



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Factsheet: Asian longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*)

March 2026

Status in law

Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales)

Asian longhorn beetle is a quarantine pest for Great Britain. It is not present in Great Britain. There are strict plant health regulations to prevent its introduction and spread.

It's a notifiable pest. This means you must report it if you suspect its presence.

Northern Ireland

Asian longhorn beetle is a quarantine pest for Northern Ireland. It is not present in Northern Ireland. There are strict plant health regulations to prevent its introduction and spread.

It's a notifiable pest. This means you must report it if you suspect its presence.

Detecting Asian longhorn beetle

What to look for

Adult beetles



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Adult Asian longhorn beetles:

- are large and between 20 and 40 millimetres (mm) long
- are shiny black in colour with white spots on the wing cases
- have white bands on the antennae

- some blue-grey colour on the legs

Males tend to be smaller with antennae longer than their bodies.

Adults are usually seen from mid-summer to early autumn and live for about 30 days.

Round exit holes



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Look for exit holes that are:

- between 10 and 15mm in diameter
- circular
- in the main trunk and larger branches of the tree, often at the junctions

Pile of frass (sawdust-like droppings)



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Feeding larvae push out coarse, sawdust-like droppings that collect at the base of infested trees.

Feeding on shoots and bark



© Frank Herard, Obtained from EPPO Global Database

Adults chew green bark of new shoots before they can reproduce.

Crown dieback and broken branches

Infested trees can show broken or dead branches and crown dieback as damage builds.

Larvae and internal tunnels



© Franck Hérard, European Biological Control, Laboratory, Montferrier-sur-Lez (FR), Obtained from EPPO Global Database

Larvae tunnel and feed inside the tree and are not likely to be seen. They are:

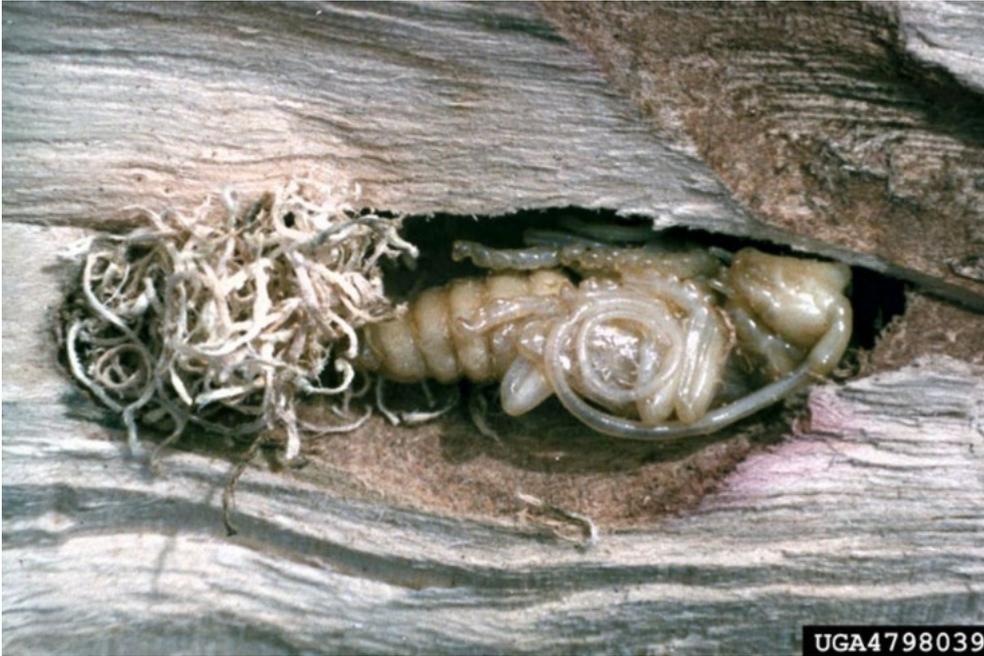
- up to 50mm long
- legless
- white to creamy in colour with a light-brown plate behind the head



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Larvae create tunnels in the trunk or main branches of the tree. This tunnelling causes damage to the tree. They remain in the tree all year around and overwinter 2 or 3 times.

Pupae under the bark



© Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

Pupae are a pale, soft and partially formed version of the adult. They are usually found in spring.

The pupae live just under the bark in chambers that are sealed with wood shavings, before they emerge as adults. They do not have a protective cocoon.

Egg-laying scars and sap bleed



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Females chew slits in the upper trunk and branches to lay eggs. These scars can sometimes cause sap to bleed.

Eggs



© Larry R. Barber, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Eggs are laid in slits under the bark and not likely to be seen. They are:

- up to 6mm long
- white in colour and smooth
- elongate with rounded ends

Eggs hatch about two weeks after being laid.

Each female lays between 30 and 200 eggs.

Affected plants

Asian longhorn beetle feeds in many broadleaved trees and has been recorded on 69 species. The most common are maple trees (*Acer* spp.).

In the UK and Europe, maple trees that could be affected include:

- box elder (*Acer negundo*)
- field maple (*Acer campestre*)
- Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)
- silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
- sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

Other trees in the UK and Europe that could be infested include:

- Aesculus, especially horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)
- ashes, such as European ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)
- birches, such as silver birch (*Betula pendula*)
- poplars, such as black poplar (*Populus nigra*)
- willows, such as crack willow (*Salix fragilis*)

Similar insects

Citrus longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*)

Citrus longhorn beetle is very similar in appearance to Asian longhorn beetle.

[Find information about citrus longhorn beetle \(*Anoplophora chinensis*\)](#)

Other similar insects

There have been reports of Asian longhorn beetle being mistaken for other native wood-boring insects such as:

- large poplar beetle (*Saperda carcharias*)
- hornet moth (*Sesia apiformis*) and lunar hornet moth (*Sesia bembeciformis*)
- leopard moth (*Zeuzera pyrina*)
- goat moth (*Cossus cossus*)

[How to differentiate Asian longhorn beetle damage from that of native insects](#)

Potential impact on the UK

It is extremely important that Asian longhorn beetles do not enter or spread within the UK.

If they became established in the UK, they could cause serious economic and environmental damage to a very wide range of broadleaved trees.

This includes species grown for timber and fruit production.

They can also damage trees in gardens, parks and the wider environment.

Presence and spread

Where it's present

Asian longhorn beetle is native to East Asia, mainly China, the Korean Peninsula and in parts of Japan (Honshu).

In Europe, it's present in some parts of mainland France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

It's present in limited areas of the United States of America (USA).

All countries in Europe and areas in the USA where Asian longhorn beetle has been found are working to eradicate it.

Notable interceptions and outbreaks

In March 2012, an outbreak occurred at one location in Paddock Wood, Kent. After 7 years of careful monitoring and no findings, the outbreak was declared eradicated in 2019.

In Europe, outbreaks in Austria, Belgium, Finland, Montenegro, the Netherlands, the UK and Corsica have now been eradicated.

Outbreaks in Canada have been eradicated.

How it spreads

Asian longhorn beetles spread mainly through international trade, especially in:

- wood, such as untreated timber
- wood packaging materials, such as crates, boxes and pallets

It is thought that the 2012 outbreak in Kent began when beetles emerged from untreated wooden crates from China.

Newly emerged adults, especially females, often remain on and re-infest the same plant if it is still suitable. Adult beetles will also fly to neighbouring trees. Typically, they travel up to a few hundred metres. Exceptionally, they can fly up to 2 kilometres (km).

Reducing the risk

To reduce the risk of Asian longhorn beetle being introduced to the UK, you should:

- avoid moving untreated timber or wood packaging from places where the beetle is present
- check that wood packaging material has the ISPM15 stamp to show it has been treated to eliminate pests
- be alert to imported consignments from areas where the beetle is present
- be aware of the legislation relating to the import of wood and trees that are affected by Asian longhorn beetle

What to do if you suspect Asian longhorn beetle

You must immediately report the sighting to the relevant authority.

Trap the larvae or beetles

If you find an Asian longhorn beetle or larva, trap the insect in a secure container if possible.

Report the suspected sighting

England and Wales

Contact the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) at the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 1000 313

For finds on trees in the wider environment, [report through Tree Alert](#).

Or get in touch with your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, if you know who they are.

Scotland

Contact the relevant team depending on where you've found it:

- **for finds on agricultural crops**, visit <https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/contact-us> for the contact details of your local Rural Payments and Inspections Division (RPID)
- **for finds on non-agricultural crops**, email the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit (HMU) at hort.marketing@gov.scot
- **for finds on trees in the wider environment**, [report through Tree Alert](#)

Northern Ireland

Contact the Plant Health Inspection Branch at Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 200 7847

For finds on trees in the wider environment, [report through TreeCheck](#).

Additional information

Check the EPPO global database for:

- the full list of plants affected by Asian longhorn beetle: <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANOLGL/hosts>

- other countries where Asian longhorn beetle is present: <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANOLGL/distribution>

Check requirements for wood packaging goods for import and export on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/wood-packaging-import-export>