

Forest Lab Case Study

Andy Stott, Woodland Owner

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.

Andy Stott, owner of Coed Pen-y-Lan in Monmouthshire, 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*).

"Understanding the risks of *Ips typographus* will help me and my neighbours decide on the management and future schedule for harvesting mature spruce."

What type of woodland do you own and manage?

Coed Pen-y-Lan is a mixed plantation near Usk in Monmouthshire. It is made up of approximately 50-year-old Norway spruce, beech and lime stands, and approximately 25-year-old ash, chestnut, cherry, birch and hazel coppice stools with older standards. The woodland is 4 ha with approximately 1 ha of Norway spruce. It is part of a larger 42 ha woodland block, 'The Forest', which has been split into five ownership units. The larger woodland has a similar mixed composition with larger stands of Norway spruce.

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

I joined the *Ips typographus* monitoring project towards the end of the season last year and only returned one sample for analysis. I have a science background and I was interested to be involved in the study. Coed Pen-y-Lan is well outside the current known distribution of *Ips typographus*, but it could be a stepping stone towards the larger conifer plantations in the South Wales Valleys. Understanding the risks of *Ips typographus* will help me and my neighbours decide on the management and future schedule for harvesting mature spruce. I was provided with a monitoring trap which was easy to set up with help from the Forestry Commission adviser, and returning the sample by courier was straightforward.



Norway spruce in Coed Pen-y-Lan.



Ips typographus monitoring trap set among spruce trees in Coed Pen-y-Lan.



*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](#)