

Phytophthora ramorum F.A.Q.'s

What is it?

Phytophthora is a plant disease that kills several species of trees. The disease is spread by transfer of spores either windborne, by contact with humans or animals, or carried on plant material.



Is it harmful to humans or animals ?

There is no evidence of it affecting any other species. Any bio security operations you may see being carried out are to prevent the spread of the disease to other trees.

Where is it ?

Within St. Ives it has been detected on rhododendrons, which act as a carrier of the disease and now on larch trees in Betty's Wood.

How does it affect St Ives?

Larch is a nationally important commercial forestry crop. To protect stocks the Forestry Commission have imposed a Statutory Plant Health Notice ordering the removal of larch and sweet chestnut trees in an area of Betty's Wood.

What does this involve?

Contractors licenced to deal with infected trees will carry out the necessary felling and removal of the larch and sweet chestnut content of the wood using suitable machinery.

It will be necessary to close the wood for safety reasons during the work.

Will the whole wood be felled?

No, only the species mentioned above. This will create space in the wood which will be replanted with native broadleaf trees as part of our Forestry Commission approved woodland management plan. In the long term this will benefit the wood, increasing biodiversity.

Where can I find out more?

The Forestry Commission website has information about Phytophthora

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pramorom>

or contact

Trees@bradford.gov.uk