Chalara Action Kit

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Chalara
Action Kit

This Chalara Action Kit has been designed to inform Landowners and Parish Councils about Chalara and give them the tools to manage the trees in their area by using information to inform and where necessary, defend their decisions.

Internet links are provided throughout the document that should be regularly visited to maintain up to date information and guidance. The Chalara Action Kit is a “living document” that should be used as a tool for effectively managing Chalara.
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Chalara

1. Introduction

Chalara is a fungal pathogen specific to Ash trees *(Fraxinus excelsior).* Chalara has infected and killed a large proportion of ash trees in Europe. It was first discovered in the UK in nursery stock in 2009 and is now widespread in ash trees growing in woods, plantations, hedges, parkland and urban areas especially in Eastern England. It is thought that infection occurred through planted nursery stock from Europe and fungus spores carried on the wind from Europe to infect trees here.

It is unlikely that the disease can now be eradicated from Britain and it will ultimately infect most of our ash trees in a similar way to Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970s. There are hopes that perhaps some ash trees may show some form of resistance but this is largely optimistic.

Chalara is now found in all counties in England and is firmly established in local authority areas in the Eastern region. Council officers are sharing information between authorities so that a well informed and consistent approach can be made in terms of managing the disease on publicly accessible land and also in the provision of advice to the public.

Landowners including Parish Councils will be responsible for ensuring their Ash trees are managed to prevent them becoming an unacceptable risk to people and property. The most efficient and defensive way of doing this is by carrying out regular surveys of Ash trees. The information from the survey will also highlight cases of Chalara on the estate or in the parish that can be actioned. National Guidelines have been produced to assist landowners and parish Councils to manage Chalara in the areas they are responsible for.
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The principles of the National guidance are;

- maintaining the values and benefits associated with ash woodlands and iconic trees;
- securing an economic return where timber production is an important objective; reducing the presence and rate of spread of Chalara;
- maintaining as much genetic diversity in ash trees as possible with the aim of ensuring the presence of ash in the long term; and minimising impacts on associated species and wider biodiversity

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2. Urban & Suburban Ash trees - Arboricultural Considerations

Ash trees form part of the overall urban and suburban landscape and their presence has many benefits depending on how the land is used. Ash trees grow in many different situations, and within areas of widely varying levels of public access or other human activity.

Where it is appropriate to manage ash trees, this management should seek to enhance their significance (in terms of value, access and other benefits) and all the other ecosystem service benefits they provide, and to manage the undesirable impacts they can have, such as damage to property and risks to human safety.

When considering how to manage the presence of deadwood it is essential to take account of the fact that whilst deadwood may present a hazard it is also a vital ecological attribute. Many species require deadwood for the whole or part of their life cycle and those species are in turn part of the food chain for many other species.

In line with national guidance, ash trees should be retained where possible. The likelihood of infection with Chalara is not a justification to undertake works to fell or prune ash trees. This is for three reasons:

- to aid identification of trees which may show genetic resistance or other ability to recover;
- to retain as much of the biodiversity that is dependent on ash for as long as possible in as wide a population as possible, to allow other species to bridge the biodiversity gap;
- to allow more time for other replacement species of trees to grow, to give a more gradual transition of dominant landscape species.

The survey form included in this Chalara Action Kit provides managers with the information to make an informed decision.

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3. The Felling Licence - Getting Permission

Tree felling is an important part of modern woodland and tree management and will happen for a range of reasons. For example, it may be for tree harvesting for timber or woodfuel, to improve wildlife habitats and space for recreation or it may be to remove dead or dying trees and give woodland and other trees the opportunity to thrive.

Whatever the end goal, it is important that tree felling is carried out in a sustainable and managed way to protect woodland and wildlife habitats and maintain woodland cover. In England, you will normally require a Felling Licence which can be applied for online or from your local Forestry Commission Area Office. *http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-areas*

You can apply for a Felling Licence either through your local Woodland Officer or via the Forestry Commission website http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-fellinglicences and they are free and easy to apply for. Applying for one means a number of issues can be addressed, such as whether European Protected Species (such as bats and great crested newts) have been considered. http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/eps-checklist-v3.pdf/$FILE/eps-checklist-v3.pdf

The Felling Licence application is a simple process and the licence is not there to catch anyone out, but the consequences of felling without a relevant licence can be high. While prosecution is always a last resort, landowners can be forced to restock felled trees and make good any areas of damaged land, but fines may also be issued. Thankfully, these cases are rare and in England we are very good at managing our woodlands and trees properly. That is why it is important to be aware of the potential issues and ensure if you need to remove trees, you understand the regulations that exist.

Penalties: Felling without a licence is an offence. Everyone involved in the felling of trees, the owner, agent, timber merchant or contractor, must ensure that a licence has been issued before any felling is carried out unless one of the exemptions apply.

Penalties for contravening felling licence regulation

- If there is no licence or other valid permission, or if the wrong trees are felled, all parties involved can be prosecuted.
- On conviction, a fine of up to £2,500 or twice the value of the trees, whichever is the higher may be imposed.
- Whether or not a prosecution takes place, the Forestry Commission can serve a Restocking Notice to re-stock the land concerned or any other land as may be agreed.
- The owner or tenant must maintain the replacement trees to acceptable standards for up to 10 years.
- If the conditions of a Felling Licence or a Restocking Notice are not complied with, the Forestry Commission may issue an Enforcement Notice demanding action be taken to meet the conditions.
- It is an offence not to obey an Enforcement Notice and can mean a fine of up to £5,000.

Ensure that a valid felling licence has been granted. Contact the Forestry Commission if there is any doubt about whether a licence is required.

The Land Information Search (LIS) will show whether a Felling Licence has been obtained for the area being felled http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-lis

Felling Licence Exemptions http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6dfkw6
If exempt, felling can proceed but it is always best to check with the Forestry Commission.

The Forestry Commission can then provide you with expert advice and – if appropriate – offer woodland management grant support.
http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-areas

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4. Ash protected by tree preservation orders (TPOs) and conservation areas (CAs)

If you wish to carry out works to protected trees you must first seek consent to do so by contacting the **Tree Officer in your local Planning Office**. You must clearly specify the trees involved, identify their locations, the extent of the work you wish to carry out and the reasons why you wish to carry out the work. The Tree Officer will consider the application and may grant approval.

The deadwood in infected trees may present a risk to health and safety. In such situations they should be managed in a way that prioritises public safety, whilst taking proportionate action which does not result in unnecessary pruning or felling. The survey form included in the Chalara Action Kit will provide managers with the information to make an informed decision. Applications for consent to fell uninfected trees will be judged on their merits, and the potential for infection with Chalara should not be a significant consideration.

What if I want to work on a tree covered by a tree preservation order?

Apart from special exceptions, you (or your agent/contractor) must seek permission from the local planning authority by submitting a standard application form to it. It is important to clearly specify the work you want done and provide information to support your case (such as professional advice on the health of the tree and, in cases of alleged subsidence, professional evidence on the soil, the structure affected and the tree). Before making an application, you may find it helpful to consult a tree surgeon or arboricultural consultant to help you clarify what you need to do. Information on selecting a tree expert can be found at www.tree-care.info

You may also find it helpful to refer to the local planning authority's website for information on tree protection in the local area.

Do I need a Forestry Commission felling licence to fell protected trees?

You do not need a licence to fell trees in gardens**.** However, for trees outside of gardens, you may need to apply to the Forestry Commission for a felling licence, whether or not they are covered by a tree preservation order.

Do I always need the local planning authority's permission to work on a tree covered by a tree preservation order?

Yes, except for:

- cutting down trees in accordance with one of the Forestry Commission's grant schemes, or where the Commission has granted a felling licence.
- cutting down or pruning a tree:
  - which presents an urgent and serious safety risk – however you must give written notice (by letter or email) of the proposed work to the local planning authority as soon as practicable after the work becomes necessary;
  - which is dead – however you must give at least five working days written notice (by letter or email) of the proposed work to the local planning authority;
  - which is directly in the way of development that is about to start for which detailed planning permission has been granted.

- in a commercial orchard, or pruning fruit trees in accordance with good horticultural practice;
- to prevent or control a legal nuisance (you may find it helpful to check first with a solicitor);
- in line with an obligation under an Act of Parliament;

Removing dead branches from a living tree

If you are in any doubt about what needs permission, check with the local planning authority.

What happens if I carry out work on a protected tree without permission?

If you deliberately destroy a protected tree, or damage it in a manner likely to destroy it, you could be liable to an unlimited fine. You could also be fined if you cause or permit such work. Other offences can lead to fines of up to £2,500.

When will I have to plant a replacement tree?

You will have to replant:

- if you cut down or destroy a protected tree in breach of a tree preservation order, or because the tree is dead or dangerous;
- if the local planning authority gives you permission to cut down a protected tree but makes re-planting a condition of its consent;
- in most cases where the Forestry Commission grants a felling licence.

Local planning authorities have legal powers to ensure that you plant a replacement tree when required.

New TPO guidance in March 2014 states that a tree owner, agents and authorities should consider biodiversity "dead trees and branches can provide very valuable habitats for plants and wildlife, which may also be protected under other legislation".

For further information:

http://www.planningni.gov.uk/8pp_tree_preservation_order_lores.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/244528/2127793.pdf

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5. Ash trees on development sites

As part of any tree survey intended to support a planning application, trees should be categorised using the criteria shown in Table 1 of British Standard 5837:2012. The purpose of this is to identify the quality and value of the existing tree stock, allowing informed decisions to be made about which trees should be removed or retained in the event of development occurring.

Current knowledge does not provide clarity on the impact of Chalara on the ash population. Consequently, it is not possible to ascertain, with any certainty, what impact the disease will have on the life expectancy of individual ash trees. Current guidance is to retain ash in the hope that genetically resistant individuals may exist in the population. On these grounds it would be unreliable and premature to downgrade an ash tree in accordance with the categorisation process of BS5837 simply because of the risk of infection and the expectation that life expectancy will be shortened.

Landscaping conditions often require the planting of trees and in the past ash has frequently been specified. Under a Plant Health Order that came into force in October 2012, the movement of ash planting stock has been banned. Existing approved landscaping schemes that have not been implemented that include ash cannot be completed because of the ban on ash nursery stock and so a substitute species will need to be found. If an ash tree planted prior to the ban fails, an alternative replacement species will be required. See section 15 for more information on alternative species.

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6. Ash trees on and adjacent to highways and footpaths

The deadwood in infected trees near a highway may present a risk to health and safety. In such situations, they should be managed in a way that prioritises public safety, whilst taking proportionate action that does not result in unnecessary pruning or felling, including deadwood removal.

Safety considerations will be at the discretion of the relevant Highways Authority and will take priority in the management of ash trees close to the highway. Monitoring regimes may need to be modified in terms of their frequency and time of year within infected areas. Privately owned trees on unregistered land next to the highway are likely to impact on local government responsibilities to ensure highway users are kept safe.

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7. Ash trees in parks, public open spaces and heritage sites

The deadwood in infected trees, particularly near footpaths and parking areas may, under certain circumstances, present a risk to health and safety. In such situations, they should be managed in a way that prioritises public safety, whilst taking proportionate action that does not result in unnecessary pruning or felling, including the removal of deadwood. Monitoring regimes may need to be modified, in terms of their frequency and time of year, within infected areas.

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8. Ash trees on private property (not woodland or protected by a TPO or CA)

The deadwood in infected trees may, under certain circumstances, present a risk to health and safety. In such situations, they should be managed in a way that prioritises public safety, whilst taking proportionate action that does not result in unnecessary pruning or felling, including the removal of deadwood. Guidance in this document applies and should be followed. Where works to infected trees are carried out, biosecurity recommendations should be implemented. Owners should check that their tree surgeon knows how to deal with ash branches and leaves (*see – Biosecurity - how to limit the spread of the disease*) and that they follow the advice contained in this note or follow updated advice from the Forestry Commission.

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9. Ancient, veteran and heritage trees

Where significant ancient, veteran or isolated trees with particular merit exist on a site, it is best practice to clear away and dispose of leaf litter in the autumn from around these and any adjacent ash trees to try to protect them from infection.

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10. Biodiversity, Bats & other European Protected Species (EPS)

Trees, especially when mature, stressed and/or damaged, provide bats with a range of roosting opportunities. Bats and their roosts are legally protected from disturbance, damage or destruction, whether or not bats are actually present when works proceed. Proper surveys should ensure the tree is not being used as a bat roost. The Arboricultural Association have published a guidance note 'Bats in the context of tree work operations' containing advice and bat roost assessment forms. See:
http://www.trees.org.uk/tree-care-advice/Tree-advice-guides/Guidance-Note-1-Trees-and-Bats

The Forestry Commission, Natural England and other relevant conservation organisations have also produced a suite of guidance to help you understand the legislation and to use good practice to operate within the law, avoiding the need for Natural England licensing and benefiting EPS. Following the guidance will show that you have taken all reasonable steps to comply with the Regulations. See:
http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/uk_bats.html

Felling or other tree work such as crown reduction should therefore be planned and (where necessary) agreed in advance with statutory bodies. Before commencing any tree or woodland work involving felling, please refer to good practice guidance on the Forestry Commission England website:
http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/england-protectedspecies-bats.pdf/$FILE/england-protectedspecies-bats.pdf

Before commencing work always check that European Protect Species (such as bats and great crested newts) have been considered.
http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/eps-checklist-v3.pdf/$FILE/eps-checklist-v3.pdf

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11. Biosecurity - how to limit the spread of the disease

Every effort should be made to slow down the spread of the disease. Spores can be transmitted via infected leaves and this could infect new areas, so it is vital that everyone takes sensible biosecurity precautions that minimise the rate of spread.

The fungus, *Chalara fraxinea*, that causes Chalara can survive frost or leaf degradation of up to a year, but is unable to fruit if buried. The heat generated by composting may kill it, although this is uncertain and it is unlikely that smaller scale heaps, as in parks and gardens will generate enough heat to kill the spores. Biosecurity advice is given at www.forestry.gov.uk/biosecurity but more specific advice for arboricultural work is given as follows:

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12. General advice for contractors applicable to any site

- Any requirements in statutory Plant Health Notices take precedence over this general advice.
- If felling or pruning infected trees, aim to do so after leaf fall where possible.
- In many circumstances there might be no need to remove infected leaves at all. Existing advice in respect of infected mature ash trees is that they should be left in place. The disease is caused by a fungus in the ash tree leaves that can be spread by airborne pathways or by physical movement through human agents. The main means by which it could spread into new areas is by movement of infected material (plants and leaves). The basic principle is that the less distance that leaves are transported and the smaller the volumes being transported, the less likelihood there is of the disease being spread.
- Where leaves affected by the disease require disposal, the preferred options for dealing with waste arising is based on the over-arching aim to reduce the rate of spread of the infection to other areas by prioritising on-site disposal options available on or near an infected area.
- The fungus, Chalara fraxinea, that causes Chalara can survive frost or leaf degradation for up to a year, but it is unable to fruit if it is buried under the soil.
- There is no control over the movement of timber/cordwood at this time as it is considered low risk.
- Contractors should take measures to remove leaves and rachis from vehicle tyres, chippers and payload after working on infected trees and before moving into areas with no or minimal signs of infection.
- There are other pests and diseases present in the region. Adopting biosecurity measures is a sensible precaution.

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13. Infected areas

Depending on the nature and location of any infected vegetation, the following options are suggested in decreasing order of preference:

Burning on site on the ground or in mobile incinerators brought to site (where these are used because they offer a practical solution to deal with a high volume of leaves) where allowed under legislation on smoke control areas, and subject to the potential risk of smoke

nuisance. The best way to do this is for householders, farmers and landowners to be considerate by advising their nearest neighbours before lighting a bonfire, so that they can be prepared for any minor inconveniences that might arise.

Burial in the ground by local authorities would constitute a landfill operation and would require an environmental permit, which fulfils the requirements of the Landfill Directive. For this reason, local burial may not be a practicable option. However, individuals acting in their own private capacity are not subject to the same requirements, so householders may bury affected leaves within the grounds of their premises if they wish.

Composting on site. There is no clear scientific evidence currently available around the potential efficacy of composting as a means of effective treatment. Given the uncertainties of composting, wherever possible any resulting compost should be spread on or near the infected source and not passed on to third parties who might transport it considerable distances for spreading elsewhere.

Incineration or landfill off-site. Moving infected ash leaves for purposes other than destruction should be avoided where possible. Where it is not possible to deal with leaves from affected areas on site, the waste should be securely contained either by bagging or in enclosed containers. Leaves should be transported the minimum distance possible for incineration (including energy recovery) or non-hazardous landfill at existing permitted facilities.

Composting or other biological treatment off-site. Off-site composting and other biological treatment remains a less preferred option because of uncertainty over conditions for destruction of the Chalara fraxinea fungus. If the compost were used locally, this would reduce any possible residual risk.

Non-infected areas. The spread of Chalara is not evenly distributed around the country. Where there is no suspicion that trees or leaves are infected with Chalara and there is no need to remove the leaves, they can be left where they fall.

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14. Woodland management

The primary aim should be to maintain the structure and value of the woodland and avoid speeding up any decline in its condition.

The likely scenario for an area of coppiced ash in the presence of Chalara is for the coppice to fail to re-grow, or re-grow and then quickly decline and any regeneration from seed to die. This is then likely to result in a change in ground flora to that more suited to the changed conditions, and other species such as sycamore are likely to establish. Areas of high forest are likely to decline, and significant numbers of trees will die.

Recommended actions - coppice:

- Carry on with planned work. Consider felling and selling your best ash stems. Retain ash trees with most tolerance to Chalara; this will result in seed production. Monitor any natural regeneration to see if any show signs of resistance to Chalara.

- Maintain some canopy of ash and other species by retaining standards and maidens. Consider leaving some stools uncut.
- Where natural regeneration of suitable species for the site does not occur, consider planting suitable alternative native species soon after felling. Dependent upon conditions, this could include species such as field maple, hazel and hornbeam.

Recommended actions - high forest:

- Do not rush to do anything. Let nature declare itself first.
- Monitor the change process and assess whether there is need for management intervention.
- This is a disease management issue therefore manage the decline.
- Carry on with planned work. Consider felling and selling your best ash stems. Retain ash trees with tolerance to Chalara; this will result in seed production. Monitor any natural regeneration to see if any show signs of resistance to Chalara.
- In plantations of 10 to 20 years old, with 5% to 30% ash with Chalara it might be best to simply let the trees decline in-situ as they will act as a good nurse crop for the oak.
- Thin woodlands as normal to encourage canopy development and in mixed stands favour other species to maintain the vigour of trees.
- Select trees in the thinning that show the greatest extent of decline, retaining those with the healthiest canopy (select trees while in full leaf to help ensure the right trees are kept).
- Retaining a good selection of ash trees may result in seed production. Monitor any natural regeneration to see if any show signs of resistance to Chalara.
- In large areas where ash is the dominant species but has Chalara, and where natural regeneration of suitable species for the site does not occur, consider planting suitable alternative native species soon after felling. Dependent upon conditions, this could include species such as oak, hornbeam, field maple, small-leaved lime, large-leaved lime, hazel and alder.
- Continue coppicing within your planned programme of work. Do not bring forward coppicing of ash.
- Maintain some canopy of ash and other species by retaining standards and maidens. Monitor natural regeneration.

Movement of timber

Timber is considered low risk. There are no restrictions on timber movement within England, Wales and Scotland unless a Statutory Plant Health Notice has been served. When moving timber ensure that it is cleaned of twigs and leaves and that no leaf litter is amongst it. Stacking on bearers can help avoid picking up soil and leaf litter when timber is uplifted onto a lorry.

Biosecurity - how to limit the spread of the disease

The risk of spreading Chalara lies with the leaf litter and leafy brash and so the risk of people spreading it on their shoes and clothes is low. It is higher with forest machinery, which may need to be cleaned as it can easily hold leaf debris. Basic precautions include:

- If the machinery moves from a high infection area to a less infected/uninfected area then measures to clean it need to be taken. Similarly, leafy brash must not be moved from an infected area to an uninfected area.

- If machinery is travelling locally within a heavily infected area, there is no risk of spreading the disease, so there is less need to clean it.
- Cleaning footwear and outerwear regularly, ensuring they are visually free from soil is a good precautionary measure when going from highly infected areas to no or low infection areas.

There are other pests and diseases present, most notably *Phytophthora ramorum*. This can be spread in mud, so adopting biosecurity measures is a sensible precaution to take, especially for those that travel to numerous sites over a wide area. Guidance is available at http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-8ZJMQ4

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15. Alternative species

The golden rule of tree species selection; the right tree on the right site and soil, for the right reason. Current advice is to diversify and widen the range of species in urban or suburban situations to help ensure the urban forest is more resilient in the face of climate change and an ever-increasing range of pests and diseases. Choice will vary on a site-by-site basis, and will be influenced by a number of factors. Advice on species selection can be found at https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/trees or at http://www.righttrees4cc.org.uk/

A summary of alternative species advice is:

- Check the soil conditions. Select a tree that is suitable for the soil.
- Ensure there is sufficient space for the tree to grow – both its branches and its roots.
- Consider the long-term management of the tree.
- Are you likely to need to have it pruned on a regular basis?
- Are you prepared to fund regular pruning or would you prefer to choose another tree?
- If you are on clay soil, consider the proximity of adjacent buildings and structures, both yours and your neighbours.
- Avoid planting your tree where it may interfere with other plants and habitats e.g. ponds, watercourses, wildflower areas and flowerbeds.
- Be sympathetic to the existing landscape character of the area where you live.
- Consider the overall size of your land.
- When selecting replacement or new trees consider the impact of planting on urban forest ecosystems.
- Choose the nursery and stock carefully and look for stock grown in the UK.

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16. Ash Dieback - Tree survey introduction

It is recommended that a survey be done once a year in summer to identify blackened leaves present on infected trees. Website links to identification are given at the bottom of the page.

A standard ash tree assessment form is attached that will be used regionally and nationally to collect relevant data. The form has been designed to be easy to use and provide the information required so that the landowner or Parish Council can make informed decisions regarding the management of Chalara in their area.

The form establishes the condition of the tree, the amount of dieback and identifies targets to aid risk assessment. The assessment form is also supported by photographs showing various percentages of dieback in trees.

A range of possible actions are also provided to assist in the decision process.

Information and guidance on the latest national action plan regarding Chalara is available here: www.defra.gov.uk

Trees that appear healthy and resilient to Chalara should be reported to the Forestry Commission using the following App.

If you think you have spotted a tree free of the disease, please check our symptoms video and symptoms guide , and our guide to recognising ash trees, before using our Tree Alert form.

You can also download our free Tree Alert app to your Smartphone or tablet.

ANDROID APP ON Google play Available on the App Store

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17. Ash Dieback – How to complete the Ash Dieback Form

Date of Survey – Inspections should be undertaken when ash trees are in full leaf. Important to help future surveys compare tree condition.

Name of Surveyor – It is important to be able to contact the person who collected the information, should clarification be needed.

Tree Number – This is the number given to the tree by the surveyor, for example T1. This number should be clearly shown on a corresponding map and used by all future surveys.

Grid Ref - For plotting where digital mapping is being used or for reporting a hazard to highways. A helpful website is http://www.gridreferencefinder.com/ Instructions: Enter a locations e.g. Hertford, find the location of the tree using map or the satellite image. Right-Click on the map or satellite image to find the grid reference.

Location of Tree – Brief description so that future surveyors can easily locate tree, eg. in private front garden at junction of Hall Street and Church Street…

Target – Low, medium and high relates to what would be damaged should the tree fail (the degree of impact). A field with a remote tree would be a low risk target, a tree on a little used path would be medium and a tree in a busy playground would be high.

Description of Target – This will assist with deciding on what type of action is to be taken and help prioritise work. For example managers may consider that a high target such as a school may take priority over a private dwelling. A full description of the target may also inform decisions on action for example if the high target is a park bench then it may be more practical to move the bench and rope off the tree.

Age – This is an estimation of the age of the tree, the classifications are given on the form and an explanation below.

Y =	**Young:**	Age less than 1/3 life expectancy
YM =	**Young Maturing:**	1/3 to 2/3 life expectancy
M =	**Mature:**	Over 2/3 life expectancy
V =	**Veteran:**	Surviving beyond the typical age range for species

Percentage of Healthy Leaf Cover – Use the four photographs provided to judge what percentage of the leaf cover is healthy. Note if under 25% or 25 to 50% are recorded then urgent action may be required.

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Diameter of Deadwood and Percentage – In the three sections provided enter the amount of dead wood in the tree that is the size given, for example:

Up to 60mm – The thickness of 3 fingers.

45%, 60mm to 150mm – The thickness of your wrist to your thigh

30% and 150mm and above – 25% - The thickness of your thigh and larger.

Note if dead wood 60mm to 150mm or 150mm and above is recorded then urgent action may be required.

Age of Infection – This will be based on local knowledge if the surveyor is aware of the decline of the tree or if the tree is being re-surveyed.

Re-survey Date – This is a recommendation by the surveyor based on their findings. For example if there are no visible signs of Chalara then the recommended re-survey may be 6 months to record if the tree is resilient, on the other hand a slightly infected tree could be re-surveyed in 12 months and this will be based on individual management decisions.

Pictures Before Work – Record the whole tree, the crown, infected areas, leaf wilt and blackening leaves and the bottom of the tree trunk.

Action - This will be down to individual management options for each infected tree within a landholding or parish. The main action will be in relation to safety and following ratings for tree-work is recommended.

Appropriate action will relate directly to the score allotted during the survey. Urgency for action is categorised 1 to 3.

Category. 1: Urgent with imminent danger - if the survey score is 15 or more and where there is thought to be an 'imminent danger' (In hours or days of failure) from a tree, then the relevant local authority should be contacted as action may need to be taken under the Miscellaneous Provisions Act.

Category 1: URGENT AND IMMEDIATE RISK = Score over 12. Pass on finding as a matter of urgency to relevant owner/manager for them to action**.** Action recommended within 28 days of owner notification. Owner/manager of the tree should seek urgent advice from qualified a arboriculturist or arrange surgery works to make the tree safe.
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Category 2: URGENT - if the score is between 9 to 12. **Alert owner/manager that action may need to be taken (especially in high or medium target areas).** Action recommended within six months of owner notification. Inform owner/manager of the risk and recommend they seek advice from a qualified arboriculturalist. Following tree surgery (if relevant) an annual tree inspection is recommended during the summer months of July to September.

Category 3: MODERATE TO LOW = Score under 9. Annual summer tree inspection recommended during July to September in Low risk areas. 6 monthly in medium and high risk areas. It is advisable to undertake additional tree inspections after storms and to take appropriate action as soon as possible.

Management options may relate to the scale of the work and cost effective management. Chain of custody: Survey information for trees with a score of over 12 needs to be passed to appropriate body/person for them to action.

- **Trees on roadside verge or overhanging road: Pass to County Council Highways** http://local.direct.gov.uk/LDGRedirect/Start.do?mode=1

- **Trees on council land, public or open space:** Pass to appropriate body e.g. The Parish/Town Council or City authority http://local.direct.gov.uk/LDGRedirect/Start.do?mode=1

- **Trees on private land or in gardens:** Inform the landowner/homeowner. It would be helpful if the tree officer is copied into any information sent to private land owners especially if there is a threat to third parties.

- **Where healthy trees are identified:** It is advisable to report them using the 'Tree Alert' app. mentioned earlier in the pack.

Date Action Completed – This is important so that a manager can record what action has been completed and what action is outstanding in relation to risk and budgeting.
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18. Ash Dieback Survey Form				Date of survey	
Name of Tree Surveyor				Tree Number	
Grid Ref					
Location of Tree					
Description of tree					
Target	Score	**Age**	Score	**% of healthy leaf cover**	Score
Low (Score 0)		Young (Score 1)		75% Plus (Score 0)	
Medium (Score 2)		Young Maturing (Score 2)		**50% to 75% (Score 2)**	
High (Score 3)		Mature (Score 3)		**25 to 50% (Score 3)**	
Description of target		Veteran (Score 3)		**Under 25% (Score 3)**	
Diameter of Deadwood and %	Score	**Age of infection if known**	Score		
Up to 60mm (3 fingers) (Score 1)		Under 2 yrs (Score 1)			
60mm to 150mm (wrist to thigh) (Score 2)		**Over 2 years (Score 3)**			
150mm to major (thigh and above) (Score 4)		**Total Score**			
Pictures before work					
Action required					
Date Action Completed		**Re-survey dates**			
Pictures after work					

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19. Ash Tree Crown Cover

100% Healthy Crown

75% Healthy Crown

50% Healthy Crown

25% Healthy Crown

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