



Ips typographus

A quick and easy guide on the movement restrictions of spruce trees originating within the Demarcated Area (DMA)

The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) is a serious pest of spruce trees and we need your help to deal with it. Damaged, stressed and dying spruce trees are especially susceptible. If you think you have spotted signs of this beetle, please report it to the Forestry Commission.



Any spruce material originating from within the DMA is classified into **one of two** categories:



Low risk

Any spruce material originating in the DMA, unless specified as high risk via a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN):

The vast majority of the volume of spruce trees felled in the DMA will not be on incursion sites and will therefore be low risk. If you have received an SPHN this will define areas of high risk but it may also define areas of low-risk material depending on the outcome of the survey and the extent of the woodland.



High risk

Any spruce material that is known to be infested, likely to be infested or suspected of being infested.

How do I know if I have high risk material on my land?

You will know if that is the case if you do as you will have received a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) from the Forestry Commission. This will also outline the extent of the infestation and actions to take.

SPHN

Ips typographus Demarcated Area July 2022



Funding Support

Do you own or manage spruce trees within the DMA?

You may qualify for support to manage the tree pest, *Ips typographus*. If you own spruce in the area highlighted on the map, you will be offered advice on managing your trees and you may be eligible for financial support through our Tree Health Pilot to do so. Grants are available to manage or fell your spruce trees, restock your woodland and maintain your newly planted trees. Speak to your Forestry Commission Woodland Officer about getting involved or visit our website to find out more:

www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-health-pilot-scheme







Low risk

I have spruce on land within the DMA – what must I do if I want to conduct any harvesting or thinning of spruce material?

- 1 You are not obliged to do anything (unless you have received an SPHN) but policy does focus on proactively encouraging spruce tree removal and replacement with none susceptible tree species.
- 2 If you are looking to conduct harvesting, thinning or any action that is likely to kill spruce (e.g. chemical treatment, ring barking), you must apply for the following authorisations:
 - i Felling licence (applying three or more months prior to felling will help ensure your licence is in place before you want to commence felling), apply here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-online-for-a-felling-licence>
 - ii Intention to fell (minimum 2 weeks notice period required).
 - iii Movement/Dispatch (minimum 2 weeks notice period before the first dispatch required).

This is to allow the Forestry Commission to survey the woodland/timber stacks and ensure there is no infestation - early engagement is essential to ensure land owners and managers are aware of the timescales and implications when planning their operations. For more detail on the timings and authorisation processes see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eight-toothed-european-spruce-bark-beetle-ips-typographus>

- 3 Any material leaving site must go to an authorised processor for utilisation (this material does not have to be chipped and can be moved as round wood). 
- 4 Branch wood under 8cm diameter can be left on site or can be utilised at an authorised processor (as above). This is because evidence shows these beetles do not breed in this small diameter material. 




High risk

Where do I start?



You must follow the instructions outlined in the SPHN. This will define the timescales and the method for removal of the infested and at-risk material e.g. felling, disposal and destruction of material.

- ✓ You will need to have the trees felled. 
- ✓ You will need to have all the branch wood over 8cm diameter chipped or burnt on-site (See your SPHN for guidance). 
- ✓ You will need to have all the chipped material destroyed or processed to make it safe. Material leaving site must go to an authorised processor for utilisation (e.g. for panel boards, wood pellets or biomass). 
- ✓ Branch wood under 8cm diameter can be left on site or can be utilised at an authorised processor (as above). This is because evidence shows these beetles do not breed in this small diameter material. 

For a list of authorised processors please see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/authorised-processors-for-ips-typographus-and-phytophthora-pluvialis>



ipstypographus.authorisation@forestrycommission.gov.uk

What information needs to be recorded?

In order to maintain an audit trail and provide traceability to support compliance, it is essential that you keep a record of the date, time, vehicle registration and the destination of any material movements.



Why does it have to be done?

Swift and robust action needs to be undertaken in response to any findings of *Ips typographus* to minimise the risk of spread. If this pest becomes established in England, it will have a major impact on our environment and wood-based industries, for example, it could damage a significant proportion of the UK's timber production, which comprises of spruce. By actively managing your woodlands, you can increase their resilience, protect them against future threats and prevent the pest from spreading further afield.

Our aim and long-term objective is the eradication of *Ips typographus*. An eradication programme is underway on a site by site basis, and we continue to monitor for *Ips typographus* throughout England through a robust surveillance programme including an extensive network of traps. In addition, a demarcated area restricting the movement of susceptible material has been implemented to limit potential spread.

Proactive management before an infestation allows for potential recovery of costs through the sale of spruce timber. Clearing stands that are infested generally incurs higher costs and gives reduced returns.



Low risk

When does it have to be done?

If you commit to harvesting in a low-risk area within the DMA the following timescales apply:

- 1 For material moved beyond the DMA:
 - i an 8-week time limit will apply from the date of felling to date of processing during the flight period of the pest (1st April to end of August).
 - ii Material moved outside of the flight season must be processed by the end of February at the latest.
- 2 For material moved within the DMA:
 - i Material harvested between 1st April to end of August, must be processed prior to the end of February the following year at the latest.
 - ii Material harvested after August must be processed prior to the end of February two calendar years later, at the latest.
 - iii If at any time material is found to be infested it will be subject to an SPHN (see high risk requirements).

Who do I contact?

ipstypographus.authorisation@forestrycommission.gov.uk



High risk

When does it have to be done?

Your SPHN will provide details including the level of severity, but as a general rule:



If material is known to be infested or is within 300 metres of known infested spruce it must be felled and destroyed before the next generation of *Ips typographus* (end February) or within 6 weeks of the date of the SPHN, whichever is sooner. (If the SPHN denotes it is very low level severity, this timescale can be extended to the start of the following February).



If material is not known to be infested but is stressed (dying, damaged spruce from windblow, waterlogging, drought or fire) and is within between 300 – 1000 metres of known infested trees it must be felled and destroyed before the start of the following Spring (end of February).



Healthy Spruce within 300m of the infestation must be felled and processed. The timescale will be dependent on the severity of the outbreak as detailed on the SPHN.

Who do I contact?

There will be a named contact on the SPHN.

What about about spruce that sits outside of the DMA?

There are no restrictions on material originating outside the DMA. This is considered no risk and no action is required.

Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN)

SPHN's are issued following an intensive survey of a woodland/area. They define any elements of high-risk material but may also define low-risk material based on the absence of infestation and health and vigour of the trees. Current policy mandates that all spruce 300m from a finding of breeding *Ips typographus* is felled, with all stressed/dying spruce out to 1000m felled and destroyed.

To be
felled



Infested tree



Stressed or dying trees
(within 1000m of the infested tree)



Healthy spruce trees
(within 300m radius of infested tree)



Healthy spruce trees
(outside 300m radius of infested tree)



Additional Q&A



Why should we be confident that *Ips typographus* will be eradicated in England?

Following identification of *Ips typographus* in England in 2018, we have taken intensive action at the sites to eradicate this invasive and damaging beetle.

Why should I not be worried about receiving spruce from the DMA in other parts of England?

You will only receive spruce roundwood if it has been surveyed and inspected to determine freedom from the beetle.

Any high-risk material identified within the DMA will be subject to an SPHN controlling its movement and utilisation. High risk material must be chipped before leaving the woodland which will eliminate the risk.

How does felling healthy spruce help the situation?

This reduces the opportunity for colonisation and may sometimes be required as a precaution to ensure that trees that could be potentially infested are removed.

Removing spruce as a host from the DMA entirely will limit the possibility of populations of *Ips typographus* establishing and prevent spread to other areas.

Predicted climate change means that what is currently healthy spruce may not remain so over future years, hence early felling could reduce the risk of these areas becoming future outbreak sites.

What about Sitka spruce, will this be infected?

Norway spruce is the main species affected in Europe. Sitka spruce is rarely planted elsewhere in Europe due to its requirement for high, consistent rainfall throughout the year; it is only used as a major forestry species in the UK. Forest Research has been involved in a long-term project assessing whether *Ips typographus* would affect Sitka spruce.

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www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission



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