



The Scottish Forestry Tree Health team has, so far, completed 8 survey flights over Scotland using an amended protocol to comply with COVID-19 safe working practices. The necessary reduction in staff on board (from three to one) has limited our capacity to deliver our normal early summer and late summer flight programmes. Nevertheless, we still intend to cover 90% of Scotland's productive forest area during what will now have to be a single summer flight schedule.

Survey flights have now been completed covering most of the southern and western parts of Scotland (mainly risk zone 1 and risk zone 2 as seen in the map below).

Symptoms have been seen mainly in pockets where infections have been confirmed in previous years, but a significant number of these pockets have extensive areas of symptomatic trees covering whole compartments of larch - especially in parts of Dumfriesshire, the Cowal peninsula and Argyll.

All the significant areas of newly symptomatic trees are close to areas where infection has been confirmed in previous years, particularly where felling has been delayed. These initial flights have already covered the areas surrounding c. 85% of the SPHNs issued since 2017.

Although significant areas of symptomatic trees have been spotted in some areas, there are still large areas of larch with no symptomatic trees observed in risk zone 1, and the areas of risk zones 2 and 3 that have been flown so far appear to be showing normal numbers of suspect trees that will need to be ground surveyed to determine if *P. ramorum* infection is present.

Surveyors are already out checking the sites identified during the aerial surveys, following updated protocols for COVID-19 safe working. Field surveys will continue through the summer months.

Helicopter surveillance flights will continue over the next few weeks.

Cameron MacIntyre, SF Tree Health Operations Manager



# Scottish Forestry / Coilltearachd na h-Alba

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation

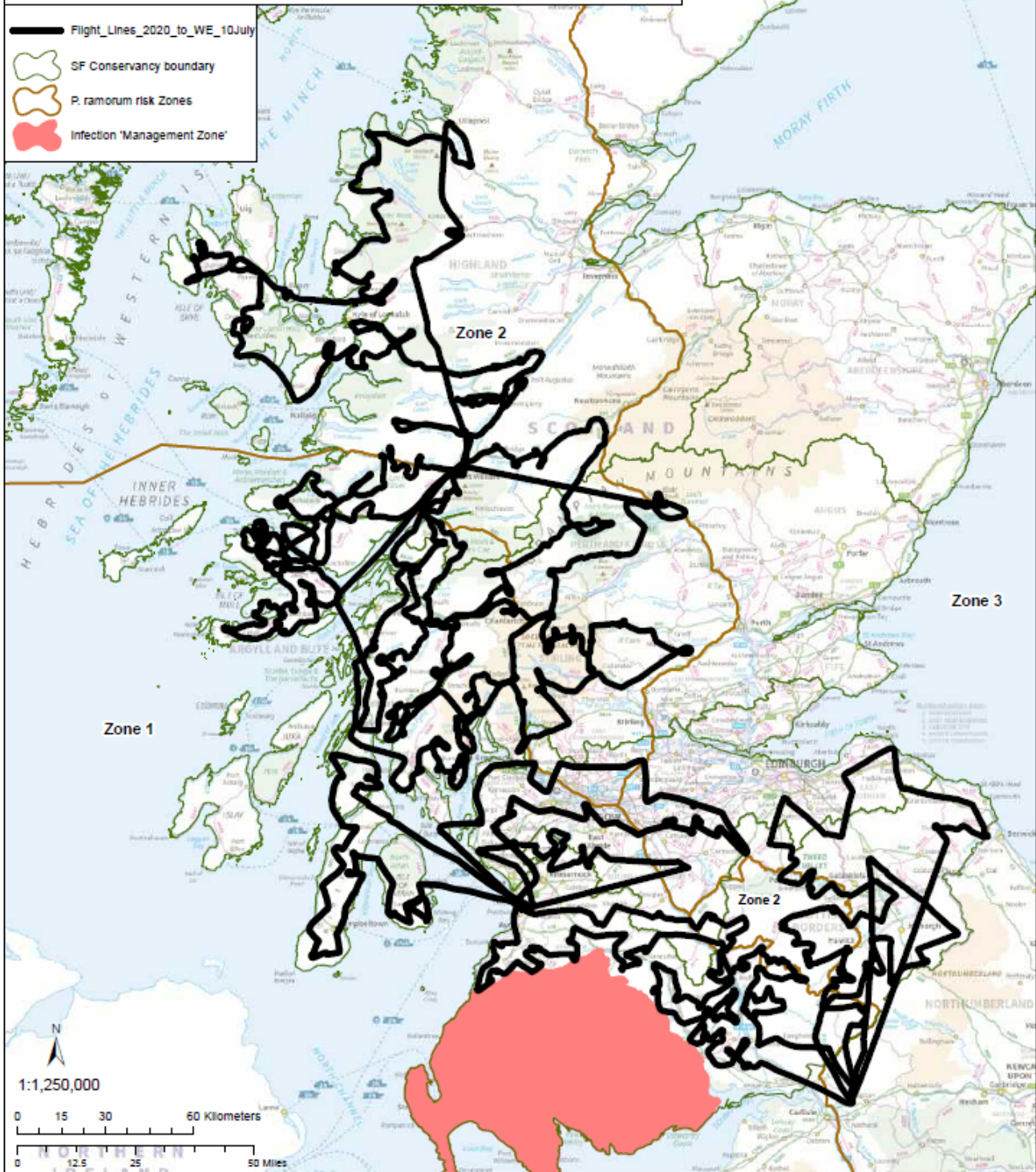


S e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd

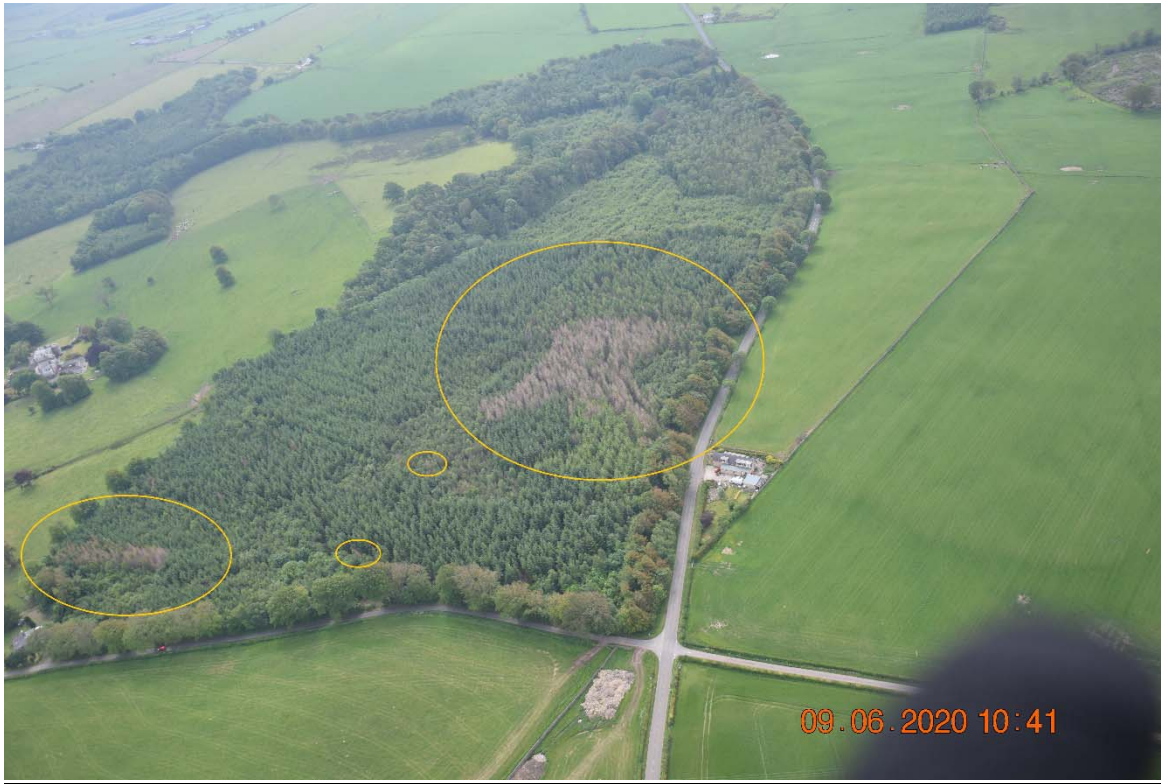
## Tree Health aerial surveys 2020

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Example image of site with extensive areas of symptomatic trees



Example image of a site with limited spread of symptomatic trees

