

**Oak Tree Health Research Awareness Webinar  
23<sup>rd</sup> February 13:30-15:00**

**Hosted by Dr Sandra Denman, Forest Research  
with presentations from the lead researchers in the BAC-STOP and Future  
Oak projects.**

[Event Registration](#)

This webinar will introduce the [Bacterial Plant Diseases Research Programme](#) and explain its oak tree health research projects – [BACSTOP](#) and [Future Oak](#) – both have a focus on Acute Oak Decline.

The **BAC-STOP** project is developing understanding to guide how we may stop the spread of pathogenic bacteria that are causing the damage and death of many native British oak trees in the disease known as Acute Oak Decline (AOD). This includes resolving the controversy of the role of the native beetle *Agilus biguttatus* in the spread of AOD and testing the effects of drought stress on the disease. We will also involve stakeholders including foresters, forest managers and policy advisers assessing attitudes to various potential management strategies.

The **Future Oak** project aims to identify beneficial microorganisms associated with oak trees to see if they can be used to improve oak tree fitness and suppress disease. We will also be working with forest managers to hear their views on the importance of microorganisms in tree health and explore options to 'engineer' tree microbiomes (the collection of microorganisms that are active on different parts of oak trees) to suppress disease.

As well as presenting information about this and previous research the webinar will give participants the opportunity to ask questions to its leading researchers, and will provide participants with an opportunity to discuss how they would like to interact with the projects, and help researchers understand the type of information practitioners want about the management of oak trees for resilience, and how that information should be presented.

The webinar is aimed at forest/tree managers and practitioners concerned with oak tree health. It is open to those working in the public forestry sector in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (webinars to the wider sector community will be available more widely at a later date).

If you have any questions about the webinar please contact [sally.simpson@forestresearch.gov.uk](mailto:sally.simpson@forestresearch.gov.uk)