

Forest Lab Case Study

Tim Read, Senior Ranger at the Earth Trust

Ips typographus
monitoring project



Forest Lab* is an innovative new initiative from Sylva Foundation and Forest Research. It enables UK woodland owners and managers to become volunteer 'stewardship scientists' by joining science projects, collaborating with researchers and sharing data to support woodland resilience.

Tim Read, manager of Paradise Wood in Oxfordshire, shares his experience of joining the Forest Lab *Ips typographus* monitoring project, which aims to help monitor any potential movement of a serious tree pest, the larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*).

What type of woodland do you manage?

Paradise Wood in Oxfordshire is 40 ha and made up of a varied mix of hardwood timber trials and softwood blocks, including oak, walnut, cherry, Norway spruce, larch and Scots pine. The woodland is approximately 30 years old. The area of woodland being monitored as part of the Forest Lab project is 1.62 ha of Norway spruce.

Why did you want to take part in this Forest Lab project?

Paradise Wood is itself a research woodland, contributing to national and international research around hardwood timber production, pest and disease resilience and seed production. With all of the varied challenges facing forestry today we are excited to contribute to this landscape-wide concern. We have worked closely with the Forestry Commission and Forest Research for some time and are really pleased

to continue to do so. The support we have received with regards to establishing research, managing our woodland holdings and monitoring our woodland health has been fantastic. The *Ips typographus* monitoring system was very easy to set up and will mean that we can respond quickly should we need to. We look forward to continuing to monitor for this invasive pest throughout the upcoming season.

What would you say to other woodland owners who are considering taking part in a Forest Lab project?

MyForest and Forest Lab are wonderful tools to facilitate effective management of our woodlands and contribute to research around forest health and the wider industry. I would encourage all woodland owners and managers to explore them both and find projects they can take part in.



Ips typographus monitoring trap set among spruce trees in Paradise Wood.

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*The Forest Lab initiative is delivered by Forest Research and Sylva Foundation, and funded by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra). Forest Lab uses the latest online technology, hosted on the myForest platform designed and run by Sylva Foundation, to advance knowledge exchange between landowners and scientists and increase forest resilience.

Find out more

- [Forest Lab](#)
- [Ips typographus monitoring project](#)