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ISSUE 143

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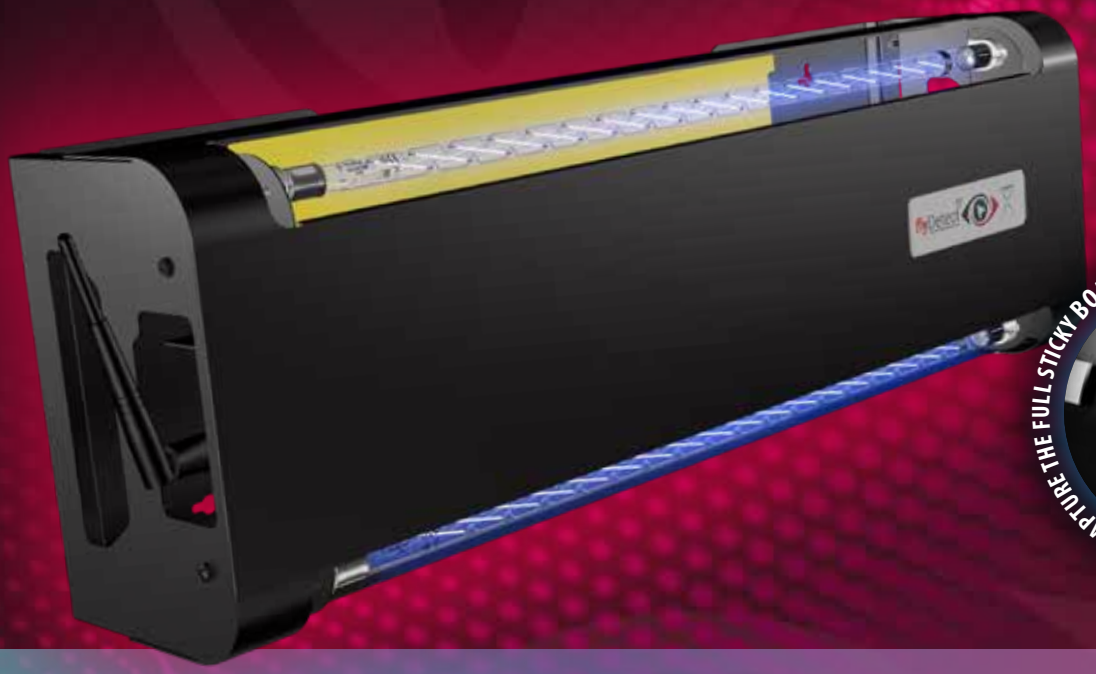

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Bitesize...

Trichogramma Wasps offer chemical-free solution to clothes moth infestations **06**

A growing body of research is demonstrating that biological pest control may offer one of the most effective and environmentally responsible ways to combat clothes moth *Tineola bisselliella* infestations.

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BASF welcomes Easter Bonanza winners to exclusive Widnes factory tour

Leading pest control solutions manufacturer BASF recently welcomed the winners of its 2026 Easter Bonanza competition to its Widnes factory, offering pest control professionals an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the production of its rodenticide, Selontra®.

Launched in partnership with Killgerm Chemicals, the competition rewarded pest controllers across the UK with a range of prizes, including five pairs of tickets to the factory experience.

The ten attendees, made up of competition winners and their guests, toured the manufacturing facility, met the experts behind BASF's pest control innovations, and gained insight into the science and processes involved in producing Selontra®. The visit concluded with an evening of food, drinks and networking with the BASF team.

According to BASF, the Widnes site remains at the forefront of pest control innovation, with Selontra® recognised for its unique formulation and effectiveness in controlling rodent populations.

Laurence Barnard, Country Business Manager at BASF, said: "It was fantastic to spend time with the winners, showcase the work that goes into products like Selontra®, and hear directly from those using them in the field. The enthusiasm and engagement from everyone who attended made the day a real success."

Alongside the factory visit, the Easter Bonanza competition also included seasonal prizes such as Costa Coffee vouchers, Killgerm account credit and Easter eggs, giving pest professionals across the industry multiple opportunities to get involved.

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Natalie returns to BPCA in new role as Head of Membership and Technical

Natalie returns to BPCA in new role as Head of Membership and Technical

Natalie Bungay is set to return to BPCA as their new Head of Membership and Technical, bringing with her a wealth of experience and a familiar face to many across the sector.

A well-known figure in pest management and a long-standing advocate for professional standards, Natalie will rejoin BPCA's senior leadership team, heading up the Association's award-winning membership engagement and technical functions.

Natalie previously spent 12 years at BPCA, where she played a key role in shaping technical guidance, supporting members on the ground, and representing the industry in the media.

Many members will recognise her from BPCA webinars, Forums and initial assessments, as well as her regular appearances on TV, radio and in the press.

She returns to BPCA from Pestforce UK, where she has been working as Technical Director

https://bpca.org.uk/news-and-blog/feature/natalie-returns-to-bpca-in-new-role-as-head-of-membership-and-technical/279733.

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NPTA appoint new Technical Manager - Grahame Turner

The NPTA has announced the appointment of Grahame Turner as its new Technical Manager, with Grahame rejoining the association on 20th April.

Bringing extensive industry experience and technical expertise, Grahame will support the NPTA's ongoing commitment to raising professional standards and strengthening technical support for members.

His appointment expands the NPTA's technical team to three Technical Managers alongside Duncan Bosomworth and Mark Wenman, increasing the level of guidance available across the sector.

In his new role, Grahame will work closely with members and industry partners to help develop training, guidance and technical resources that reflect evolving best practice within pest control.

NPTA CEO Kevin Lawrenson said: "I am delighted to welcome Grahame back to the NPTA team. His experience, technical knowledge, and commitment to professional standards make him an excellent fit for the association."

https://www.npta.org.uk/appointment-announcement-technical-manager/

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PCN pays tribute to Paul Butt

Paul began his career with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (MAFF) in 1974 and went on to become a highly regarded figure within the pest management industry. Throughout his career, he made significant contributions to wildlife management, agricultural protection and pest control training.

He was widely recognised for his expertise in resolving conflicts between wildlife, agriculture and the public, while also supporting local authorities and pest professionals through education and guidance. His work included research into rabbit control, the development of wildlife management policies and involvement in responses to major animal health outbreaks, including Foot and Mouth Disease and Avian Influenza.

Paul also played a key role in promoting responsible rodenticide stewardship and contributed to the development of the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) Code of Best Practice.

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Trichogramma Wasps Offer Chemical-Free Solution to Clothes Moth Infestations

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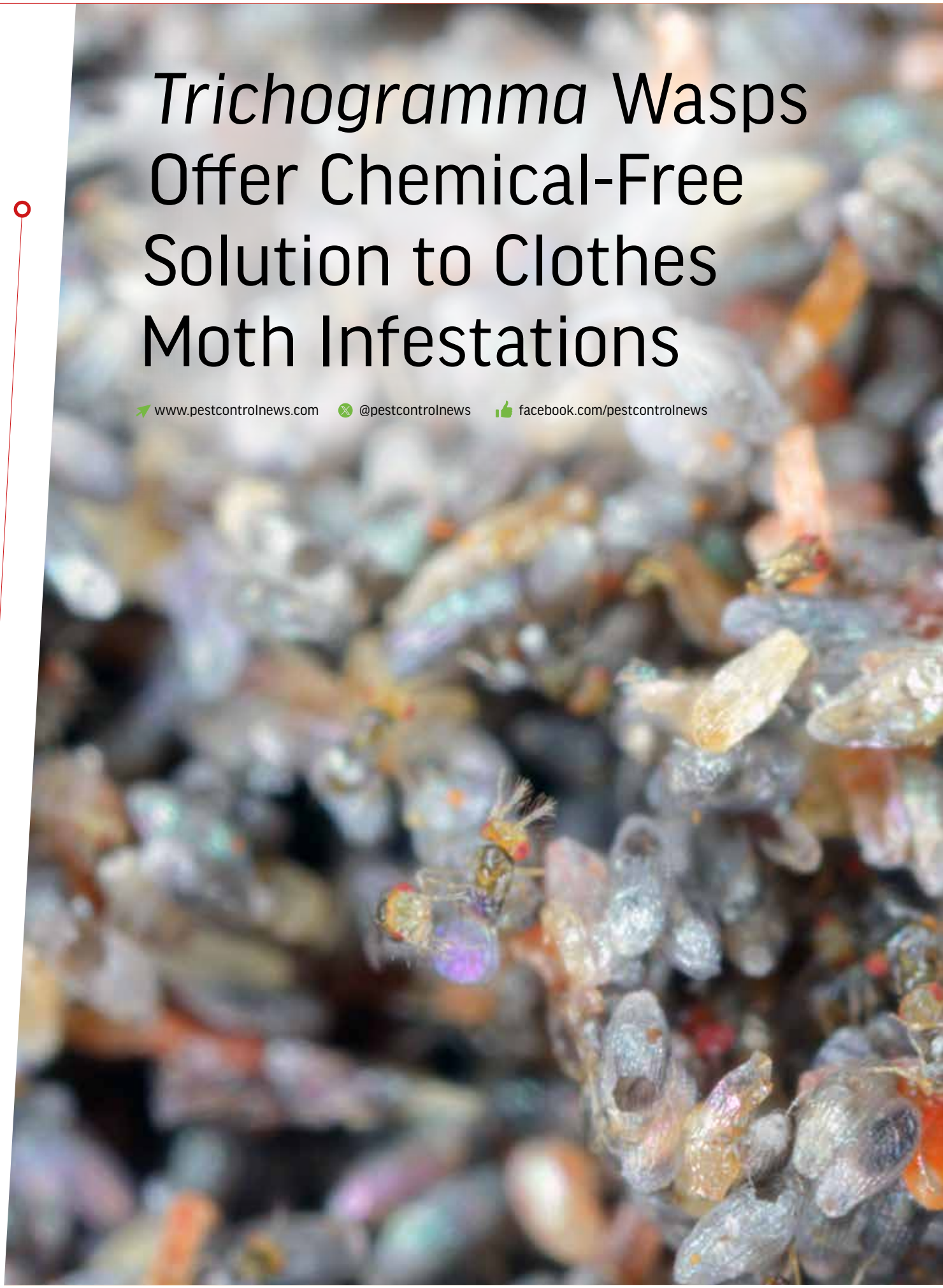


A growing body of research is demonstrating that biological pest control may offer one of the most effective and environmentally responsible ways to combat clothes moth *Tineola bisselliella* infestations in homes, museums, historic houses, and textile collections. A major case study conducted at Burghley House in Stamford, UK, explored the use of the minute parasitoid wasp *Trichogramma evanescens* as part of an integrated pest management (IPM) programme against the destructive webbing clothes moth (*Tineola bisselliella*). The findings suggest that biological controls can successfully reduce infestations while avoiding the drawbacks associated with conventional chemical insecticides.

One of the latest systems using this approach is the Vazor Parasitic Wasps CL, a professional biological treatment designed to tackle moth infestations by targeting the moth lifecycle. The system combines pheromone-based monitoring with a biological control treatment using *Trichogramma evanescens*, a UK-native parasitic wasp that safely interrupts the moth breeding cycle. Designed for domestic, commercial, and heritage environments, the insecticide-free solution delivers effective results without chemicals, odours, or harmful residues.

Burghley House, a Grade I listed Elizabethan stately home, had experienced a persistent clothes moth infestation that threatened valuable carpets, tapestries, and historic textiles. Traditional pest management methods, including insecticides and standard IPM approaches, had failed to fully suppress the problem. Researchers therefore trialled a novel biological treatment using *Trichogramma evanescens*, a tiny parasitic wasp species already widely used in agriculture and stored-product protection.

The wasps work by targeting moth eggs rather than adult moths or larvae. Female wasps lay their eggs inside clothes moth eggs, and the developing wasp larvae consume the moth egg from within, preventing destructive larvae from ever emerging. This interrupts the moth lifecycle at its earliest stage and gradually reduces infestation levels over time.

The Burghley trial ran from May to August 2021 and involved the release of approximately 76,800 parasitoid wasps throughout an infested bedroom suite. Researchers monitored moth activity using pheromone monitors and detailed fortnightly pest surveys. Over the course of the study, clothes moth numbers steadily declined, with moth activity falling to very low levels by the final monitoring cycles. Although the researchers emphasised that longer-term trials are needed for definitive conclusions, the results strongly indicated that *Trichogramma evanescens* can provide an effective non-chemical addition to integrated pest management in heritage settings.

The study also highlighted why biological control is increasingly attractive compared with conventional insecticide use. Persistent insecticides used indoors can leave residues on carpets, dust, and textiles for long periods and may contribute to pest resistance over time. In contrast, parasitoid wasps are harmless to humans, pets, and fabrics, making them particularly suitable for sensitive environments such as wardrobes, museums, archives, storage facilities, and historic houses.

Modern biological moth control systems such as the Vazor Parasitic Wasps CL are specifically designed to break infestations effectively and sustainably.

The first stage uses a pheromone monitor for monitoring. These monitors contain a synthetic version of the female moth sex pheromone, which attracts male moths. The monitor also provides a clear indication of infestation levels. This monitoring stage is important because it helps determine the correct timing for the biological treatment phase. Typically, one pheromone monitor covers approximately 25 square metres and should be replaced every six to eight weeks or sooner if full.

After at least one week of monitoring, the second stage begins with the release of *Trichogramma evanescens* egg cards. Each card contains more than 2,000 microscopic wasp eggs. Once placed in affected areas, the wasps hatch and begin searching for moth eggs to parasitise. One card generally covers around 25 square metres. In warmer weather, some early hatching during transit is entirely normal and does not affect treatment performance.

This two-stage system is especially valuable because it tackles the root cause of clothes moth infestations. While adult moths themselves do not damage fabrics, their larvae feed on natural fibres such as wool, silk, fur, feathers, carpets, and upholstery. By preventing eggs from developing into larvae, the treatment stops damage before it occurs.

The Burghley House case study also revealed important insights into moth behaviour and why infestations are often difficult to eliminate. Researchers discovered that moth larvae were breeding beneath carpet underlay and within hidden voids where conventional insecticide treatments and cleaning methods struggled to reach. The parasitoid wasps proved particularly valuable because they could disperse into inaccessible areas and actively search for moth eggs within the infestation.

Clothes moth infestations frequently go unnoticed until visible damage has already occurred. Small holes in fabrics, silky webbing in dark hidden areas, shed larval skins, and moths flying out of wardrobes or storage spaces are all common warning signs. Moths tend to thrive in undisturbed locations with limited light, including beneath furniture, along carpet edges, inside wardrobes, and under underlay.

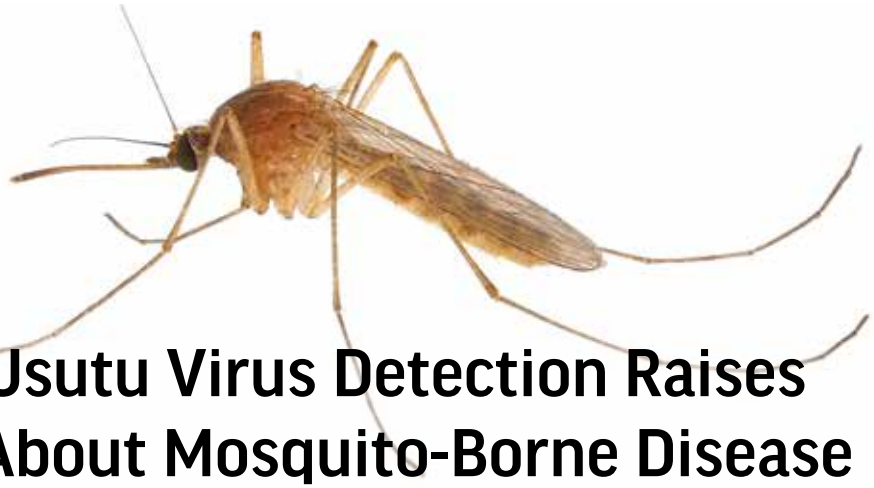
Researchers concluded that parasitoid wasps should not be viewed as a standalone solution but rather as part of a broader integrated pest management strategy that includes monitoring, housekeeping, environmental control, quarantining infested objects, and maintenance of buildings and storage areas.

Importantly, *Trichogramma evanescens* is a UK-native species approved for use without licence, making it an environmentally responsible and sustainable pest control option.

As pressure grows to reduce chemical insecticide use in homes and heritage environments, biological controls such as these are increasingly being recognised as practical long-term solutions that address infestations at their source rather than simply suppressing visible moth activity.

Reference:

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00393630.2023.2180567



Scotland's First Usutu Virus Detection Raises New Questions About Mosquito-Borne Disease

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The discovery of Usutu virus (USUV) in blackbirds *Turdus merula* in Scotland has marked a significant moment for wildlife health experts and disease researchers across the UK. Although the mosquito-borne virus has circulated in southeast England for several years, this is the first confirmed detection north of the border — a development scientists say highlights the growing influence of environmental change on disease spread and the urgent need for stronger surveillance systems.

The virus was identified through the Animal and Plant Health Agency's (APHA) national passive wild avian surveillance programme, working alongside the Mosquito Scotland research initiative led by the University of Glasgow. The breakthrough came after residents on the Isle of Arran reported unusual behaviour among local blackbirds during the summer of 2025. Several birds were observed displaying neurological symptoms, while others were found dead.

Subsequent analysis confirmed the presence of Usutu virus — a pathogen transmitted by bird-biting mosquitoes such as *Culex pipiens* and primarily carried by wild birds. Blackbirds are known to be particularly susceptible to the disease, and outbreaks elsewhere in Europe have been linked to significant declines in blackbird populations.

Usutu belongs to the same family of viruses as Dengue, Yellow Fever, and West Nile virus. Despite those associations, experts stress that the risk to human health in the UK remains very low. No human cases have been reported in Britain to date, and symptomatic illness in people is considered extremely rare.

Nevertheless, the appearance of the virus in Scotland has intensified concerns among researchers about how warming temperatures and changing environmental conditions could allow mosquito-borne diseases to establish themselves more widely across northern Europe.

Andra-Maria Ionescu, manager of APHA's National Reference Laboratory for Vector-Borne Diseases, described the finding as a warning sign for countries previously considered at lower risk.

"The detection of Usutu virus in blackbirds in Scotland shows that countries further north are now facing an increased risk of mosquito-borne viruses," she said. "These findings highlight the importance and need for improved, nationwide wild bird and mosquito surveillance to better assess the risks posed to animal and human health."

The detection also provided an early test for the Mosquito Scotland project, a collaborative research programme designed to monitor mosquito populations and assess emerging disease risks throughout Scotland. According to Professor Heather Ferguson, who leads the initiative at the University of Glasgow, the timing proved invaluable.

"When news of suspicious blackbird deaths consistent with Usutu came through, we were able to almost immediately deploy a team of experts to Arran for rapid follow up and investigation," she explained. "This allowed us to confirm the presence of several different mosquito species near the locations where infected birds were found, including several known to be capable of spreading Usutu."

Researchers say the incident demonstrates how quickly emerging diseases can move into new regions and why coordinated surveillance networks are increasingly important. While Usutu virus has already become established across parts of mainland Europe, Scotland's cooler climate was once thought to offer a degree of natural protection. That assumption is now being reconsidered.

Professor Ferguson warned that mosquito-borne diseases are becoming more likely to "gain a foothold" in the UK as environmental conditions continue to shift. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and longer mosquito-active seasons are all factors that may increase the likelihood of disease transmission.

Wildlife organisations are also closely monitoring the situation. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), which has worked alongside surveillance initiatives in England, Wales, and Scotland, says the virus has already appeared in a growing range of locations and species within the UK, though blackbirds around Greater London have experienced the most visible impacts so far.

The concern is not simply about a single virus, but what its spread may represent. Scientists increasingly view diseases such as Usutu as indicators of broader ecological change — evidence that shifting climates and global movement patterns are reshaping the distribution of insects, wildlife diseases, and their hosts.

At the same time, researchers are keen to avoid unnecessary alarm. Public health officials continue to classify the overall human health risk as low, and the current focus remains firmly on wildlife monitoring and mosquito surveillance rather than medical intervention.

Authorities are encouraging members of the public to assist by reporting dead wild birds, particularly blackbirds, songbirds, or owls displaying signs of neurological illness or distress. APHA has also urged householders to reduce standing water around homes and gardens wherever possible in order to minimise mosquito breeding sites during the active mosquito season, which typically runs from April to October.

For scientists, the Scottish detection of Usutu virus is unlikely to be viewed as an isolated event. Instead, it may represent another chapter in a changing relationship between climate, insects, wildlife, and disease — one that researchers believe the UK must now prepare for more actively than ever before.

Rodent glue trap ban Scotland

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Rodent Glue Traps banned in Scotland on 1st July 2026

Scottish Government have confirmed that rodent glue traps are to be banned commencing 1st July 2026, which is a ban on use, supply and possession.

What does this mean?
This means that from the 1 July 2026 it will be an offence to use a glue a trap for the purpose of taking or killing (which includes restraining) any animal, or setting a glue trap in a manner that it is likely to cause injury to any animal that comes into contact with it.

Is the ban just on use?
No, it will also be an offence for a person to supply or offer for supply a glue trap. Finally, it will be an offence for a person to possess a glue trap.

What are the penalties if this is not followed?
A person who commits any of these offences (or knowingly causes or permits another person to use, supply or offer to supply a glue trap) will be liable on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or to a fine not exceeding £40,000 (or both), or conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to a fine (or both).

Which legislation is behind the ban on rodent glue traps?
The Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024, which was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 21 March 2024, included banning the use, supply and possession of rodent glue traps: Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024

As a result of the restrictions in the Internal Market Act 2020, it had not been possible to commence the ban on sale of glue traps. However, the UK Government has now brought forward a Statutory Instrument to implement an exclusion from the Internal Market Act in relation to glue traps: The United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 (Exclusions from Market Access Principles: Glue Traps) Regulations 2026 was made on 29 January 2026 and came into force on 20 February 2026.

The Scottish Government is therefore taking steps by way of a Scottish Statutory Instrument to commence the glue trap provisions (ban on use, supply and possession) in the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024 on the 1 July 2026.

Does the ban on glue traps also cover insect monitors?
No, thankfully not. The offences do not apply to invertebrates.

What are the alternative control measures once rodent glue traps are banned in Scotland?
Contact your product suppler for technical advice from qualified and experienced technical support advisors.

How AI Is Helping Pest Controllers Market Smarter and Work More Efficiently

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Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the way businesses operate, and the pest control industry is no exception. While AI may once have seemed like something reserved for large technology companies, it is now becoming an increasingly practical and accessible tool for pest control businesses of all sizes.

From creating social media content and improving customer communication to generating leads and saving valuable time, AI is helping pest controllers market their services more efficiently than ever before.

Saving Time on Marketing Tasks

For many pest control businesses, marketing often takes a back seat to day-to-day operational demands. Engineers are on the road, enquiries need responding to, and compliance paperwork can quickly consume available time.

AI-powered tools are helping to reduce that pressure by automating and simplifying many routine marketing tasks.

Modern AI platforms can now assist with:

- Writing social media posts
- Creating blog articles
- Producing website content
- Drafting customer emails
- Generating advert copy
- Designing marketing graphics
- Planning content calendars

Instead of spending hours writing posts from scratch, pest controllers can now create professional marketing content in minutes, allowing more time to focus on customers and service delivery.

Improving Social Media Consistency

One of the biggest marketing challenges for smaller pest control businesses is maintaining a regular online presence.

Consistent social media activity helps businesses remain visible to customers, build trust locally, and improve brand awareness. However, many companies struggle to find the time or ideas needed to post regularly.

AI tools can help generate topic ideas, seasonal campaigns, educational posts, and customer-friendly explanations of pest issues.

For example, AI can quickly create content around:

- Seasonal wasp activity
- Rodent prevention tips
- Bed bug awareness
- Commercial pest compliance
- Bird proofing advice
- Farm biosecurity

Public health issues linked to pests

This allows businesses to maintain a steady stream of informative content without needing a dedicated marketing department.

Helping Businesses Respond Faster

Customer expectations have changed significantly in recent years. Many people now expect rapid responses to enquiries, especially online.

AI-powered chat systems and automated messaging tools can help pest control companies respond to enquiries more efficiently, even outside normal working hours.

These systems can:

- Answer common questions
- Collect customer details
- Qualify leads
- Book call-backs
- Provide basic service information

While AI cannot replace experienced pest professionals, it can help ensure potential customers receive immediate engagement rather than waiting hours for a reply.

This can improve customer experience and increase conversion rates from website enquiries.

Supporting Local SEO and Online Visibility
When customers search online for pest control services, appearing prominently on Google can make a significant difference to enquiry levels.

AI tools can assist with search engine optimisation (SEO) by helping businesses create relevant website content targeting the pests and services customers are searching for locally.

Regularly updated blogs, service pages, FAQs, and educational articles all contribute towards improving search rankings.

For example, AI can help generate location-specific content such as:

- "How to Prevent Rats in Commercial Kitchens"
- "Signs of Bed Bugs in Hotels"
- "Wasp Nest Removal in Summer"
- "Rodent Control for Farms and Grain Stores"

This helps pest control businesses improve visibility while demonstrating expertise to potential customers.

Making Marketing More Affordable
Traditionally, professional marketing support could be expensive for smaller independent businesses.

AI is helping level the playing field by giving companies access to affordable content creation, graphic design, and marketing support tools that previously required agencies or specialist staff.

Many pest control companies are now using AI to create:

- Flyers and leaflets
- Website banners
- Video captions
- Promotional emails
- Customer newsletters
- Educational guides

This can significantly reduce marketing costs while still maintaining a professional appearance.

The Importance of Human Expertise
Despite its advantages, AI is most effective when used alongside genuine industry knowledge and experience.

Pest control remains a highly technical industry where trust, reputation, and professional expertise are essential. AI-generated marketing content should always be reviewed to ensure accuracy, compliance, and suitability for customers.

The most successful businesses are likely to be those that combine AI efficiency with real-world technical knowledge and strong customer service.

A Growing Opportunity for the Industry
As competition increases across the pest control sector, efficient marketing is becoming more important than ever.

AI offers pest controllers an opportunity to save time, improve consistency, strengthen customer communication, and compete more effectively online — without significantly increasing workload or overheads.

For many businesses, the question is no longer whether AI will influence pest control marketing, but how quickly companies can adapt to make the most of the opportunities it provides.

Hantavirus: The Hidden Health Risk Behind Rodent Infestations

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A recent outbreak of hantavirus linked to the Dutch expedition cruise ship *MV Hondius* has brought a little-known disease into the international spotlight after multiple fatalities and the isolation of returning British passengers. While the incident has generated widespread media attention, it has also highlighted a much broader issue that pest control professionals encounter every day: the hidden health risks associated with rodent infestations.

Rodents are often viewed as a nuisance because of the structural damage they cause and the contamination of food and property. However, they can also carry pathogens capable of causing serious illness. Among the most significant of these is hantavirus, a disease that, while rare in the UK, serves as a stark reminder that the dangers associated with rodents often remain long after the pests themselves have been removed.

A Virus With Global Reach

Hantaviruses are a group of viruses carried by rodents and are found across Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. Different strains can cause illnesses ranging from mild flu-like symptoms to severe respiratory disease and kidney disorders.

The strain linked to the *MV Hondius* outbreak is Andes hantavirus, which is most commonly found in South America. Unlike most hantaviruses, Andes virus has the unusual ability to occasionally spread between people through prolonged close contact. This characteristic prompted an extensive public health response, with British passengers returning from the vessel transported under strict infection-control measures and monitored in isolation.

Health officials continue to stress that the risk to the wider public remains extremely low. Nevertheless, the outbreak has highlighted the importance of understanding how hantavirus spreads and why environmental hygiene remains a critical part of pest management.

Understanding the Real Risk

Hantaviruses are primarily transmitted through exposure to rodent urine, droppings and nesting materials. The greatest danger arises not from direct contact with rodents, but from contaminated environments.

When dried rodent waste or nesting debris is disturbed, microscopic particles can become airborne and inhaled. This means activities such as sweeping, vacuuming, clearing loft spaces, cleaning sheds, or emptying neglected storage areas can create a significant exposure risk if rodents have previously been present.

The distinction is important. The presence of rodents alone does not necessarily represent an immediate health threat. Instead, it is often the contamination they leave behind that poses the greatest risk.

Poorly ventilated or enclosed environments can increase exposure potential, while the virus may also enter the body through cuts, contact with the eyes, or, in rare cases, rodent bites.

For pest control professionals, this creates a more nuanced challenge. Eliminating the infestation addresses the immediate problem, but unless contamination is properly managed, the environment may remain hazardous for occupants, contractors and maintenance teams.

Recognising the Symptoms

One of the challenges with hantavirus is that early symptoms often resemble common viral illnesses, making diagnosis difficult.

Symptoms typically appear between two and four weeks after exposure, although incubation periods of up to 40 days have been reported. Early signs commonly include:

- Fever
- Extreme fatigue
- Muscle aches
- Headaches
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Abdominal pain

As the illness progresses, some patients can develop severe respiratory complications requiring hospitalisation, intensive care and breathing support.

There is currently no specific antiviral treatment or vaccine for hantavirus infection. Early medical intervention and supportive care remain the most effective means of improving patient outcomes.

Why Post-Infestation Hygiene Matters

Historically, post-treatment cleaning has sometimes been regarded as a final housekeeping task once rodents have been removed. However, growing awareness of environmental pathogens is changing expectations across commercial, housing and public-sector environments.

Key risks in untreated environments include:

- Residual contamination from rodent urine, faeces and nesting debris
- Aerosolisation of infectious particles during dry cleaning
- Cross-contamination between rooms, surfaces and equipment
- Continued exposure risks for occupants and workers

These are often invisible, making them easy to underestimate. Yet they can persist long after an infestation has been resolved.

As a result, many clients now expect pest management providers to deliver reassurance that environments have been properly cleaned, disinfected and made safe for reoccupation.

Best Practice for Clean-Up

Industry guidance consistently discourages dry cleaning methods such as sweeping and vacuuming in contaminated areas, as these activities can release potentially infectious particles into the air.

Instead, a structured approach should be followed:

Avoid dry disturbance

Do not sweep or vacuum contaminated materials.

Pre-dampen surfaces

Lightly wet affected areas before cleaning to minimise airborne particles.

Use appropriate PPE

Wear suitable protective equipment when handling contaminated materials.

Dispose of waste safely

Place waste in sealed bags and dispose of it in accordance with local regulations.

Apply disinfectant thoroughly

Ensure all affected surfaces are treated, including hidden and hard-to-reach areas.

Allow correct contact time

Follow manufacturer guidance to ensure effective microbial reduction before surfaces are allowed to dry.

This approach helps reduce aerosolisation risks and ensures contamination is removed rather than simply redistributed.

The Importance of Standards-Based Disinfection

As environmental hygiene receives greater attention, the use of disinfectants supported by recognised testing standards is becoming increasingly important.

European standards provide measurable benchmarks for efficacy and help pest professionals select products suitable for specific applications.

For example, disinfectants tested to EN 14476 have demonstrated effectiveness against enveloped viruses under controlled laboratory conditions. While products may not be specifically tested against hantavirus itself, hantaviruses are classified as enveloped viruses, making EN 14476 a relevant benchmark when evaluating virucidal performance.

Additional standards such as EN 1276 for bactericidal efficacy and EN 13697 for practical surface disinfection further support confidence in environmental hygiene programmes.

A Changing Role for Pest Control

The hantavirus outbreak has reinforced a wider trend already underway within the pest control sector.

Clients increasingly expect more than eradication alone. They want assurance that premises have been restored to a hygienic condition and that any associated health risks have been addressed.

This shift is being driven by:

- Greater awareness of environmental health risks
- Increased compliance and regulatory pressures
- Higher expectations from tenants, occupants and stakeholders
- Growing demand for integrated pest management and hygiene services

For pest control businesses, this presents a significant opportunity. By incorporating environmental hygiene and disinfection into their service offering, companies can provide greater value, differentiate themselves in a competitive market and help clients meet their health and safety obligations.

Looking Beyond the Infestation

The *MV Hondius* outbreak may be an unusual and highly publicised event, but it serves as an important reminder of the hidden dangers that can accompany rodent infestations.

While the likelihood of hantavirus exposure remains low in the UK, the potential consequences underline the importance of thorough, controlled and informed clean-up procedures.

For today's pest control professionals, effective pest management does not end when the last rodent is removed. It ends when the environment is suitable.

By combining pest eradication with robust environmental hygiene protocols and standards-based disinfection, the industry can continue to raise professional standards while protecting both property and public health.

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Killgerm Training is the first to bring all 3 of the new CRRU UK CPD rodent control content presentations, available as free-of-charge online training videos.

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This online course is designed for pest control professionals seeking to gain 3 CPD points (CRRU UK rodent control content) by updating their knowledge on CRRU UK best practices for rodent control.

The course covers the latest stewardship updates, environmental risk assessments, and direct bait application in burrows, ensuring compliance with CRRU UK requirements. New for 2026 are presentations on permanent baiting, rodenticide resistance, exposure of wildlife to rodenticides.

Note that 3 CPD Points of CRRU UK rodent control content are required as part of approved CPD scheme membership. Candidates can take any 3 of the 6 available topics to gain the points needed.

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New Syngenta Pest App now live

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- New features include enhanced Pest ID Guide and integrated weather information
- Built-in recording and reporting function improves business efficiency and customer experience
- Automatic updates for existing users
- Free to use for all pest control operators and businesses

A major new upgrade to the popular Syngenta Pest App now provides valuable new features for pest controllers, to get the most from their work time and improve their customers' experience.

Launching the Syngenta Pest App at Pestex in London this week (18-19 March), Business Manager, Richard Moseley, highlighted key new features include an improved recording and reporting facility, along with an updated pest identification guide and localised weather information.

Download the App from the Syngenta website

"Recording and reporting pest control operations is critical for efficient business management, as well as keeping customers informed of what has been undertaken," advises Richard. "Yet research and work by the NPTA repeatedly identified the significant barriers to pest controllers using digital recording and reporting software, particularly for small to medium sized businesses.

"The Syngenta Pest App provides a simple and easy to use platform to get initiated with the technology and provide a better service."

Accurate recording is also essential to evaluate the efficacy of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, and identify the trends that will improve sustainable management of all pests in domestic, industrial and farm situations, he adds. The App draws on the wealth of knowledge and expertise of the Killgerm team to create a comprehensive resource of pest ID, information and management advice.

Kilgerm Head of Technical, Dr Matthew Davies, reported: "Accurate pest identification is an essential first step in creating a proactive integrated control plan. Having the information readily accessible in the App will help pest controllers develop the most appropriate course of action, product selection and improve communication with customers. That's backed up with access to the Killgerm Insect Identification Service."

The new and improved Syngenta Pest App also features a new built-in weather feature utilises an immense Syngenta global weather data resource, to provide real-time, location-based weather updates right inside the app. It enables PCOs to plan their day and treatments more effectively, says Richard.

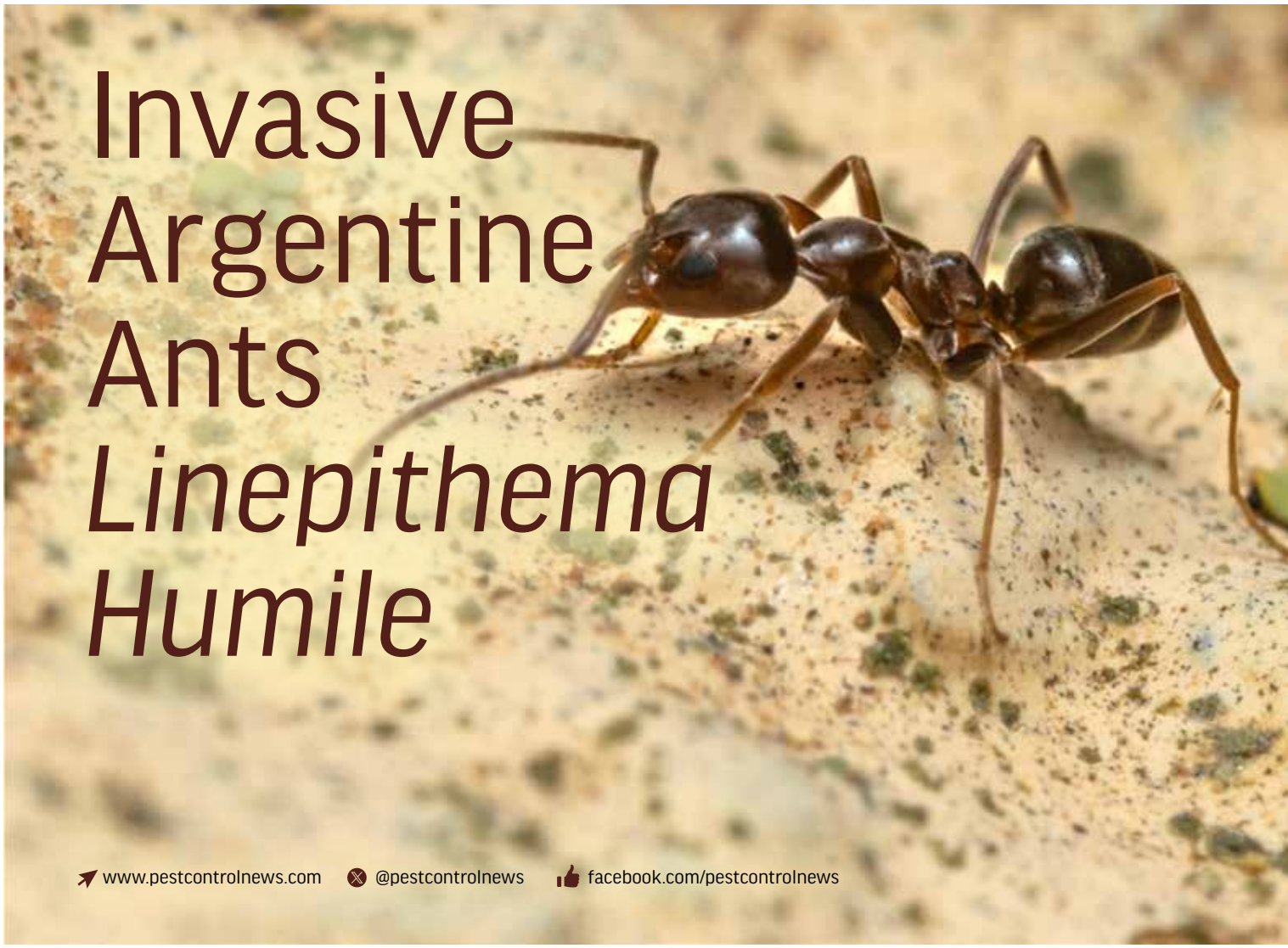
"We've refined the look and feel of the App, improved navigation, and optimised performance to ensure everything feels effortless from the moment you pick up your phone," he enthuses.

The update to the new App will happen automatically for existing users; account information, including passwords, as well as any treatment reports previously created will be safely transferred.

Pest controllers new to the Syngenta Pest App can download from Google Play for android devices, or the App Store for Apple.

syngenta

Invasive Argentine Ants *Linepithema Humile*



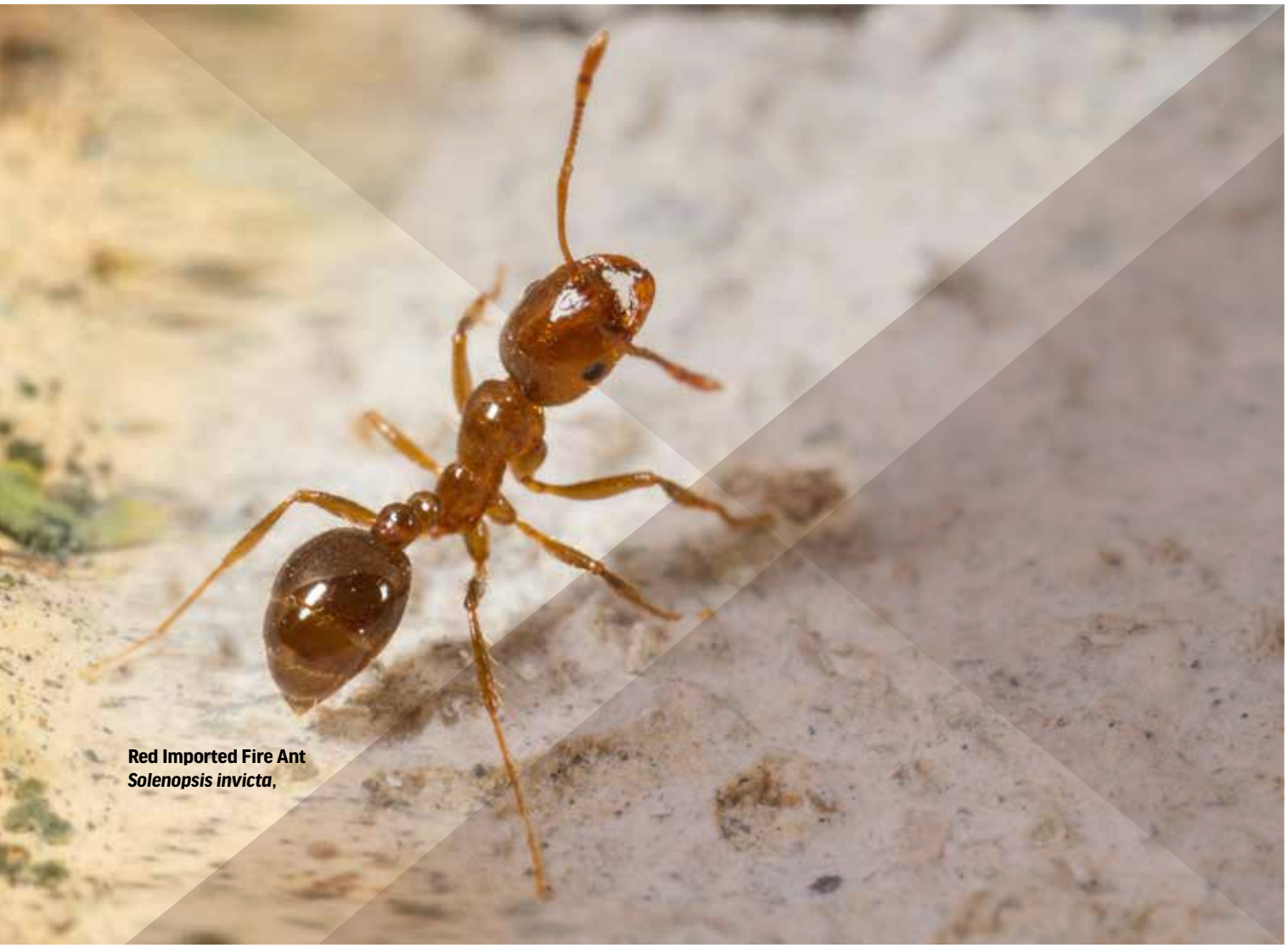
In light of a recent finding of Argentine ants *Linepithema humile*, in the North-East of England - now eradicated by an experienced and knowledgeable pest controller, Pest Control News consults information from the Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) regarding invasive ant species. Also on the radar of the NNSS is the Red Imported Fire Ant *Solenopsis invicta*, which we consider alongside Argentine ants.

The Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*) and the Red Imported Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta*) are two of the world's most notorious invasive ant species. Both originate from South America and have spread globally through international trade and human activity, establishing populations far beyond their native ranges. Although they differ in behaviour and impact, both species pose significant ecological, economic, and social threats in the regions they invade.

The Argentine ant is a small black ant, usually under 2 mm long, that is easily mistaken for the common garden ant. It has become widely established in Mediterranean climates, oceanic islands, and many parts of Europe after accidental introductions through contaminated soil, plants, building materials, and other traded goods. In Great Britain, most records have historically been indoors, although an outdoor population was discovered in Fulham, West London, in 2016. Researchers believe the species could survive in southern parts of the UK and urban green spaces where winters are milder.

The Red Imported Fire Ant, commonly known as RIFA, is far more aggressive. It is larger, ranging from 1.5–6 mm, and is recognised by its red-to-amber colour with a darker abdomen. Unlike the Argentine ant, RIFA possesses a venomous sting that causes a burning sensation and can trigger severe allergic reactions, including anaphylactic shock in humans. This painful sting is one of the defining features that has made the species infamous worldwide.

Both ants thrive in disturbed habitats associated with human activity. Argentine ants are commonly found in gardens, greenhouses, pavements, buildings, and urban green spaces. Fire ants occupy a similarly broad range of habitats, including roadsides, lawns, parks, agricultural land, and open sunny areas where they construct visible mounds up to 60 cm high. Both species spread naturally through colony budding, where queens and worker ants establish satellite nests nearby, but long-distance spread is overwhelmingly linked to human transport. Soil, potted plants, garden waste, timber, shipping containers, luggage, and vehicles all provide opportunities for accidental dispersal.



Red Imported Fire Ant *Solenopsis invicta*,

A major reason for the invasive success of these ants is their colony structure and reproductive capacity. Argentine ants form enormous interconnected "supercolonies" containing multiple queens and nests with little aggression between colony members. A single nest may contain hundreds of queens producing thousands of offspring, allowing populations to grow rapidly and dominate invaded habitats. Fire ants are also highly adaptable and resilient, with colonies capable of surviving flooding by forming floating rafts. Their ability to recover from disturbance makes eradication extremely difficult.

The environmental impacts of both species are severe. Argentine ants are known to displace native ants and other arthropods, disrupting food webs and ecological relationships such as seed dispersal and pollination. Research has shown that invaded ecosystems can suffer long-term declines in biodiversity because native invertebrates are overwhelmed by the ants' sheer abundance. Similarly, Red Imported Fire Ants aggressively prey on a wide range of invertebrates and may attack small vertebrates, including ground-nesting birds, reptiles, amphibians, and rodents. Both species can therefore alter ecosystems significantly and reduce native biodiversity.

Economically, the ants are also highly damaging. Argentine ants are associated with agricultural impacts because they protect sap-feeding pests such as aphids and scale insects in exchange for sugary secretions. This relationship can worsen crop damage and reduce plant health. Fire ants create even broader economic problems, damaging crops, irrigation systems, livestock, and infrastructure. In the United States alone, they are estimated to cause billions of dollars in losses each year. Both ants may also contribute to the spread of plant pathogens or diseases affecting pollinators.

Climate change is expected to increase the risks associated with invasive ants. Studies cited in the Argentine ant assessment suggest warmer temperatures could improve overwinter survival, reproduction, and spread into higher latitudes such as the UK. Fire ants are already well adapted to warm climates and may similarly expand further as global temperatures rise. Increased trade and globalisation are also likely to raise propagule pressure, meaning new introductions may become more common.

Management of both species is challenging and expensive. Chemical baits and insecticides are commonly used, but treatments must be repeated frequently because colonies can regenerate from surviving queens or satellite nests. Large-scale eradication efforts have rarely achieved permanent success. Experts emphasise that prevention and early detection are the most effective strategies. Monitoring ports, restricting the movement of soil and plant material, and rapidly responding to new infestations are considered critical measures for limiting spread.

Together, these two invasive ants demonstrate how global trade and climate change can facilitate the spread of highly adaptable pest species. While the Argentine ant is primarily an ecological and nuisance threat, the Red Imported Fire Ant combines ecological damage with direct risks to human health and agriculture. Both species highlight the importance of biosecurity, surveillance, and rapid intervention to protect biodiversity, economies, and public wellbeing.

Hospital Flies Carrying Drug-Resistant Bacteria Raise Global Health Concerns

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New research from Nigeria is shedding light on an often-overlooked public health threat inside hospitals: flies carrying dangerous antibiotic-resistant bacteria. PCN looks at the new findings alongside an earlier UK study from Killgerm Chemicals and Aston University. Together, the studies suggest that common flying insects may play a far more important role in the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) within healthcare environments than previously recognised.

Scientists have long known that flies can transport bacteria mechanically on their external surfaces and harbour such pathogenic microorganisms internally and in excreta. However, growing evidence now suggests that insects circulating within hospitals may also be harbouring multidrug-resistant organisms capable of contributing to healthcare-associated infections.

One of the most significant recent investigations came from the Arthropods as Vectors of Infection and Antimicrobial Resistance (AVIAR) project, an international collaboration involving researchers from the University of Oxford and hospitals across Nigeria. The study examined 1,396 flies collected from eight tertiary hospitals in six Nigerian cities between August and September 2022.

Most of the insects collected were common houseflies (*Musca domestica*), gathered from locations including paediatric wards, emergency departments, surgical units, maternity wards, and intensive care areas. Researchers used microbiological culture, PCR screening, antimicrobial susceptibility testing, and whole genome sequencing to analyse the bacteria carried by the insects.

The findings were striking. Around 40% of flies carried extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL) resistance genes, including *blaCTX-M-15* and *blaOXA-1*, which allow bacteria to resist commonly used cephalosporin antibiotics. Even more concerning, approximately 8% carried the *blaNDM* gene associated with carbapenem resistance — one of the world's most serious forms of antimicrobial resistance because carbapenems are often considered "last resort" antibiotics for severe infections.

Researchers also detected the *mecA* gene linked to methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in 6.4% of flies. Many of the bacteria isolated showed multidrug-resistant (MDR) profiles, meaning they were resistant to multiple classes of antibiotics simultaneously.

The study identified a wide range of clinically significant pathogens, including *Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Enterobacter* species, *Providencia* species, and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Particularly concerning was the dominance of *Providencia* species carrying carbapenem resistance genes on mobile plasmids — genetic elements capable of transferring resistance between bacterial species. Researchers suggested flies may act as a "shared niche" where environmental bacteria and hospital pathogens exchange antimicrobial resistance genes.

The Nigerian findings closely mirror concerns raised by an earlier Aston University and Killgerm Chemicals study examining insects collected from seven NHS hospital sites across England. That research analysed nearly 20,000 insects captured over an 18-month period using ultraviolet fly traps and electronic fly killers installed in wards, kitchens, maternity units, neonatal units, and food preparation areas.

Microbiological analysis revealed that almost 90% of the insects tested were carrying potentially harmful bacteria either internally or externally on their bodies. Over 80 bacterial strains were identified, with Enterobacteriaceae — including *E. coli* and other gut-associated bacteria — being the most common. Other important isolates included *Bacillus cereus*, linked to food poisoning, and staphylococci such as *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Perhaps most concerning was the discovery that 53% of bacterial strains isolated from the insects were resistant to at least one antibiotic, while 19% were classified as multidrug resistant. Resistance was observed against several clinically important antibiotics including penicillin, vancomycin, and levofloxacin.

The Aston study also highlighted evidence that flies may both introduce bacteria into hospitals from outside environments and acquire pathogens within hospitals themselves. In one example, researchers isolated a clinically significant strain of *E. coli* from bluebottle flies collected inside a hospital restaurant. Another pathogenic *E. coli* strain linked to severe diarrhoeal disease in infants was isolated from greenbottle flies caught in a hospital kitchen.

Researchers believe the biology and behaviour of flies make them particularly effective mechanical vectors of contamination. Houseflies thrive in environments rich in waste, sewage, food residues, and organic matter. They can move freely between waste areas, hospital wards, patient environments, and food preparation spaces, carrying bacteria on their legs, mouthparts, and body surfaces. Unlike mosquitoes, flies do not transmit disease through biting but through physical contamination, including regurgitation and defecation on surfaces.

Both studies stress that hospitals remain highly hygienic environments overall and that insects likely play only a relatively small role in infection transmission compared with other routes. Nevertheless, researchers argue that pest management should be considered an important component of wider infection prevention and control strategies.

The findings also carry broader implications for global health. As antimicrobial resistance continues to rise worldwide, scientists increasingly recognise the importance of "One Health" approaches that examine the connections between humans, animals, insects, and the environment.

Climate change, urbanisation, hospital infrastructure, and waste management may all influence insect populations and bacterial transmission dynamics in healthcare settings.

Ultimately, the studies suggest that flies should no longer be viewed simply as a nuisance within hospitals. Instead, they may represent an under-recognised factor in the growing global challenge of antimicrobial resistance — one that healthcare systems may need to take more seriously in the years ahead.

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Friend of antique dealers

Sclerodermus spp. | Family: Bethylidae

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Similar in appearance and size to a small ant, about 2 to 4 mm long. Filiform antennae.

Ectoparasitoids of woodworm larvae. Among them is the common furniture beetle.

The females sting the small woodworm larvae with their stinger to paralyze them and lay their eggs on top of them. The *Sclerodermus* larvae will hatch from the eggs and feed on the larvae.

Control efforts must focus on controlling woodworm. Direct control of *Sclerodermus* is very complex.

It is considered a beneficial insect because it provides biological control of woodworm, hence its common name, 'antiquarian's friend.'

However, it can sting people and cause discomfort.

The damage that this insect can cause lies mainly in the fact that, although found in very small numbers, it can cause dermatitis in sensitive people.

Top photo: Adult *Sclerodermus domesticus*. Elena Regina Flickr.

Bottom photo: Adults and larvae of *Sclerodermus* pupariae developing in a cerambycid beetle larva. Yan-Long Tang ©. China Forestry Institute in Beijing.

Common woodworm

Anobium punctatum | Family: Ptinidae

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Adults reach a length of 3-5 mm and are dark brown. They are good fliers and live for 3-4 weeks. They mate outdoors.

Adults typically emerge during the months of May through August. They emerge by boring exit holes in the wood, measuring 1.5-2 mm in diameter.

The females lay their eggs in small groups (around 80 in total) on the rough surfaces of the wood. The larvae hatch after 4-5 weeks and penetrate the wood on which they feed.

Wood infested with woodworm characteristically exhibits multiple exit holes. The generations continue to attack the same wood year after year until it is completely consumed.

The larvae spend all their time inside the wood. The cycle can last 2, 3, or even more years. It is during the larval stage that they cause the most damage to the wood due to the galleries they create.

They cause damage to the sapwood of broadleaf and coniferous trees. Also to the heartwood of certain broadleaf trees in humid conditions.

Top photo: adult *Anobium punctatum*. Udo Schmidt . Flickr.
Bottom photo: damage caused to wood by *A. punctatum*. Kai-Martin Knaak .Wikipedia.

Anticoagulant Resistance in UK Rats and Mice Continues to Expand, New Report Finds

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A newly published report from the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) UK has revealed that anticoagulant resistance in rats and mice remains widespread across the United Kingdom, with important developments emerging in Scotland and parts of northern England. The report, covering data collected between August 2024 and July 2025, provides the latest overview of genetic resistance to anticoagulant rodenticides in Norway rats and house mice.

The study marks the first year that DNA extraction and sequencing were carried out by scientists at Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA), following the transfer of laboratory work from previous facilities at the University of Reading and APHA. Researchers analysed tissue samples from 140 rodents, including 127 Norway rats and 13 mice, collected from pest management professionals and surveillance programmes across the UK.

Of the rat samples that could be successfully sequenced, 86.9% carried at least one known resistance mutation linked to reduced efficacy of anticoagulant rodenticides. Only 16 rats tested fully susceptible. Among mice, all four viable house mouse samples analysed were resistant.

The most common mutation identified in Norway rats was L128Q, historically known as "Scottish resistance." Researchers detected this mutation in 93 rats, the majority of which came from Scotland. Seventy-five of these rats carried the mutation in homozygous form, indicating that resistance is now deeply established and genetically embedded within many Scottish rat populations.

The report highlights that Scotland has historically been underrepresented in resistance monitoring, but new sampling efforts by SASA have dramatically improved understanding of the situation north of the border. The findings suggest that L128Q resistance is now highly prevalent across much of eastern Scotland and the Central Belt, where the majority of the Scottish population lives. A resistant rat carrying the L128Q mutation was even identified in Shetland for the first time.

Researchers note that the continued use of anticoagulants over several decades appears to have done little to reduce the spread of the L128Q mutation. It is spreading in spite of more than 40 years of the use of, mainly, difenacoum and bromadiolone. This information suggests that the effectiveness of these SGARs against L128Q requires careful reconsideration.

More concerning still is the increasing appearance of severe resistance mutations such as Y139C, Y139F, and L120Q. These mutations significantly reduce the effectiveness of commonly used rodenticides such as bromadiolone and difenacoum and often require the use of more potent "resistance-breaking" compounds like brodifacoum, difethialone, or flocoumafen. The report also discusses non-anticoagulant rodenticides.

The report recorded 15 rats carrying the Y139C mutation, including seven "hybrid resistant" individuals that carried both L128Q and Y139C simultaneously. These hybrid-resistant rats were found primarily in southern Scotland and Northumberland, with clusters identified around the Scottish Borders and Lanarkshire.

Researchers say hybrid resistance is particularly worrying because there is currently little definitive evidence about how effective anticoagulants remain against rodents carrying multiple resistance mutations. As a result, the report suggests that only the most potent anticoagulants — or non-anticoagulant control methods — may be reliable against these populations.

The study also identified three rats carrying the severe L120Q mutation, including one in Devon, reinforcing concerns that highly resistant populations are becoming increasingly established in southwest England. Similarly, Y139F resistance remains concentrated in Kent and southeast England, while Y139C continues to spread across Yorkshire and into southern Scotland.

One especially notable discovery was a single L128Q-resistant rat found in Somerset — over 230 kilometres from the nearest previously known L128Q population. Researchers believe this may reflect long-distance transportation of resistant rodents rather than a new spontaneous mutation event, particularly given the site's proximity to the M5 motorway.

House mice continue to show even higher resistance levels than rats. Of the 144 house mouse samples successfully sequenced since monitoring began in 2009, 94.4% carried resistance mutations. The latest samples included resistant mice from Aberdeenshire and Liverpool, including two hybrid-resistant mice carrying both L128S and Y139C mutations.

The report stresses that resistance monitoring remains essential not only for effective rodent control but also for wildlife protection. The increasing use of some anticoagulants against resistant rodents has been linked to rising levels of rodenticide residues in non-target wildlife, including birds of prey and foxes.

However, researchers warn that the monitoring programme itself faces challenges. Sample submissions from pest control professionals have continued to decline, limiting the ability to track resistance spread accurately across the UK. The report suggests that some practitioners may no longer see the value in submitting samples because resistance has become so widespread in many areas.

Despite these challenges, the CRRU and SASA teams say the work remains vital. Interactive resistance maps produced through the Rodenticide Resistance Action Committee (RRAC) continue to provide pest control professionals with guidance on resistance distribution and the most appropriate rodenticides to use in different regions, in conjunction with advice issued by the Rodenticide Resistance Action Group (RRAG).

Pest controllers are encouraged to submit samples for resistance testing: **https://www.thinkwildlife.org/anticoagulant-resistance-project/**

Avoiding illicit Advion® pitfalls

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- Illegal counterfeit and fake product available on online sales sites
- Risk of poor performance or dangerous contamination from illicit product
- Only UK authorised product legal and fully supported
- PestEx education seminar to offer operators answers

Pest controllers are being warned to be careful to only source their Advion Cockroach and Advion Ant gel products from the authorised distribution network, or potentially fall foul of counterfeit product that could adversely affect results and risk business integrity or financial ruin.

Speaking at the BPCA PestEx education seminars this month (London, March 18-19) Syngenta Business Manager, Richard Mosely, will highlight the increasing threat of cheap illegal or fake products touted online or pedalled from market traders.

"While pest control businesses are often under pressure from customers to do the cheapest possible job, the use of illicit product sourced at low-cost from disreputable channels is likely to lead to disappointing results, and open the business to trading standards or police challenge from using illegal products, with no support."

He cites the old adage that: 'if something is too good to be true, it probably is'. "There are huge costs in the ongoing R&D, registration, manufacturing, distribution and support of Advion products globally; if someone is purportedly selling any Advion product at below market price, it can only be because it is being sourced and traded illegally," he says.

All Advion products in the UK are sold by Killgerm and its associated reputable distributors. "Buying from anyone outside that chain is likely to be illicit product and not authorised for the UK market," he warns.

Richard points out that it is only legal to use Advion with the appropriate UK label and authorisation number in the UK. The onus lies on the operative to check that the product they have brought is correct, before use.

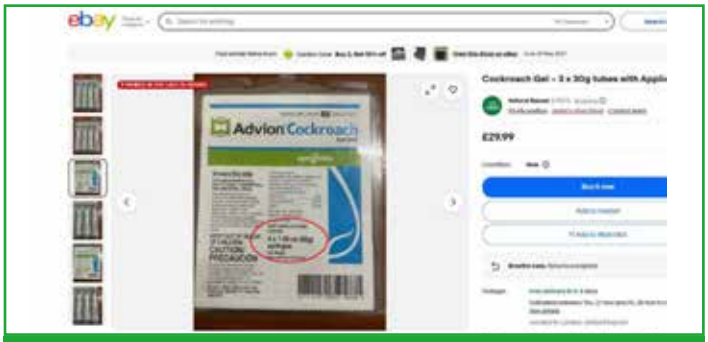
It may look like the real thing but analysis shows that counterfeit product will not work as effectively or safely

The huge use of Advion branded insecticides globally means that it is inevitably subject to counterfeit product, just like the market-leading brands of alcohol, perfume or cigarettes. The incidence of look-alike fake Advion product is greatest in the middle and far east, as well as Africa, but inevitably some can find its way onto the UK market, primarily through mail order or auction sales platforms.

For the most part this is going to be fake product, which analysis has shown can contain little or no indoxacarb, or be a completely different insecticide with none of the genuine benefits. Results can be hugely disappointing for operators and customers, as well as potentially dangerous through contamination.

While Advion is recognised by HACCP International for use in and around food manufacturing premises, for example, if an operator was to be found to be using non-genuine product, even inadvertently, any assurance would be void and the whole factory production could be compromised.

Syngenta and police investigations into supplies purchased through UK on-line retail sites has found labels purporting to come from other countries and clear examples of fake products, with examples of incorrect spelling on the label, the wrong colours printed or low-quality packaging that is clearly not Syngenta product or manufacturing standard.



Mistakes on counterfet packaging indicate its origin - but the bigger watchout is the impossible price

Richard also points out that illegal product sales have also been closely linked to criminal gangs, associated with drug sales, slavery, extortion and migration. "It's use supports a criminal class that undermines society and creates huge problems across communities.

"It is important that customers and the general public are aware of the issues of illegal and fake products, which may appear tempting to give it a go themselves. But, at best, it will inevitably give poor results compared to competent professional operators using genuine product.

"At worst it could cause a catastrophic situation for them, their family or pets, and with no support to rectify the situation. It's up to us, the manufacturers, the pest control industry - including BPCA and NPTA – pest controllers and the trading standards and police to limit the potential pitfalls."

Richard advocates operators record Advion packs used on any job and retain proof of purchase from reputable suppliers. Should there be any question from the customer, it is the quickest way to trace back the source of the product, he suggests.

"We will always actively support operators using genuine Advion within the best use guidelines. It's one of the big assurances for you and your customers of using a premium branded product.

"We will also continue to pursue the illegal activity of selling fake or illegally labelled product purporting to be Advion. It's bad for our reputation for quality products, and for the reputation of honest pest controllers who bear the true cost of genuine product to assure their customers get the best possible results."

Damp, Mould & Compliance: Why Cleaning Strategy Must Evolve Under Awaab's Law

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Damp and mould are no longer just maintenance concerns — they are now a matter of compliance, accountability and public health. With the introduction of Awaab's Law, housing providers must act within strict timeframes to identify and resolve hazards, placing increased pressure on those responsible for cleaning, hygiene and environmental management.

Damp and mould issues remain one of the leading causes of complaints in UK social housing, placing increasing operational and financial pressure on providers.

Wahid Ali, Managing Director UK at Scientific Sanitation Solutions (SSS), examines the growing importance of effective mould control, the limitations of traditional approaches, and the need for a shift towards evidence-based hygiene strategies to support safer living environments.

From reactive cleaning to proactive control

Historically, mould treatment has often been reactive — addressing visible growth without fully tackling the underlying contamination risk. In many cases, this results in:

- Repeated mould regrowth
- Ongoing tenant complaints
- Increased operational costs
- Escalating compliance pressure

Under Awaab's Law, this approach is no longer sufficient. There is now a clear expectation that organisations can demonstrate effective, measurable control of damp and mould risks.

Mould: more than a surface issue

Mould is not simply a visible stain — it is a microbiological problem. Fungal spores can spread across surfaces and into the air, contributing to:

- Cross-contamination between rooms and properties
- Increased exposure for vulnerable occupants
- Persistent environmental hygiene challenges

This is particularly critical in social housing, healthcare-adjacent environments and high-density living spaces, where risk and liability are heightened.

Why traditional methods fall short

Many conventional cleaning approaches rely on surface-level treatments that:

- Do not fully reduce fungal load
- Lack proven efficacy data
- Fail to prevent regrowth

Additionally, some commonly used products can present drawbacks, including harsh chemical exposure or limited spectrum of action.

As a result, there is a growing need for solutions that combine cleaning, disinfection and safety, while delivering consistent, proven results.

The role of tested hygiene solutions in mould management

Products tested to recognised standards offer a more structured and reliable approach to mould control.

Products with proven fungicidal efficacy — for example against *Candida albicans* and *Aspergillus brasiliensis*, under recognised European standards such as EN 13697 — demonstrate the ability to significantly reduce fungal contamination on surfaces under controlled conditions.

When applied correctly, this supports:

- Reduction of environmental fungal load
- Improved hygiene outcomes
- Lower risk of regrowth
- Greater confidence in compliance reporting

Importantly, these solutions also offer broader-spectrum protection, targeting bacteria and viruses alongside fungi, making them suitable for multi-use hygiene strategies.

Solutions such as SANI-99™, which have been independently tested across bactericidal, virucidal and fungicidal standards, demonstrate how multi-purpose disinfectants can support both routine hygiene and targeted mould control within a single, consistent approach.

Versatility matters in real-world environments

Modern cleaning environments demand flexibility.

From housing and facilities management to healthcare and public spaces, solutions must adapt to different use cases.

Products that can be used across:

- Hard surfaces
- High-touch areas
- Damp and mould-prone environments provide a practical advantage, particularly where multiple risks exist within the same setting.

A shift in expectations

Awaab's Law is driving a wider shift in how hygiene is managed and measured. Cleaning is no longer just about appearance — it is about:

- Risk reduction
- Evidence-based performance
- Supporting regulatory compliance

This means cleaning teams and contractors must adopt approaches that are structured, repeatable and supported by data.

So, what's next?

There is a clear move towards multi-purpose hygiene solutions that deliver:

- Broad-spectrum efficacy
- Proven performance against key organisms
- Safe use in occupied environments
- Longer-lasting hygiene benefits

Innovations in this space are enabling organisations to move beyond reactive treatments and towards proactive environmental control strategies.

Conclusion

Damp and mould management is entering a new era — one defined by accountability, evidence and performance.

For the cleaning industry, this presents an opportunity to elevate standards, demonstrate value, and play a central role in protecting both public health and organisational compliance.

Those who embrace this shift — and adopt the right tools and strategies — will be best placed to support clients navigating the evolving regulatory landscape.

Note that moisture control, ventilation improvements and removal of contaminated materials are essential parts of effective mould remediation.

Disinfection alone does not fully resolve mould issues or replace remediation practices.

Professional disinfection and surface hygiene can play an important role alongside remediation and environmental control measures to help reduce microbial contamination and support longer-term hygiene outcomes.

A year in insects

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Mike: Matt, anyone who's met you knows your true love lies with arthropods – especially insects. Where did that fascination begin?

Matt: It really started back at university, but honestly the biggest influence was Professor Moray Anderson. Plenty of people in pest control remember Moray fondly and I know his is really enjoying his retirement. His enthusiasm was infectious, and that rubbed off on me massively. That's probably what truly hooked me on insects.

Mike: And now you're leading one of the busiest insect identification services in the industry. For people who don't know about it, what actually happens when someone sends a sample in?

Matt: The whole principle is simple: identify the species first, because that determines the control measures. Customers fill out an insect ID form, package the specimen securely – ideally in a screw-top vial – and send it to us. The sample then goes to our entomologist Jonathan Binge or sometimes to me. We identify it under the microscope using dichotomous keys, and then we produce a report covering biology, habits, distribution, public health significance, and control advice.

Mike: And the scale of it is enormous, isn't it?

Matt: Around four thousand samples a year. It's probably an underrated service when you think about the sheer volume. Even the Natural History Museum deals with similar numbers, and they have a much larger team.

Mike: So what are people sending in most often?

Matt: Surprisingly, booklice (Order Psocoptera). For the last couple of years they've overtaken biscuit beetles as the number one sample. I think it's partly because booklice are tiny and not especially familiar to many pest controllers. Also, they turn up everywhere – homes, museums, anywhere with moisture and mould growth.

Mike: And some identifications are pretty important. You joked on the podcast that one beetle might mean throwing away digestives, while another could mean your house is falling down.

Matt: Exactly! Biscuit beetles *Stegobium paniceum* can look very similar to furniture beetles *Anobium punctatum* or cigarette beetles *Lasioderma serricorne*. But the implications are totally different. One's a food pest, another could indicate timber damage. That's why proper identification matters so much.

Mike: Have you noticed trends changing over the years?

Matt: Definitely. Bed bugs *Cimex lectularius* are a great example. During the global resurgence years ago, we received huge numbers of samples. Now we receive fewer – not because bed bugs have disappeared, but because the industry has become more familiar with them. On the other hand, brown ants, *Lasius brunneus*, have really increased in awareness recently. They're now one of our most common samples.

Mike: What's the strangest thing anyone's ever sent you?

Matt: We once received a live black widow spider *Latrodectes mactans*. Which was awkward, because officially we don't identify spiders. But it was unmistakable – and very much alive. I discreetly relocated it to the freezer.

Mike: You also get live fleas and bed bugs in the post, don't you?

Matt: Unfortunately, yes. We always ask customers to freeze samples overnight before sending them. Jonathan and I are nimble enough to deal with live specimens safely, but ideally people shouldn't be posting live arthropods through the mail.

Mike: One thing that fascinated me was how seasonal the samples are.

Matt: Oh, absolutely. You can almost predict them from the weather forecast. Cluster flies *Pollenia rudis* are a classic example. As soon as temperatures hit around ten degrees Celsius, we start receiving samples. I even predicted the first cluster fly sample on the technical team chat once – and looked very smug afterwards.

Mike: You were unbearable for at least a week.

Matt: Fair criticism.

Mike: Let's talk about identification itself. People hear "dichotomous keys" and instantly glaze over. What actually are they?

Matt: Think of those old adventure books where every choice sends you to a different page. "Go through the red door – turn to page 137." A dichotomous key works the same way. You answer a sequence of questions about physical characteristics until you eventually narrow the insect down to species level. Good keys give you very clear distinctions between options.

Pest Control News listens intently as Killgerm's Dr Matt Davies (Head of Technical Department at Killgerm Chemicals) and colleague Michael Dunbar (Technical Manager at Killgerm) discuss a year in insects...

Mike: And that process still beats AI?

Matt: At the moment, yes. I've experimented with insect recognition software, and the issue is usually image quality. A phone photo might only show one angle, while important identifying features are hidden. With insects, tiny details matter — the antenna shape, the spacing behind the eyes, things a camera often can't capture. Physical specimens are still the gold standard.

Mike: But technology is improving.

Matt: It is. At a conference in Barcelona, researchers demonstrated mosquito identification using wingbeat frequency, which was incredible. DNA identification is another huge area, especially for distinguishing mosquito subspecies that look almost identical physically. We don't currently have DNA facilities ourselves, but it's clearly part of the future.

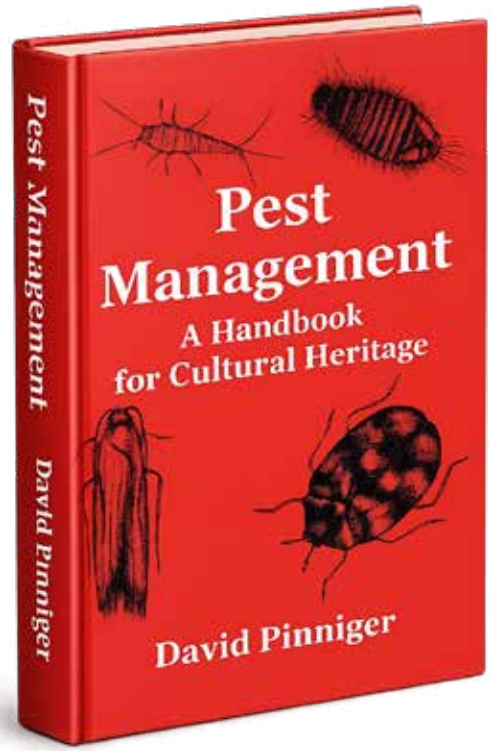
Mike: Finally, we can't ignore climate change. How do you think it will affect insect populations in the UK?

Matt: We're already seeing the effects globally. My colleague Josep Parnau in Spain (Technical Director, Killgerm Spain) mentioned that around thirty new ant species have been recorded there over the last twenty-five years, largely through trade and imported plants. Humans are moving species around the world constantly. That's probably the biggest driver now — not natural spread, but hitchhiking insects travelling with us.

Mike: Which means the insects we deal with in Britain today might look very different in twenty years' time.

Matt: Exactly. And that's why monitoring, research, and identification remain so important. The insect world never really stands still.

Listen in full at https://podcast.killgerm.com/



Pest Management A Handbook for Cultural Heritage **Book Review**

www.pestcontrolnews.com @pestcontrolnews facebook.com/pestcontrolnews

Pest Control News are delighted to be able to review this essential reference text regarding pests and their integrated management in the cultural heritage sector.

Superb images
Immediately striking is the high quality of pest images. Not only are illustrations of adults included but those of juvenile e.g. larval stages too. In fact, illustrations and real photographs are an outstanding reference point for recognition, alongside images of sings / damage to textile and exhibits / artefacts. 'Actual size' scale references of insects are included as an aid to recognition, yet another highly useful feature of this text.

Scientifically sound yet accessible
The language is scientific enough to be valuable, perfectly accurate and technically sound, yet still remains accessible enough for those earlier in their careers.

The use of 'ready-reckoner' summary tables is an excellent resource for field-use. To be able to quickly reference insect species to their type of damage and materials damaged is an efficient tool when in-the-field, especially when comparing similar insects.

Latest research
Of course, the book is right up-to-date with the latest findings relevant to this sector. On the point of references, the handbook is punctuated with numerous key scientific references for further reading and to demonstrate perfect scientific credibility of the authors. An enhancement to this is that the reader can tell the authors have real world experience that will be based on practical anecdotes, case-studies and more, which means we have the best of both worlds when combined with the academic side!

Leading authors
As for the authors themselves, we are spoilt for knowledge by distinguished entomologist David Pinniger, experienced rodent expert Adrian Meyer and leading researcher Pasqual Querner. As if that isn't enough…readers have the privilege of a foreword by Jane Thompson-Webb, conservation manager at Birmingham Museums Trust and Chair of the Pest Odyssey group.

History and experience – plus new content
Such complete reference texts are a real project and this goes back to a first version published in 1989, with updates in 1994, 2001, 2015 all leading to this 2026 success.

Building on the success of Integrated Pest Management in Cultural Heritage (2015), this fully revised and expanded edition is the definitive guide to preventing and managing pest damage in museums, galleries, libraries, archives and historic houses. Written by David Pinniger, one of the world's foremost experts in heritage pest management, the handbook reflects the latest research, emerging pest species, and advances in detection, control and prevention. New content includes a major chapter on biological control by Pascal Querner, revised chapters on rodents and birds by Adrian Meyer, and new illustrations of insects which are some of the clearest pictures of heritage pests yet published.

On the subject of biological control, the use of parasitic wasps *Trichogramma* sp for webbing clothes moth *Tineola bisselliella* control is covered. Our feature article for this issue covers this, which all feels very timely indeed.

Widely suitable – not just for Cultural Heritage
While this handbook is an essential offering for those in the Cultural Heritage Sector, do not be 'put off' by the seemingly niche title. Any pest controller who deals in insect management would benefit hugely from this. The pests included are found in a broad range of environments and there is so much crossover in terms of identification, monitoring, integrated pest management and so on, from domestic homes to museums and everything else in between. It is of much broader use that the title may imply.

This edition represents a complete reworking of a trusted reference. It is essential for every heritage professional concerned with safeguarding collections. It combines practical, evidence-based guidance with the author's decades of field experience to show how Integrated Pest Management can reduce risks, improve safety, and save resources across cultural institutions worldwide.

Contents
- Introduction by Jane Thompson Webb
- Author's Preface and Acknowledgements
- Illustration credits
- Introduction to pest management in cultural heritage
- Insect pests
- Insect detection and monitoring
- Preventing insect problems
- Control of insects
- Biological control (by Pascal Querner)
- Rodents and other mammals (by Adrian Meyer)
- Birds (by Adrian Meyer)
- Implementing IPM
- Bibliography and sources of information
- Index of common names
- Index of scientific names

Illustrated by Annette Townsend and published by Archetype Publications 2026, 169 pages.

Final verdict
A 10/10 from Pest Control News without doubt.

New Products

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SANI-99™ Black Mould Treatment

SANI-99™ Starter Pack is a professional black mould treatment and mould remediation solution supplied with a reusable spray bottle and three concentrated sachets. Designed for pest control and environmental hygiene applications, it provides a practical way to treat mould in damp environments such as bathrooms, kitchens, void spaces, and ventilation areas. The formulation delivers a high level of efficacy against mould spores while supporting regrowth prevention.

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Rosina Robson, Chief Executive of British Pest Control Association, explains why new independent research shows professional pest management is far more than a reactive service.

The best pest management is often the work nobody sees – in fact, one member early on in my time at BPCA called it "an invisible industry" that people only see when something goes wrong.

That is why BPCA commissioned No Small Matter, an independent report produced by Pragmatix Advisory, to examine the economic and social value of professional pest management in the UK.

We have always known pest professionals create huge value. What we haven't always had is the evidence to explain that positive impact clearly to government, clients and the wider public. This report is one of the steps we're taking to change that.

The report was created with the support of BPCA's original research. Hundreds of pest professionals contributed to the Future of Pest Management survey in 2023 and 2025. Pragmatix conducted interviews with BPCA members and conducted its own analysis of data from the Office for National Statistics.

The numbers are striking. The UK pest management sector contributes around £1 billion in gross value added, supports more than 2,000 businesses and employs over 22,000 people. In 2025 alone, pest professionals carried out more than 4.4 million jobs across homes, hospitals, schools, food premises, transport networks and other essential settings.

Most significantly, the report estimates that professional pest management saves British businesses and households £1.9 billion every year by preventing damage, disruption, legal risks and reputational harm.

The report also shows the cost of waiting too long. Pest management helps clients avoid around £1,900 in direct costs per case, with early intervention saving a further £700 by stopping problems escalating. Yet around 64% of pest control work still takes place after a problem has emerged.

Society is still not making prevention the default. Too often, pest management is brought in once the damage has started, rather than built into the systems that protect buildings, businesses and people.

In food and hospitality, that preventative role is obvious. One pest incident can close a site, damage public trust and create long-term consequences for a business. Professional pest management helps keep those environments safe, hygienic and operational. It protects customers, staff and hard-earned reputations.

In housing, the issue is just as serious. Pest infestations are closely linked to poor housing conditions, overcrowding and financial pressure. Living with pests can affect sleep, mental well-being, and dignity.

More than half of local authorities no longer provide pest control services, leaving the professional sector to fill in the gaps. Another member once told me, "Some days I feel more like a social worker than a pest controller". As public provision reduces, the private sector carries more of the burden. Without proper recognition, vulnerable households may delay treatment or live with the problem until it becomes worse.

Pest management is also a public health service. It reduces exposure to pests that can spread disease, contaminate food and damage living environments. It helps protect schools, care settings, hospitals, housing providers and local communities. If professional pest control stopped tomorrow, the consequences would not take long to show.

For me, the key message from No Small Matter is simple: this small sector delivers big national outcomes. It supports growth, public health, housing standards, food safety and resilient public services. It also helps protect tax receipts by keeping businesses open and functioning.

But the sector faces pressures too. Recruitment challenges, an ageing workforce, rising client expectations and increasing constraints on professional tools all need to be taken seriously. If we expect pest professionals to keep protecting the nation, they need recognition, skills, evidence and tools to do the job properly.

BPCA will use this report to make the case for members and the wider professional sector. We will keep saying that pest management is not a last resort. It is part of the infrastructure that keeps the UK safe, healthy and moving.

Because pest control may be a small sector, but its impact is no small matter.

BPCA works with governments, regulators, partners and industry stakeholders to make sure professional pest management is understood, recognised and properly represented in policy decisions.

From public health and housing standards to product regulation, licensing and the professional toolkit, BPCA's policy work is focused on protecting the sector's ability to deliver safe, legal and effective pest management across the UK.

Learn more at bpca.org.uk/policy

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DATE

4th November 2026

TIME

09:00 - 16:00

LOCATION

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The Building Safety Act's Long Reach:

Developers, Landlords and Associates Beware

0113 245 0845 giles.ward@milnerslaw.com uk.linkedin.com/pub/giles-ward/31/187/6b3 @MilnersGiles

Post Grenfell, the effects being a developer are still being revealed with the enactment of the The Building Safety Act 2022 ("BSA") which has had major effects of which have been seen throughout the dispute resolution scene however, perhaps some more effects have been discovered which were unforeseeable.

I refer to the BSAs concept of 'Association' and 'Associates' and their use of preventing developers or connected entities from being able to avoid liability. Associates are broadly defined to prevent developers, and landlords from escaping financial liability for building and safety defects. Liability can be passed to parent companies, subsidiaries, directors and partnerships. This ability to avoid being caught by the act is further strengthened by the retrospective extension of limitation and the powers granted to the High Court to grant Building Liability Orders, and to the First-tier Tribunals to make Remediation Contribution Orders. All of which combined leaves developers and any potential associates with a new joint and several liability. The magnitude of these effects can be seen in Grey GR Limited Partnership v Edgewater (Stevenage) Limited and Ors (CAM/26UH/HYI/2023/0003) as 76 Remediation Contribution Orders were awarded against the respondents on a joint and several basis, meaning each respondent could be held as liable for the entire amount owing.

Further Landlords are also subject, as they could have Remediation Orders made against them under s.123 of the BSA. These orders would be made with the requirements for the Landlord to remedy relevant defects causing a safety risk. A likely unwelcome addition to the long list of new requirements which landlords need be mindful of following the Renters Reform Act 2026.

Even as we move forward and understand these powers it is still somewhat uncertain and a difficult risk for developers to manage. The BSA seemingly takes no prisoners in terms of liability and seeks to hold all accountable. So in a nutshell if you are developing your offices, or renting out space floor space - beware. As always one of the best ways to protect yourself is to keep a very tight grip on your paper trail, do appropriate due diligence on any supplier and contractor and make sure adequate insurances are in place.

Should you or your organisation find yourself in a similar situation as the above, any situation as a landlord/tenant/developer alike, or indeed any legal issue generally please feel free to contact me in confidence on my mobile **07789 401411** or via email **giles.ward@milnerslaw.com**.

2026 Training Dates

Your guide to pest control training events near you

Killgerm Training run courses nationwide offering different types of courses for different levels of experience and knowledge.

Details of all course dates and locations are available online at: **www.killgermtraining.com**

There is also a full list in the Killgerm catalogue

For further information or to book your place on a course call: 01924 268445 or email training@killgerm.com

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
1st Sept 2026	Ossett	£190 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
2nd & 3rd Sept 2026	Ossett	£215 Inc lunch
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
12th Nov 2026	Ossett	£90 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
22nd Sept 2026	Doncaster	£245 Inc lunch
12th Oct 2026	Holmes Chapel	£245 Inc lunch
Advanced Safe use of Air Weapons		
13th Oct 2026	Holmes Chapel	£260 Inc lunch
Bird Free		
14th Oct 2026	Ossett	FOC
Bird Guano		
2nd July 2026	Ossett	£190 Inc lunch
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
8th Oct 2026	Ossett	£245 Inc lunch
PRACTICAL COURSES		
Trapping Techniques		
1st Oct 2026	York	£190 Inc lunch

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH - LEVEL 2 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT FEE - £980 + VAT per person (includes Killgerm manual, RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)	
Venue: Ossett	
Unit 3	Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th October 2026
Unit 1	Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th October 2026
Unit 2	Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th October 2026
Examination	**Wednesday 21st October 2026**

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH - LEVEL 3 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT FEE - £880 + VAT per person (includes RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)	
Venue: Ossett	
Training and Information day	30th June 2026
Core Unit examination	**28th July 2026**

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
SURREY		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
15th Sept 2026	Lingfield	£190 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
16th & 17th Sept 2026	Lingfield	£215 Inc lunch

Killgerm TRAINING

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www.killgermtraining.com

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
14th July 2026	Reading	£245 Inc lunch
8th Sept 2026	Reading	£245 Inc lunch
24th Nov 2026	Reading	£245 Inc lunch
Advanced Safe use of Air Weapons		
9th Sept 2026	Reading	£260 Inc lunch
Bird Control		
15th & 16th July 2026	Reading	£340 Inc lunch
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
11th June 2026	Reigate	£245 Inc lunch
BERKSHIRE		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
8th Sept 2026	Newbury	£190 Inc lunch
17th Nov 2026	Newbury	£190 Inc lunch
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
2nd Sept 2026	Newbury	£90 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
10th Sept 2026	Newbury	£245 Inc lunch
Insect Identification		
30th Sept 2026	Newbury	£245 Inc lunch
PRACTICAL COURSES		
Trapping Techniques		
27th Oct 2026	Newbury	£190 Inc lunch
RSPH Level 2 – Safe use of aluminium phosphide for the control of vertebrate pests		
28th & 29th Oct 2026	Newbury	£505 Inc lunch
BRISTOL		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
24th Nov 2026	Bristol	£190 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
25th & 26th Nov 2026	Bristol	£215 Inc lunch
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
15th Oct 2026	Bristol	£90 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
17th Nov 2026	Portishead, Bristol	£245 Inc lunch
Bird Control		
18th & 19th Nov 2026	Portishead, Bristol	£340 Inc lunch
MIDLANDS		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
6th Oct 2026	Burton on Trent	£190 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
7th & 8th Oct 2026	Burton on Trent	£215 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
9th July 2026	Kibworth	£245 Inc lunch
17th Sept 2026	Kibworth	£245 Inc lunch
Bird Control		
15th & 16th Sept 2026	Kibworth	£340 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 1 - Bedbugs & Fleas		
10th Sept 2026	Burton on Trent	£190 Inc lunch

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH - LEVEL 2 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT FEE - £980 + VAT per person (includes Killgerm manual, RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)	
Venue: Norwich	
Units 1 – 3	Tuesday 14th - Tuesday 21st July 2026
Examination	**Wednesday 22nd July 2026**
Venue: Reigate	
Unit 3	Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th October 2026
Unit 1	Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd November 2026
Unit 2	Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th November 2026
Examination	**Wednesday 11th November 2026**

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
17th Nov 2026	Fife	£190 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
18th & 19th Nov 2026	Fife	£215 Inc lunch
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
3rd Sept 2026	Livingston	£90 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
6th Oct 2026	Cluny Clays Leisure Centre, Cluny by Kirkcaldy	£245 Inc lunch
Bird Control		
7th & 8th Oct 2026	Cluny Clays Leisure Centre, Cluny by Kirkcaldy	£340 Inc lunch
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
2nd July 2026	Livingston	£245 Inc lunch

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH - LEVEL 2 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT FEE - £980 + VAT per person (includes Killgerm manual, RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)	
Venue: Scotland - Livingston	
Unit 3	Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th September 2026
Unit 1	Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th September 2026
Unit 2	Tuesday 22nd & Wednesday 23rd September 2026
Examination	**Thursday 24th September 2026**

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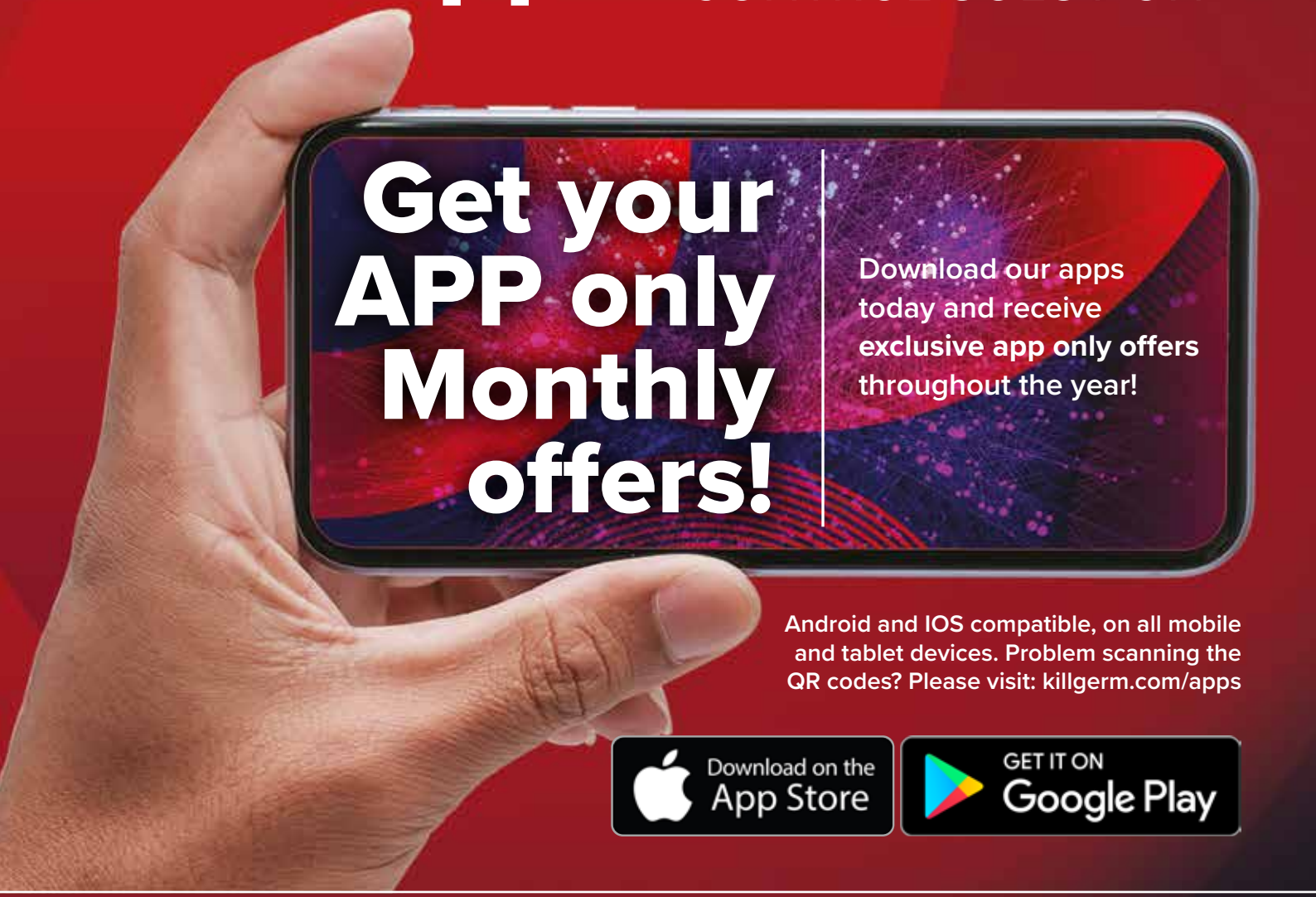

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