Development of an online, user friendly plant health resource for the Scottish Natural Environment

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Plant
Health
Centre
Scotland's Centre of Expertise

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Introduction

Plant health issues are a serious threat to the natural environment. However, compared to sectors such as agriculture and forestry, there are few practical resources for managers. Sources of information for the natural environment are lacking and opportunities for knowledge exchange are limited. Stakeholders have communicated frustration from this lack, and a desire for an online resource centre to be established.

Pressing threats to 33 Scottish genera (system critical elements or keystone species), were identified from the UK Pest Risk Register, and cross-listed with Biodiversity Action Plan habitat types. Information sources on these threats and other topics were compiled from existing resources, or created where needed.

The James Hutton Institute

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Forest Research

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

SRUC

SASA Helping Scotland Grow

CEH

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

University of Strathclyde Glasgow

BioSS

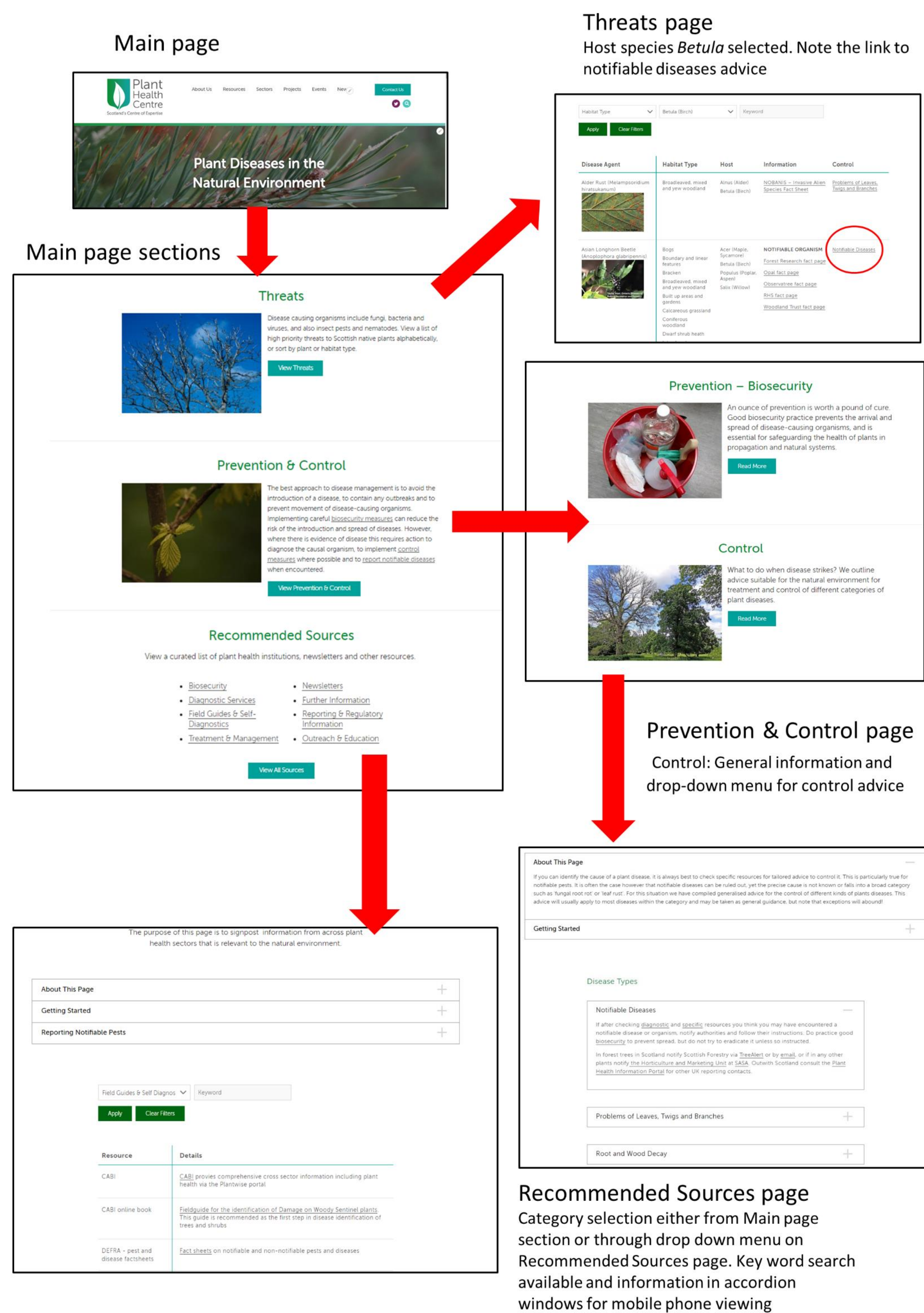SEFARI LEADING IDEAS FOR BETTER LIVES

Objectives
- Develop webpages that fill a resource gap identified by PHC stakeholders.
- Provide a listing of the most pressing plant health threats to the natural environment in Scotland.
- Develop a user-friendly web template, signposting threat information and other topics relevant to plant health in the Scottish natural environment.
- Provide guidance where other resources are not easily available.

Project outcomes
- Plant Diseases in the Natural Environment, a web resource

  https://www.planthealthcentre.scot/plant-diseases

Main page

Threats page
Host species *Betula* selected. Note the link to notifiable diseases advice

Main page sections

Prevention – Biosecurity

Control

Prevention & Control page
Control: General information and drop-down menu for control advice

Recommended Sources page
Category selection either from Main page section or through drop down menu on Recommended Sources page. Key word search available and information in accordion windows for mobile phone viewing

Scan me

Key messages

- High-impact threats to important Scottish genera are listed and are searchable by host plants or associated habitats.

- Links to high-quality information on threats are provided, with advice on identifying unknown pests and instructions for notifiable pests.

- Consolidated information sources on biosecurity and control methods are provided.