Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Factsheet: red-necked longhorn beetle (Aromia bungii)

March 2026

Status in law

Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales)

Red-necked 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

Red-necked 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 red-necked longhorn beetle

What to look for

Adult beetles

Red-necked longhorn beetle adults are between 22 and 38 millimetres (mm) long.

They have:

- shiny blue–black bodies with long and thin black legs

- a bright red section behind the head (pronotum) with two spine–like structures (tubercles) on the sides
- antennae that are as long or slightly longer than the body

Males are usually smaller than females with proportionally longer antennae.

Adults are active between June and August.

A fully black form is present in Italy. It does not have the bright red section behind the head (pronotum).

Adult exit holes

Adult exit holes are:

- oval
- up to 12 mm in their longest dimension
- usually in the trunks and branches of the infested tree

Pile of frass (sawdust–like waste)

© Don Walker, Fera-Science Limited

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

Larvae and internal tunnels

© Raffaele Griffo, Plant Protection Service Regione Campania, Napoli, Italy

Red-necked longhorn beetle larvae are:

- a pale yellowish–white colour
- between 42 and 52 mm long
- tapered in shape, being wider nearer the head and narrower towards the rear

They create tunnels in the trunk or main branches of the tree. This tunnelling causes damage to the tree. They stay and develop for 2 to 3 years.

You can only see the larvae and tunnels by removing the bark or cutting through the trunk or branch of an infested tree.

Pupae under the bark

© Dalia Del Nista, Tuscany's Phytosanitary Service, Port of Leghorn, Obtained from EPPO Global Database

Red-necked longhorn beetle pupae are:

- light yellow in colour, darkening as they develop into adults
- 22 to 38 mm long

They have partially developed legs and long, coiled antennae.

Mature larvae pupate in spring in a pupal chamber in the trunk or main branches. This stage usually lasts 17 to 23 days.

Eggs

It is very difficult to detect the eggs of red-necked longhorn beetles. Females lay up to 700 eggs between cracks in the tree bark, and they hatch in about 10 days.

Eggs are:

- a yellow–green-whitish colour
- about 2 mm long
- long and almost cylindrical

Affected plants

Red-necked longhorn beetles mainly feed on trees of Prunus (stone fruit), including:

- almond (Prunus dulcis)
- American plum (Prunus americana)
- apricot (Prunus armeniaca)
- black cherry (Prunus serotina)
- cherry (Prunus avium)
- cherry laurel (Prunus laurocerasus)
- cherry plum (Prunus cerasifera)
- common plum (Prunus domestica)
- damson plum (Prunus domestica subsp. insititia)
- false cherry (Prunus pseudocerasus)
- Japanese apricot (Prunus mume)
- Japanese bird cherry (Prunus grayana)
- Japanese plum cherry (Prunus salicina)
- Korean cherry or flowering almond (Prunus japonica)
- peach (Prunus persica)
- purple-leaved cherry plum (Prunus cerasifera var. pissardii)
- Yoshino cherry (Prunus x yedoensis)

There have been unconfirmed reports of it feeding on other trees.

Similar beetles

Musk beetles (Aromia moschata)

Musk beetle is widely present across Great Britain, especially in the southeast of England. It is similar in size, but it is different because it:

- mainly feeds on willow trees (Salix species), not Prunus trees
- is generally a metallic green, blue-violet, copper or black colour as adults

Potential impact on the UK

It is extremely important that the red-necked longhorn beetle does not enter or spread within the UK.

If it became established in the UK, it could cause serious economic damage to Prunus trees because the larval feeding can:

- weaken or kill the trees
- make trees more susceptible to diseases and decay
- reduce fruit yield
- increase costs to growers to control or eradicate it

Pesticides only help partially because:

- leaf treatments cannot reach the larvae and pupae which develop inside the plant
- insecticides are only effective against the adult beetles if they are present at the time of the application

The only effective way of controlling this beetle is to destroy the infested plant.

Presence and spread

Where it's present

In Europe, the red-necked longhorn beetle is present in Italy and Germany. Both countries are working to eradicate it.

In Asia, it is present in China, Japan, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, and the Russian Far East.

Notable interceptions and outbreaks

There have been outbreaks in Germany and Italy since 2011 and 2012, respectively.

Detections continue to happen, especially in Italy where the outbreak is larger and more widespread.

In the UK, red-necked longhorn beetles were found among wooden pallets in a warehouse in 2008. It has not been found in the UK since.

How it spreads

The red-necked longhorn beetle spreads mainly through:

- plant trade
- the movement of wood packaging materials

Long distance spread is most likely to occur within trade, as its eggs, larvae or pupae can hide undetected in plants, wood and wood products.

Newly emerged adults often remain on and re-infest the same tree if it is still suitable. They can fly but will likely only fly as far as the nearest suitable tree.

Reducing the risk

To reduce the risk of the red-necked longhorn beetle being introduced to the UK, you can:

- buy plants from reliable sources and check the country of origin
- be alert to imported consignments from areas where the pest is present
- check that wood packaging material has the ISPM15 stamp to show that it has been treated to eliminate pests

What to do if you suspect red-necked longhorn beetle

You must immediately report the sighting to the relevant authority.

Trap the larvae or beetles

If you find a red-necked 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

See more images related to red-necked longhorn beetle on EPPO: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AROMBU

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