

Rhwydwaith Sentinel Cymru Wales Sentinel Network

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Mewn Partneriaeth â
Llywodraeth Cymru
In Partnership with
Welsh Government



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency
Asiantaeth
Iechyd Anifeiliaid
a Phlanhigion

Hello Network!

This is the second edition of the Wales Sentinel Network newsletter.

This newsletter is aimed at supporting the 22 sentinel sites across Wales who have signed up to the Wales Sentinel Site Network, but please feel free to share with other interested parties. We would welcome contributions to future newsletters, please contact Daniel.Wood001@gov.wales for further information.

The Sentinel Site Network



Interpretation board installed at Bodelwyddan.

This year, Welsh Government have commissioned the design, printing and installation of promotional material across the Sentinel Site Network. Materials included bilingual:

- A1 Interpretation boards
- A4 Posters
- A4 Signs

Interpretation boards have been installed at 12 Sentinel Sites and signs/posters have been distributed to 20 sites throughout the network.

Welsh Government have also created and designed a short bilingual animation for distribution to the Sentinel Network, this will be shared separately. The animation was on display at the Royal Welsh Show earlier this year highlighting the network and the project aims.



Interpretation Boards installed at Chirk Castle (L) and National Botanical Gardens of Wales (R).

Plant Health Inspections

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) have continued their twice-yearly inspections at each site. During a routine inspection, Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors found *Pesalotiopsis monochaeta* on a Thuja tree, while no statutory action was taken in this case, the finding emphasises the benefit of these surveys.

Welsh Plant Health Surveillance Network

The [Welsh Plant Health Surveillance Network](#) (WPHSN) is a Welsh Government funded initiative managed by [Forest Research](#) (FR) which is designed to monitor native and invasive pests and pathogens that can pose a threat to the health of plants and trees across Wales. The WPHSN aims to:

- Assess presence and absence of invasive organisms across Wales
- Build a 'real time' map detailing where invasive organisms are detected and recording their abundance
- Promote and facilitate collaborative working with external agencies to grow the network, whereby information and advice can be shared



Example of a multi-funnel insect trap.



Example of a rotor arm spore trap.

Insect and spore traps are installed at strategic woodland sites across Wales including at 4 Sentinel sites. Insect traps are serviced fortnightly, and the samples taken undergo an initial screening for the detection of invasive species. A secondary screening carried out over the Autumn and winter months, will confirm the presence of other organisms, thus helping to build a picture of the biodiversity of insects in Welsh woodlands. Biological samples taken from spore traps are securely sent for analysis and diagnosis by FR's [Tree Health Diagnostic and Advisory Service](#) laboratory staff based at Alice Holt in Hampshire and the Northern Research Station near Edinburgh.

Additionally, the data gathered from this project will be used to inform the development of priority goals and policies relating to woodland management in Wales.

Trap deployment and inspection regime

To date, the number of traps deployed is:

- 20 cross-vane traps
- 13 canopy traps
- 5 Spore traps

Regular information sharing is carried out between FR and external partners. Invaluable networking events with colleagues from APHA facilitated the development of working relationships and collaboration with existing sentinel sites. Routine close working with National Resources Wales (NRW) has enabled convenient and regular access to NRW woodlands for trap deployment.



Example of an insect bucket trap.



Example of an insect cross-vane trap.

Knowledge exchange and public education is an important output from this project, and the WPHSN team will therefore continue to participate in public engagement initiatives such as the annual Royal Welsh Show, the biannual APF Exhibition (the UK's largest forestry, woodland and arboriculture show) and the International Plant Health Conference, which was recently held in London.

Sentinel Site Collaboration

Currently there are traps deployed at the following Sentinel Sites:

- National Botanical Gardens of Wales
- Loggerheads Country Park
- Powis Castle
- Plas Newydd, Anglesey

As part of the project, we are keen for other Sentinel Sites to actively engage with the WPHSN and provide locations for further trapping and inspection regimes. If this project sounds of interest to your site, please feel free to get in touch with Daniel.Wood001@gov.wales or the below contacts and we would be happy to discuss in more detail.



Example of a Burkard spore trap.

Further Information

For further information please see: [Welsh Plant Health Surveillance Network - Forest Research](#)

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Additional projects/events

Royal Welsh Show 2022



Sentinel Site boards on display at the RWAS.

Earlier this year, marked the return of the Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells. At the show, the A1 interpretation Sentinel Site board was displayed outside the Forest Research stall. This provided a good opportunity to showcase the network and highlight the project to the public.

International Plant Health Conference

In September, the first International Plant Health Conference co-organised by Defra and the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was held in London. The first conference aimed to address new and emerging plant health challenges.

The conference featured over 500 delegates from more than 70 countries, featuring a wide range of key speakers from across the globe. The conference featured many presentations highlighting the international aspect of plant health, alongside the connections with trade, food security, biodiversity, climate change and the significance of plant health in a global context. The IPPC reiterated their idea for the global plant health community to protect the environment from the negative impacts of plant pests. To do this a strategic framework has been developed which aims to: harmonize electronic data exchange, strengthen pest outbreak alert and response systems and assess and manage the impacts of climate change on plant health.

Jersey Sentinel Network

Jersey have recently set up their own Sentinel Site network. There are 5 sentinel sites set up across the island which represent the unique diversity that the island has. These sites scan and monitor for pests and plant pathogens of both local and international importance.

Some of the pests that are being monitored are the Asian longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), Oak processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*), Pine processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea pityocampa*) and a number of the 'Ips' bark beetle known to cause significant damage to the forestry industry. This monitoring provides us with an opportunity to monitor for pests that affect various habitats on the island and beyond. As Jersey is located in the channel in close proximity to France there is an opportunity for Jersey as a whole to act as a sentinel site that informs the UK on pests and diseases of concern.

Close ties between the Welsh Sentinel Network and the Jersey Sentinel Network, provides a unique opportunity to share information to help each other monitor pests and diseases whilst sharing best practice, surveying methodologies, and training materials to increase capability amongst member gardens.