

Advice Note

Brown Tail Moth *Euproctis chryssorhoea*

It is the caterpillar of this moth that is the problem.

During May and later on in September the caterpillars are active on trees where they can totally strip the tree by eating the leaves.

The caterpillars are brown in colour with a dotted white line down each side of it's body and two distinctive red spots at the tail end. It is covered in fine hairs that can be released and if the hairs come into contact with the skin they can cause irritation.

They nest in tent like structures constructed of web material. These can be removed during winter when they are most visible. Care must be taken when dealing with the tents. They should be clipped off, put into a sealed bag then placed in the refuse bin or burnt.

People who wish to spray trees with an insecticide should check with a garden centre for the most suitable product.

It is important to remember whenever insecticides are used to read and follow carefully the instructions printed on the packaging.

Precautions should always be taken when dealing with these caterpillars. Always wear thick clothing, rubber gloves, wellington boots and cover all bare skin as far as possible. Protect eyes by wearing goggles.

Trees that are affected which are not in private gardens should be reported to the local council.