

## ***Ips typographus* (the larger eight-toothed European spruce beetle)**

The larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) is a destructive pest of spruce trees. An outbreak was discovered in a woodland in Kent, in December 2018, and this was eradicated. Since 2018, the Forestry Commission has been conducting enhanced surveillance across the South East of England. This year, several further outbreaks have been found in Kent and East Sussex.

*Ips typographus* is endemic to mainland Europe, but until 2018 it had not been known to be present in the UK. *Ips typographus* is therefore regulated as a Quarantine Pest to protect us from the introduction of the beetle.

The [Forestry Commission's contingency plan](#) sets out the steps that would be taken – and which were taken in the 2018 Kent event, and are being taken in the current event in Kent and East Sussex - if an outbreak of larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle were discovered in Great Britain.

The species is subject to the Plant Health (*Ips typographus*) (England) Order 2019, which gives the Forestry Commissioners powers to take steps to prevent spread of the pest from outbreak sites. More-detailed information about these powers and restrictions, and the actions taken in Kent and East Sussex, is available on the [UK Government website](#).

Confor has met with the Forestry Commission and Defra plant health team. The beetle prefers stressed or dying trees and recent findings have been on individual wind damaged trees. The plant health team have advised us that they are confident the findings are due to beetles being blown in from the Continent. Eradication is underway or complete, and surveillance is being stepped up.

We haven't seen a spread of the beetle, just further examples of what can happen when the wind is in the wrong direction, highlighting the importance of continuing surveillance.

A robust licencing system has been introduced for processors who will take the infected timber. Any material from the demarcated area (map below) is inspected prior to transporting. There are further restrictions placed on the authorised processor including dealing with bark residue where present, as well as having time limits to processing the timber.

If you own spruce in the area highlighted on the map, please be vigilant and step up your own surveillance.

You may be eligible for support to fell and restock your woodland to aid landscape recovery. Maintenance payments for newly replanted trees are also available if you qualify. Speak to your Forestry Commission Woodland Officer about getting involved in the new Tree Health Pilot Scheme which could help with the cost of felling trees and restocking your woodlands.

