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## NEWS RELEASE

26 October 2010

### **Oak Processionary Moth Guidance Note**

The LTOA is today launching a Guidance Note on the problem of Oak Processionary Moth (OPM). This is available by free download from the LTOA website at [www.ltoa.org.uk](http://www.ltoa.org.uk). We provide recommendations for Tree Officers and others who manage trees and woodlands in London, to help them formulate search and treatment plans and to understand the background to this serious pest.

The area affected by OPM is growing steadily. It seems possible that attempts to eradicate the pest may fail. Our Guidance Note also describes the reasons why, despite the hard work and effort put in by many organisations and individuals, we may be on the brink of failure.

Currently this is generally considered as an issue of plant health. Should eradication fail and the pest continue to spread, the LTOA believes that the human health problem will belatedly have to be recognised at considerable potential cost. At present, eradication may still be possible. The time to deal with the pest is now. Dave Lofthouse, Chair of the LTOA, said "We are providing our members with the best tool we can devise to help them plan front-line action but resources will be the other key to success".

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editors**

The London Tree Officers Association (LTOA) provides an information network for the exchange of views, experiences and ideas on trees and their management. The Association dates back to 1982 and aims to enhance the management of the Capital's trees and woodlands. It involves local authority Tree Officers in the London Boroughs and an associate membership which includes managers of many thousands more of London's trees. The LTOA is funded by London Borough subscriptions and an associate member scheme. For more information take a look at the LTOA website at [www.ltoa.org.uk](http://www.ltoa.org.uk).

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