



Don't give
pests and
diseases
an easy ride

Human activity is a key factor in the spread of pests and diseases, being able to move them faster and over longer distances than natural means of spread can.

Visitors to the woodlands can play an important part in preventing the spread of pests and diseases. We can unknowingly encounter infection as we walk through the woodland, this can be spread by the mud & leaves that collect on our footwear or wheels. Infection could be spread to the next place we visit if we do not clean our footwear and bikes before our next visit.

You can help reduce the spread of pests and diseases by carrying out simple cleaning tasks. These will hopefully become second nature as you get used to arriving for each walk or bike ride with clean equipment. You can also keep an eye out for any sightings of possible tree disease or pest and report to TreeAlert.

Think feet

Arrive in the woodland with clean boots or shoes. You'll be sure you aren't carrying tree pest or disease from your last walk in the countryside.

After your visit, simply knock any mud and leaves from your footwear and wash any leftover mud off once you're home. This will ensure you don't accidentally move disease across the countryside.

Think wheels

Arriving in the woodland with clean bikes can help prevent the spread of tree diseases too. Brush off any loose dirt from your bike & tyres before you leave the woodland. Once you're home, wash any further mud or debris just to be thorough.

Keeping your bike clean does more than keeping it looking good and working well.

Think future

Keeping it clean really is that simple. You may be wondering what real difference you can actually make - but if we all take small steps together now, we're taking big steps toward keeping Wales' woodlands and countryside beautiful for generations to come.

For areas known to be infected:

Keeping your kit clean is always important for tree health, but there are situations where you may have to take more care.

- When there is a pest or disease known to be present
- There is a Plant health Notice in place

In these cases you are likely to notice a lot more signage around the woodlands.

Please take the advice given on any of these signs you come across, they will contain important information in the battle against tree pests and diseases.

Key contacts and resources

- Stay up to date:
- Tell us if you spot any ill health in trees: forestry.gov.uk/treealert
- Learn more from our biosecurity info

For more information on our #Keepitclean campaign visit <https://naturalresources.wales/forestry/tree-health-and-biosecurity/biosecurity/?lang=en>

