March – October), of the vector <i>Monochamus</i> (sawyer beetles) taking into account a safety margin of four additional weeks at the beginning and end of the expected flight season, or</p> <p>(ii) it was wrapped with a protective covering² ensuring that infestation with <i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i> (pinewood nematode) or its vector could not occur.</p> <p>Bark-free wood can be moved at any time and without a protective covering.</p>
Wood of <i>Thuja L.</i> (western red cedar) or <i>Taxus L.</i> (Yew), originating in Canada, China, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Taiwan or the USA	<p>Official statement (phytosanitary certificate) that the wood:</p> <p>(a) is bark-free, or</p> <p>(b) has undergone heat treatment¹ to achieve a minimum core temperature of 56°C for at least 30 minutes, or</p> <p>(c) has undergone kiln-drying¹ to below 20% moisture content</p>
All coniferous wood, originating in Russia, Kazakhstan or Turkey	<p>Official statement (phytosanitary certificate) that the wood:</p> <p>(a) is bark-free and free from grub holes larger than 3mm across caused by the genus <i>Monochamus spp.</i> (non-European), or</p> <p>(b) has undergone kiln-drying¹ to below 20% moisture content, or</p> <p>(c) has undergone heat treatment¹ to achieve a minimum core temperature of 56°C for at least 30 minutes</p>
All coniferous wood, originating in non-EU countries other than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia, Kazakhstan or Turkey • European countries • Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan or the USA 	<p>Official statement (phytosanitary certificate) that the wood:</p> <p>(a) is bark-free and free from grub holes larger than 3mm across caused by the genus <i>Monochamus spp.</i> (non-European), or</p> <p>(b) has undergone kiln-drying¹ to below 20% moisture content, or</p> <p>(c) has undergone heat treatment¹ to achieve a minimum core temperature of 56°C for at least 30 minutes</p>

1 Where the sawn wood is not bark free after heat treatment, a heat treatment certificate (see *Importing wood, wood products and bark* (FCPH001), page 13: Industry and mill certificates section) cannot be issued to accompany the wood by the supplying mill. Instead, the wood (which can retain any amount of bark) must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the NPPO declaring that the wood complied with one of the option b. requirements.

2 Timber need not arrive in the UK with a protective covering where there is a declaration on a phytosanitary certificate indicating that it was protected by a covering up until it was exported. This is because the covering requirements only apply up to the point that the consignment leaves the country of export.

Table 1 (continued)

Material / Country of Origin	Entry Requirement
<p>All coniferous wood, originating in European third countries* (including Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Norway, Serbia or Ukraine, but not including Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkey).</p> <p>*Non-EU European countries</p>	<p>There are no special requirements for bark-free wood, i.e. wood from which all bark excluding the vascular cambium, in-grown bark around knots, and bark pockets between annual growth rings, has been removed. New traders will however be risk assessed for bark-freedom and Registered Forestry Trader status will be required for the importer as part of the process.</p> <p>Wood which is not bark free shall be accompanied by an official statement that it has undergone kiln drying to below 20% moisture content, expressed as a percentage of dry matter achieved through an appropriate time/temperature schedule. There shall be evidence thereof by a mark of 'kiln dried', 'KD' or another internationally recognised mark put on the wood or on any wrapping in accordance with current usage.</p>

Table 2 GB entry requirements for non-coniferous firewood originating outside the EU.

Material / Country of Origin	Entry Requirement
<p>Birch (<i>Betula</i>), originating in Canada or the USA</p> <p><i>(subject to dual or higher standard landing requirements – see final entry in table for additional or higher standard phytosanitary requirements for other pest risks from specific countries of origin¹)</i></p>	<p>Official statement (phytosanitary certificate) that the wood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) has bark and at least 2.5 cm of the outer sapwood removed in an approved facility, or (b) the wood has undergone ionizing irradiation to achieve a minimum absorbed dose of 1 kGy throughout the wood
<p>Oak (<i>Quercus L.</i>), originating in the USA</p>	<p>Official statement (phytosanitary certificate) that the wood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) has undergone kiln-drying² to below 20 % moisture content, or (b) is bark-free and below 20 % moisture content, or (c) is bark-free and disinfected by an appropriate hot-air or hot water treatment, or (d) is squared so as to remove entirely the rounded surface
<p>Maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>) also known as hard maple, sugar maple or rock maple, originating in Canada or the USA</p> <p><i>(subject to dual or higher standard landing requirements – see final entry in table for additional or higher standard phytosanitary requirements for other pest risks from specific countries of origin¹)</i></p>	<p>Official statement (phytosanitary certificate) that the wood has undergone kiln-drying² to below 20 % moisture content</p>
<p>Plane (<i>Platanus L.</i>), originating in Armenia, Switzerland or the USA</p> <p><i>(subject to dual or higher standard landing requirements – see final entry in table for additional or higher standard phytosanitary requirements for other pest risks from specific countries of origin¹)</i></p>	<p>Official statement (phytosanitary certificate) that the wood has undergone kiln-drying² to below 20 % moisture content</p>

Table 2 (continued)

Material / Country of Origin	Entry Requirement
<p>Poplar/Aspen (<i>Populus L.</i>), originating in Armenia, Switzerland or the USA</p> <p><i>(subject to dual or higher standard landing requirements - see final entry in table for additional or higher standard phytosanitary requirements for other pest risks from specific countries of origin¹)</i></p>	<p>Official statement (phytosanitary certificate) that the wood:</p> <p>(a) is bark-free, or</p> <p>(b) has undergone kiln-drying² to below 20 % moisture content</p>
<p>Ash (<i>Fraxinus L.</i>), Japanese walnut (<i>Juglans ailantifolia</i>), Manchurian Walnut (<i>Juglans mandshurica</i>), David Elm (<i>Ulmus davidiana</i>) (see bottom box for additional phytosanitary requirements from specific countries of origin) and Japanese Wingnut (<i>Pterocarya rhoifolia</i>), originating in Canada, China, Japan, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Russia, Taiwan or the USA</p> <p><i>(subject to dual or higher standard landing requirements - see final entry in table for additional or higher standard phytosanitary requirements for other pest risks from specific countries of origin¹)</i></p>	<p>Official statement (phytosanitary certificate) that the wood:</p> <p>(a) has bark and at least 2.5 cm of the outer sapwood removed in an approved facility, or</p> <p>(b) the wood has undergone ionizing irradiation to achieve a minimum absorbed dose of 1 kGy throughout the wood.</p>
<p>Sweet Chestnut (<i>Castanea L.</i>), originating in all non-EU Countries except Switzerland</p>	<p>No special requirements for bark-free wood.</p> <p>For wood which is not bark-free the wood must be accompanied by an official statement (phytosanitary certificate) confirming that the wood:</p> <p>(a) originates in an area or areas known to be free from <i>Cryphonectrica parasitica</i> (Murril.) Barr, or</p> <p>(b) has undergone kiln drying² to below 20% moisture content</p>

Table 2 (continued)

Material / Country of Origin	Entry Requirement
<p>Big-leaf or Oregon maple (<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>), California buckeye or California horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus californica</i>), Pacific yew or western yew (<i>Taxus breviflora</i>) originating in the USA</p> <p>(subject to dual or higher standard landing requirements – see final entry in table for additional or higher standard phytosanitary requirements for other pest risks from specific countries of origin!)</p>	<p>The wood shall be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate or a phytosanitary certificate for re-export certifying that:</p> <p>(a) it originates in an area in which non-European isolates of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> water mould are known not to occur and which is mentioned under the heading 'place of origin'; or</p> <p>(b) it meets one of the following requirements. After official verification that the wood has been stripped of its bark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) it has been squared so as to remove entirely the rounded surface; or (ii) the water content of the wood does not exceed 20%; expressed as a percentage of the dry matter; or (iii) the wood has been disinfected by an appropriate hot-air or hot-water treatment; or <p>(c) in the case of sawn wood with or without residual bark attached, if there is evidence by a mark of 'kiln dried', 'KD' or another internationally recognised mark put on the wood or its packaging in accordance with current commercial usage, that it has undergone kiln drying² to below 20% moisture content, expressed as a percentage of dry matter, at time of manufacture, achieved through an appropriate time/temperature schedule.</p>
<p>Tanoak or tanbark oak (<i>Lithocarpus densiflorus</i>) originating in the USA</p>	<p>The wood shall be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate or a phytosanitary certificate for re-export certifying that:</p> <p>(a) it originates in an area in which non-European isolates of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> water mould are known not to occur and which is mentioned under the heading 'place of origin'; or</p> <p>(b) it meets one of the following requirements. After official verification that the wood has been stripped of its bark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) it has been squared so as to remove entirely the rounded surface; or (ii) the water content of the wood does not exceed 20%; expressed as a percentage of the dry matter; or (iii) the wood has been disinfected by an appropriate hot-air or hot-water treatment; or <p>(c) in the case of sawn wood with or without residual bark attached, if there is evidence by a mark of 'kiln dried', 'KD' or another internationally recognised mark put on the wood or its packaging in accordance with current commercial usage, that it has undergone kiln drying² to below 20% moisture content, expressed as a percentage of dry matter, at time of manufacture, achieved through an appropriate time/temperature schedule.</p>

Table 2 (continued)

Material / Country of Origin	Entry Requirement
<p><i>Amelanchier</i> (serviceberry, grape pear, juneberry, shadblow and shadbush) spp., <i>Aronia</i> (chokeberry) spp., <i>Cotoneaster</i> (cotoneaster) spp., <i>Crataegus</i> (hawthorn) spp., <i>Cydonia</i> (common quince) spp., <i>Malus</i> (apple) spp., <i>Prunus</i> (cherry, plum, apricot, almond and peach) spp., <i>Pyracantha</i> (firethorn and pyracantha) spp., <i>Pyrus</i> (pear) spp., and <i>Sorbus</i> (rowan/mountain ash) spp. originating in Canada or the USA</p>	<p>The wood must be accompanied by an official statement that:</p> <p>(a) it originates in an area free from <i>Saperda candida</i> (round-headed apple tree borer), established by the national plant protection organisation in the country of origin in accordance with ISPM 4, and this is mentioned on the phytosanitary certificate or the phytosanitary certificate for re-export under the heading 'Additional declaration'; or</p> <p>(b) it has been processed into pieces not more than 2.5 cm thickness and width; or</p> <p>(c) it has undergone an appropriate heat treatment to achieve a minimum temperature of 56°C for a minimum duration of 30 continuous minutes throughout the entire profile of the chips, and which is indicated on the phytosanitary certificate or the phytosanitary certificate for re-export.</p>
<p>Maple (<i>Acer</i> spp), Horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus</i> spp), Alder (<i>Alnus</i> spp), Birch (<i>Betula</i> spp), Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus</i> spp), Katsura tree (<i>Cercidiphyllum</i> spp), Hazel (<i>Corylus</i> spp), Beech (<i>Fagus</i> spp), Ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> spp), Golden Rain tree (<i>Koelreuteria</i> spp), Plane (<i>Platanus</i> spp), Poplar (<i>Populus</i> spp), Willow (<i>Salix</i> spp), Lime (<i>Tilia</i> spp) and Elm (<i>Ulmus</i> spp) originating in Canada, China, North Korea, South Korea, Russia, Turkey, Switzerland and the USA</p> <p>(subject to dual or higher standard landing requirements – see above entries in table for additional or higher standard phytosanitary requirements for other pest risks from specific countries of origin¹)</p>	<p>Official statement (phytosanitary certificate) that the wood:</p> <p>(a) Originates in an area known to be free from <i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i> (Motschulsky); or</p> <p>(b) Wood is debarked and has undergone heat treatment (56° for 30 minutes throughout its core)</p>

¹ Dual or higher standard landing requirements are necessary for the import of certain wood obtained from tree species which act as hosts for more than one tree pest. For example in Canada and the USA maple can be infected with both the fungal pathogen *Ceratocystis virescens* and Asian longhorn beetle (ALB). As kiln drying would not address the risk of maple wood infested with ALB, imported maple wood would have to be de-barked and heat treated as this higher standard addresses both pest risks (insect and fungal). If the wood originated in an ALB pest-free area it could be declared as such and also kiln dried.

² The wood or its wrapping must be marked in the case of kiln drying "Kiln Dried" or "KD" or another internationally recognised mark and in the case of heat treatment "HT". For kiln drying moisture content is expressed as a percentage of the dry matter achieved through an appropriate time/temperature schedule.

Section 2 – Consignments from within the EU

Although not subject to Customs formalities, regulated consignments meeting the prerequisite fuelwood description and originating in other EU member States will nevertheless be subject to plant health controls before entering GB. A number of tree pests and pathogens found in Europe are not currently present in GB. In such instances, all or parts of GB have 'Protected Zone' status in the EU, requiring special measures for the import of regulated material. Plant Passport controls involving supplier traceability currently apply to firewood of sweet chestnut, plane and coniferous species entering GB as a Protected Zone from any other part of the EU. Controls also apply in respect of movements of sweet chestnut and coniferous firewood from GB to other EU Protected Zones i.e. Greece, Ireland, Cyprus and other parts of the UK (Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Jersey), which are free of certain pests that are present in GB. For imports of regulated and non regulated wood see details of the Statutory Notification Scheme on page 1.

Table 3 GB entry requirements for all regulated firewood originating in other EU member states.

Wood	Entry Requirement
All coniferous wood originating in EU members States except Portugal or other Pine Wood Nematode demarcated areas (see sources of further information on page 7)	The wood must be bark-free, or Official statement (Plant Passport) confirming that the wood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) has undergone kiln drying to below 20% moisture content and has a mark "Kiln Dried" or "KD" or another internationally recognised mark put on the wood or on its packaging, or (b) originates in an area known to be free from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ips duplicatus</i> • <i>Ips typographus</i> • <i>Ips amitinus</i>
All coniferous wood originating in Portugal or other Pine Wood Nematode demarcated areas (see sources of further information on page 7)	Official statement (Plant Passport) that the wood has undergone heat treatment to achieve a minimum core temperature of 56°C for at least 30 minutes to eradicate Pine Wood Nematode. Commission Implementing Decision 2012/535/EU see – (Article 10 and Section 1 of Annex III) when it is exported to other EU member states
Sweet chestnut (<i>Castanea L.</i>)	The wood must be bark-free, or Official statement (Plant Passport) confirming that the wood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) originates in an area known to be free from <i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i>. (the cause of Sweet Chestnut Blight), or (b) has undergone kiln drying to below 20% moisture content and has a mark "Kiln Dried" or "KD" or another internationally recognised mark put on the wood or on its packaging
Plane (<i>Platanus L.</i>)	Official statement (Plant Passport) confirming that the wood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) originates in areas known to be free from <i>Ceratocystis platani</i> (the cause of Canker Stain of Plane), or (b) has undergone kiln drying to below 20% moisture content and has a mark "Kiln Dried" or "KD" or another internationally recognised mark put on the wood or on its packaging

Note: if there is any doubt as to the genera or species of firewood at the time of import the consignment will be regarded as regulated. It is therefore important, especially for firewood not containing any of the genera or species listed in the tables above, that the commercial documentation provides adequate information.

Further reading and useful sources of information

For information and advice on forestry plant health matters in Great Britain, or to obtain a copy of the service standard leaflet, visit: www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth or contact one of the following staff of the Forestry Commission's Plant Health Service:

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For information and advice on forestry plant health in Northern Ireland, visit:
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Plant Health publications

Plant Health Guides

- Importing wood, wood products and bark (FCPH001)
- Import inspection fees for wood, wood products and bark (FCPH002)
- Export certification (FCPH003)
- The United Kingdom Wood Packaging Material Marking Programme (FCPH004)
- Importing firewood (FCPH005)
- Importing woodchip (FCPH006)
- Minimum facilities at ports (FCPH007)

Other publications

For information on all Forestry Commission publications, visit: www.forestry.gov.uk/publications

Other useful websites

For information on pine wood nematode demarcated areas within EU member states:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosafety/legislation/emergency_control_measures_en.htm

