

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

Project lead: Katherine Hayden (RBGE)

Project partners: Joanne Taylor (RBGE)



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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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.

Acknowledgements

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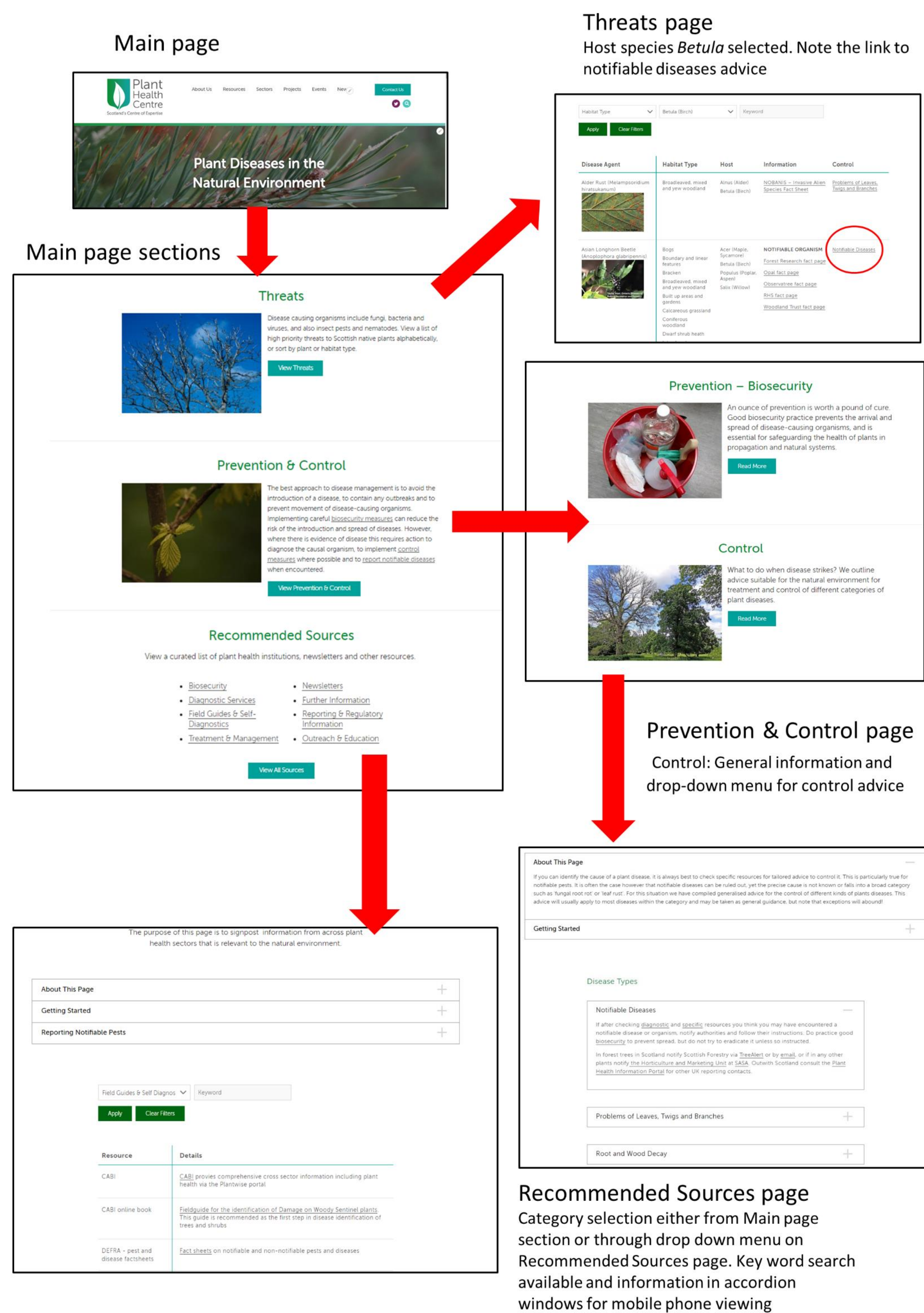


Objectives

- 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
Plant Diseases in the Natural Environment

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

Main page sections

- Threats**: Disease causing organisms include fungi, bacteria and viruses, and also insect pests and nematodes. View a list of high priority threats to Scottish native plants, respectively, or sort by plant or habitat type.
- Prevention & Control**: The best approach to disease management is to avoid the introduction of a disease, to contain any outbreaks and to prevent movement of disease-causing organisms. Implementing careful biosecurity measures can reduce the risk of the introduction and spread of diseases. However, where there is evidence of disease this requires action to diagnose the causal organism, to implement control measures where possible and to report notifiable diseases where encountered.
- Recommended Sources**: View a curated list of plant health institutions, newsletters and other resources.

Prevention – Biosecurity
An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Good biosecurity practice prevents the arrival and spread of disease-causing organisms, and is essential for safeguarding the health of plants in propagation and natural systems.

Control
What to do when disease strikes? We outline advice suitable for the natural environment for treatment and control of different categories of plant diseases.

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



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.