



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



Forestry Commission



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

A HELPFUL GUIDE FOR  
TRADERS OF LARGE OAK TREES

# OAK PROCESSIONARY MOTH MANAGEMENT POLICY CHANGES

**INTRODUCED MAY 2023**

[gov.uk/guidance/managing-oak-proceSSIONARY-moth-in-england](https://gov.uk/guidance/managing-oak-proceSSIONARY-moth-in-england)

# OAK PROCESSIONARY MOTH MANAGEMENT POLICY CHANGES

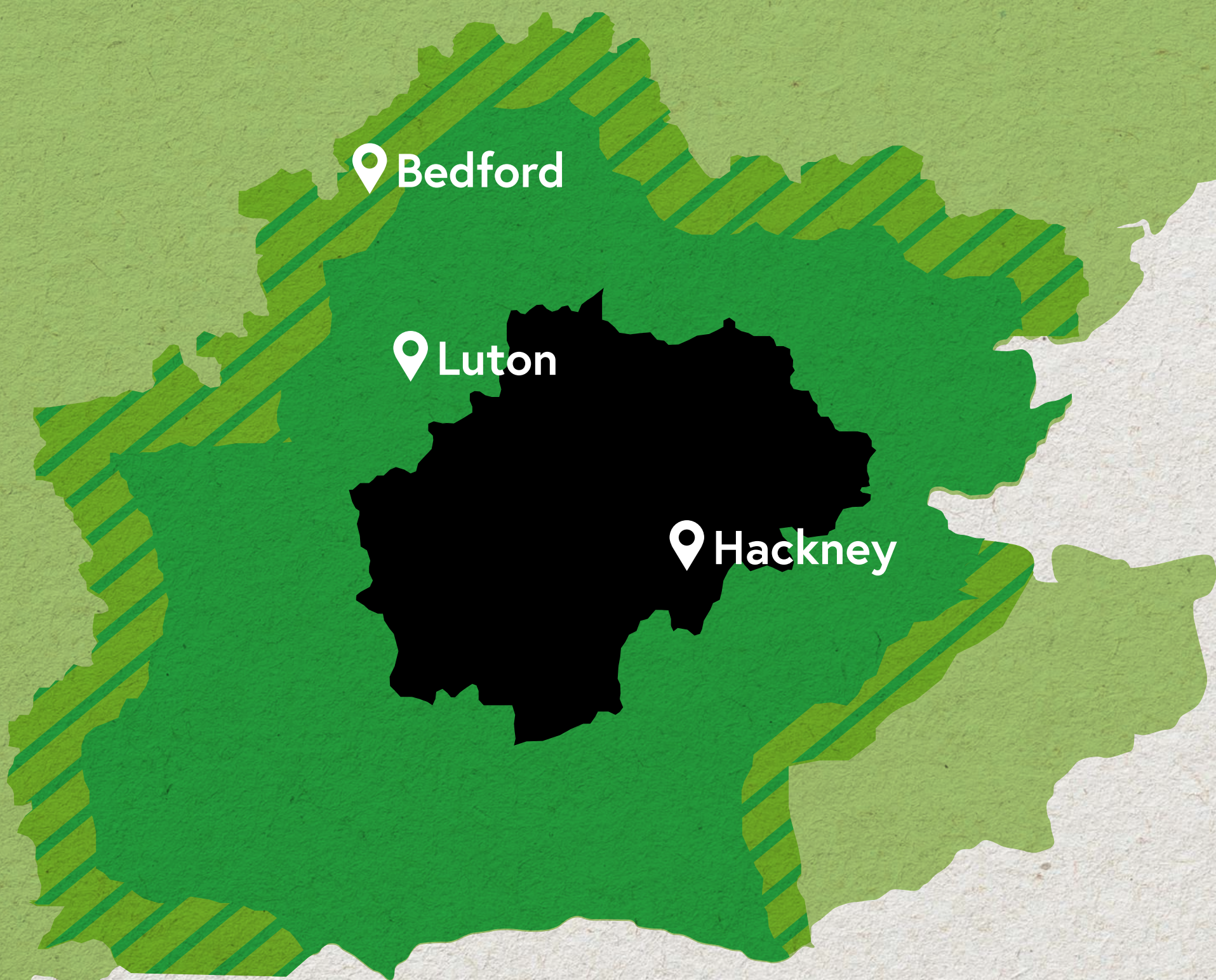
If you work with oak, you will know that Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) has become a serious problem in London and the South East.

It is threatening the health of our oak trees and can be a hazard to human and animal health. To protect against it, there were changes to policy in 2023, and you need to know what they are.

New legislation came into force on 24 May 2023 enabling traders to move large oak trees within the Established Area and Buffer Zone, provided they comply with specific biosecurity requirements and movement restrictions.



- Established Area
- Buffer Zone
- Area free from the pest
- ▨ Buffer Zone (exclusion zone)  
10km movement exclusion zone at the outer edge of the buffer zone, to further safeguard the Area free from the pest



The locations in the above map are for illustrative purposes only in demonstrating the location of the three management zones.

# MANAGEMENT ZONES

Currently there are three OPM management zones in place:

- The **Established Area** which was expanded in March.
- The **Buffer Zone**, an area of surveillance and control by the Forestry Commission, which was also expanded in March.
- The **Area free from the pest** which makes up the rest of the UK.

Scan the QR code to view our OPM Distribution Map:

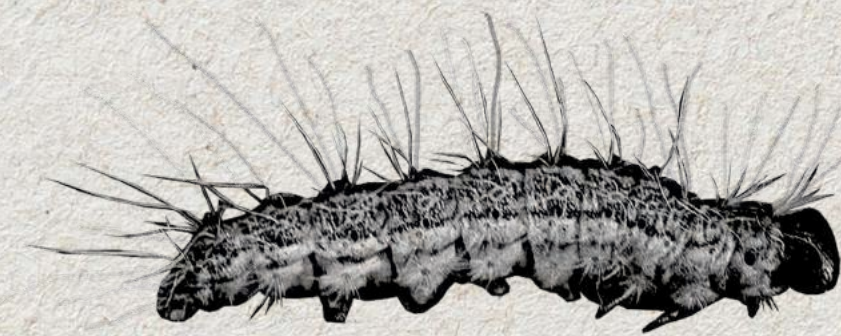




If you trade oak trees within the Buffer Zone and Established Area you need to be aware of the movement restrictions for large oak trees in these areas.



Large oak trees are classified as having a girth at 1.2m above the root collar of at least 8cm - approx. 2.55cm diameter.

There are no restrictions on moving small oak trees (with a girth at 1.2m above the root collar of less than 8cm).



# WHAT ARE THE POLICY CHANGES?

## IF YOU'RE A TRADER IN THE ESTABLISHED AREA

-  You **WILL NOT be permitted** to move large oak trees to the Area free from the pest or the Buffer Zone.
-  You **WILL BE permitted** to move large oak trees within the Established Area, provided you meet the following: biosecurity requirements:




**BIOSECURITY  
COMPETENCE**




**OFFICIAL  
INSPECTIONS**


More information on this can be found later in the leaflet.

## IF YOU'RE A TRADER IN THE BUFFER ZONE


 You **WILL NOT be permitted** to move large oak trees to the Area free from the pest.

 You **WILL BE permitted** to move large oak trees into the Established Area, provided you meet the following biosecurity requirements:





 You **WILL ALSO BE permitted** to move large oak trees within the Buffer Zone, provided you meet two additional requirements:



 However, you **WILL NOT be permitted** to move large oak trees within 10km from the outer edge of the Buffer Zone.

## IN ADDITION ALL OAK TRADERS MUST

 Check oak trees are **free from OPM** prior to movement and report any findings of this pest to your Plant Health Inspector.

 Keep movement records of large oak trees for 3 years so that the Plant Health Inspectors can carry out essential surveillance.



# BIOSECURITY REQUIREMENTS

## 🔒 BIOSECURITY COMPETENCE

You must demonstrate the biosecurity requirements set out in the [Plant Health Management Standard](#). This can be done through membership of the [Plant Healthy Certification Scheme](#) or provision of a [Ready to Plant](#) approval from Fera Science Ltd.

## ✅ CHEMICAL CONTROL REGIME

You must demonstrate that a robust chemical control regime is in place with appropriate insecticide spraying of oaks, in line with [Defra's technical guidance](#).



## 🌱 RISK-BASED POST-PLANTING INSPECTIONS

You must keep accurate movement records of large oak trees, for a minimum of 3 years to ensure traceability of movements. A proportion of high-risk large oak movements within the buffer zone will be subject to post-planting inspections by Plant Health Inspectors.

## 🔍 OFFICIAL INSPECTIONS

You will be subject to Animal and Plant Health Agency conducted audits alongside plant passporting inspections, to ensure that the above requirements are being met.





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Please make sure you adhere to these changes and together we can protect our industry from the risks of OPM. For further information please visit:

[gov.uk/guidance/managing-oak-processionary-moth-in-england](https://gov.uk/guidance/managing-oak-processionary-moth-in-england)

or speak to your Plant Health Inspector.

