

Ash Dieback Action Plan

1. Aims

MANAGE HEALTH & SAFETY RISKS

MINIMISE IMPACTS OF ASH TREE LOSS ON BIODIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE

This plan is designed to assess and address the possible likely impact and risks posed by the disease known as Chalara ash dieback. The risks posed cover public safety, council resource, landscape, environmental and biodiversity. To inform action, promote engagement and to provide information and guidance.

This Action Plan is for the attention of all New Forest District Council landholders. The guidance within is also aimed to be of use to Town and Parish Councils, and other private landholders in the district area.

Consultee list:

- NFDC
 - Housing Services
 - Planning Services
 - Car parks
 - Cemeteries
 - Open Space
 - Street Scene
 - Depots and Offices
- External
 - New Forest National Park Authority Tree Team
 - Forestry England
 - National Trust
 - Hampshire County Council Tree Team

2. Background

Ash dieback is a fungal disease of ash trees *Fraxinus excelsior*. First recognised in Poland in 1992, it was named *Chalara fraxineus*, then renamed *Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus*, and finally *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*. Its origin is thought to be from Asia, where it is a harmless endophyte, not a pathogen, whose natural host *Fraxinus mandschurica*.

The fungus spread rapidly across Europe.

First recorded in Britain in 2012 on imported plants, evidence suggests it arrived here perhaps a decade earlier. It is widespread in the wider environment, and now beyond any infection control measures. It is thought possible that it also entered the UK by natural means. These include being carried on the wind or on birds coming across the North Sea and English Channel, or on items such as footwear, clothing or vehicles of people who had been in infected sites in Continental Europe.

In May 2018 the first confirmed case of Chalara in the NFDC area, in Totton, although the symptoms of the disease appear to be evident throughout the New Forest and we should assume total coverage. Further samples are in the process of being collected and sent for testing to confirm the spread. An up-to-date, nationwide map on confirmed reports for the disease, can be found at <http://chalaramap.fera.defra.gov.uk/>

From experience in other European countries and eastern UK regions, it is prudent to assume that the disease will affect most if not all ash trees in the New Forest area. The levels of tree death and damage caused that will require remedial work is uncertain but is likely to be very high.

The disease is fatal for most young ash trees, with others succumbing from pests and other pathogens once weakened by ash dieback. Initially, a small quantity of highly susceptible trees will decline rapidly. Young trees and coppice re-growth decline rapidly as unable to compartmentalise infected areas to prevent their main stems being infected. However, many unstressed, mature trees can apparently survive for many years (Iben Margrete Thomsen, n.d.).

Within 5 to 10 years we expect the disease to be visually present across most of the New Forest, and a high proportion of ashes infected, dead or dying back.

European evidence suggests 10% of trees moderately tolerant whilst 1-2% have high levels of tolerance (Tree Council, 2018) UK ash trees have a greater genetic diversity than those in Europe, which may give some resilience. offering hope that fewer may succumb. However, even highly resilient trees can be re-infected each year, leading to reduced vigour and increased susceptibility to other pathogens such as honey fungus *Armillaria and Inonotus*.

Infection mostly occurs through spores landing on leaves or twigs or at the base of trunks. Root collar infection can, if infected by secondary pathogens, become unstable - occasionally with no obvious dieback symptoms in the canopy. Basal infection occurs mainly in humid forest and woodland situations, including coppice.

3. Overview of NFDC tree stock

Approximately 92,000 trees of all species are recorded on the council's database, with 22,000 recorded assets (trees larger than 30cm dbh within falling distance of a target). *Fraxinus excelsior* accounts for large numbers of these assets due to its self-seeding habit. Responsibility for these trees lies with several different departments within NFDC (detailed in consultee list) full cooperation with the measures listed in this plan is required.

4. General management advice

NFDC Tree Officers will follow national guidance and industry best practice in response to Chalara ash dieback, engaging with a broad coalition of partners in a strategic approach to tree health.

In general terms, a tree owner (the duty holder) has a duty of care in both civil and criminal law to take reasonable management measures to avoid foreseeable injury or harm. Duty holders are expected to consider the risks posed by their trees, taking practical steps to manage those risks in a reasonable and proportionate way.

Practical advice on how to manage affected woodlands and urban trees can be found in guidance documents produced by both Government and Industry. The evidence informing guidance for ash dieback management is under constant review; this guidance will change accordingly to provide current advice. This Action Plan is a live document which will be reviewed and developed on a periodic basis.

Presented here are the main points, and should be used to inform working practices:

4.1. Monitoring

- 4.1.1. Landowners should have appropriate ongoing monitoring of ash trees, focussing on those trees in high or higher risk locations (Forestry Commission, 2019) Higher occupancy areas adjacent to roads, footpaths, buildings etc should be prioritised.

The disease can infect trees through the base of their trunks, or root collars. If further infected with secondary pathogens, such as *Armillaria*, these trees can rapidly become unsafe without obvious signs of infection in the canopy. Basal canker development is a precursor collapse as evidence now suggests anywhere from 9 months – 2 years to complete failure (FISA, 2019) from initial visual basal canker development. This underlines the necessity of a thorough, logical, and consistent inspection and monitoring regime.

- 4.1.2. Landowners should seek advice or guidance by a suitably qualified and experienced tree consultant. For a full list of approved Registered Consultants:

<https://www.trees.org.uk/Registered-Consultant-Directory>

- 4.1.3. Trees are under pressure for a variety of reasons; Chalara is just one more factor to be considered when assessing trees. Because of this, the presence of Ash dieback will not by itself necessarily be considered as a reason for early pruning, felling, or intervention.

- 4.1.4. Prevalence of root collar necrosis in humid and wet sites suggest a site-specific predisposition (Enderle, et al., 2017). Damp or woodland sites will therefore have a higher number of trees that are unable to be retained and will pose a significant risk (depending on public access). Proactive removal of affected trees in, or adjacent to high use areas or property may in some cases be prudent, subject to any statutory protection

- 4.1.5. Wood strength and structural integrity has been shown to be severely affected by decay fungi such as Shaggy bracket (*Inonotus hispidus*) or giant ash bracket (*Perenniporia fraxinea*). These are becoming more prevalent as secondary factors due to the affected trees weakened defence system.

4.2. Management

- 4.2.1. Landowners should seek advice or guidance by a suitably qualified and experienced tree contractor. For a full list of ARB Approved Contractors:

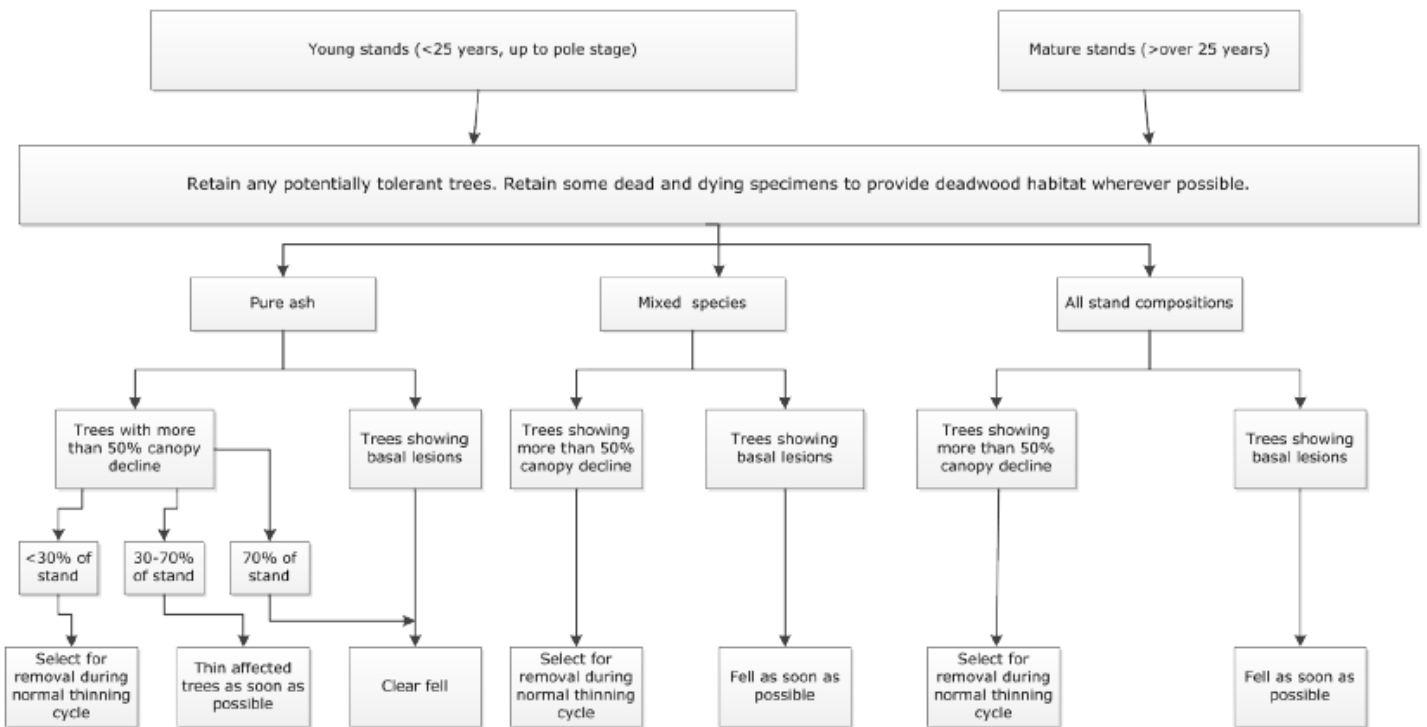
<https://www.trees.org.uk/ARB-Approved-Contractor-Directory>. We advise a precautionary view is taken as to potential health and safety implications for tree and forestry contractors managing or felling infected ash trees (Forestry Commission, 2019) Thorough planning and a full site-specific risk assessment should be carried out prior to any work commencing.

- 4.2.2. With the exceptions of felling for public safety or timber production, Forest Research advise a general presumption against felling living ash trees, whether infected or not. (Forest Research, 2019) Pre-emptive felling of healthy trees, or those seemingly unaffected, should be exceptional. It is worth keeping as much of the current population of ash trees as possible to maintain a diverse genetic resource and identify and retain those trees (and any of their progeny) showing the highest levels of disease tolerance. (Natural England, Forestry Commission, 2019) Making selective informed

pruning decisions, may in some cases reduce risk to acceptable levels and allow safe retention of trees, and in many cases is recommended.

- 4.2.3. Management of diseased trees should prioritise those in the highest risk locations, to maximise the reduction in risk to the public from structural failure of diseased ash trees (Forestry Commission, 2019). Trees that are dying are more likely to shed limbs, or lean and collapse. Where this is likely to pose a safety hazard (adjacent to roads, footpaths or in heavily used areas etc.) such trees should be felled. (Natural England, Forestry Commission, 2019)
- 4.2.4. Reduced fibre length and vessel diameter (Tulik, et al., 2018) in annual growth rings will reduce the structural strength of affected trees over several years. This will lead to mechanically weaker trunks with an increased risk of uncharacteristic breakages under loading, when felling, or when trees and branches hit the ground. (Sankus, 2019)
- 4.2.5. Evidence of basal instability, rapid decline in crown condition and loss of strength in wood fibre, can result in unsafe conditions for climbing arborists, and may necessitate a more pragmatic approach to tree removal for those affected trees in high target areas, before their condition worsens.
- 4.2.6. Guidance on safety measures to undertake during *felling* can be found on the Forestry Industry Safety Accord (FISA) website. Refer to; Safety Guidance for Managers – Felling Dead Ash
- 4.2.7. Guidance on planning works, and safety measures to take while carrying out *climbing operations* can be found on the Arboricultural Association website; Ash Dieback Guidance for Tree Owners, managers, Contractors and Consultants
- 4.2.8. The decaying wood within dead and dying trees is a valuable wildlife habitat due to the niche ecological functions for saproxylic organisms. It may therefore be appropriate to pollard trees rather than fell them, to encourage standing deadwood habitat. It is worth noting that bats, which are European Protected Species (EPS), are likely to quickly find and utilise dead and dying trees. Full surveys for EPS should always be undertaken when carrying out management works. (Natural England, Forestry Commission, 2019)
- 4.2.9. Take every opportunity to identify and retain trees that are highly resilient. The Living Ash Project, including Defra and Forest Research, is carrying out screening and selection trials to identify individuals with a high degree of tolerance which may in future be cloned or bred for future restocking.
- 4.2.10. Provision of replacement planting of any removed trees should be planned and carried out to.
- 4.2.11. Ash dominated woodland owners are encouraged to refer to - [Forestry Commission ON046 – Managing ash in woodlands in the light of ash dieback](#)
- 4.2.12. SSSI woodland owners are encouraged to refer to - [Managing woodland SSSIs with ash dieback \(*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*\)](#)

Ash dieback management decision tool



DRY

5. Risk Matrix

We have produced a Management intervention model Risk Matrix to formalise the decision-making process in individual trees (Tree Council, 2018). Used in conjunction with the Risk area Zoning (NFDC, 2014) and Ash Inspection Methodology (Suffolk County Council, n.d.) this will assist decision making.

% of remaining canopy	Likelihood of Branch Failure	Likelihood of Major Limb Failure	Likelihood of Full Tree Failure	Risk	Recommended Inspection Approach	Recommended Management Intervention	Risk to Tree Contractors
Ash Health Class 1 - 100% full canopy	Low	Low	Low		Current inspection interval in line with Corporate Tree strategy	Action unlikely	Assess tree and site specific risks, in line with current risk assessment and safe system of work procedures
Ash Health Class 2 - 75% canopy	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate		Increase monitoring to annual inspections	Action maybe required	Assess tree and site specific risks, in line with current risk assessment and safe system of work procedures
Ash Health Class 3 - 50% canopy	High	High	High		intensive monitoring likely required	Action Likely	Assess tree and site specific risks, in line with current risk assessment and safe system of work procedures
Ash Health Class 4 - 25% canopy	Very High	Very High	Very High		intensive monitoring likely required	Action required	High risk structural failure imminent

High	Medium	Low
High Zone: e.g. Main roads (A and B roads), residential and business properties, Council depots, high use footpaths, car parks (typically full all day). Trees adjacent to railway lines, school playgrounds and play areas. Inspected formally every two years and inspected reactively in response to enquiries. Also subject to informal observation during normal Council activities.	Medium Zone: Lower use roads (C and D roads), open spaces with regular use, cemeteries, regularly used footpaths, intermittently used car parks (rarely full). Trees adjacent to domestic gardens. Inspected formally every four to five years and inspected reactively in response to enquiries. Also subject to informal observation during normal Council activities.	Low Zone: Low use footpaths (<1 person per day), trees alongside waterways, low use open spaces. A formal walk or drive by group (overview) inspection, every 5 years, around the perimeter of the site and along any routes of access such as footpaths.

6. Inspection Methodology

Identifying the symptoms of Ash Dieback in large trees can be difficult, in step with other Local Authorities across the UK, NFDC has reassessed its inspection system and has been labelling its ash health by the parameters set out in the Suffolk County Council Ash Health Assessment System. The Tree Canopy assessment has been widely used across Europe since 1986. In 1990 the Forestry

Commission produced a book 'Assessment of Tree Condition' to enable a standard system for describing the condition of a tree based on the percentage of existing canopy remaining. Individual tree condition can be quantified using this 4-category framework, enabling data to be collected, and informing management interventions.



Ash Health Class 1 - 100% full canopy, Vitality Class 0:

Healthy vigorous trees showing treetop shoots in the exploration phase: both the main axes and part of the lateral twigs consist of long-shoots. For this reason, a regular net-like branching pattern is developed, which reaches deep into the interior of the crown. The crowns are equally closed and domed, and do not show any greater gap unless a stronger intervention has occurred, such as pruning measures, because such a gap is closed quickly by the intensive ramification. In summer, dense foliage arises without any greater gap.



Ash Health Class 2 - 75% canopy, Vitality Class 1:

Weakened trees show treetop shoots in the degeneration phase. Thus, spears/“fox tails” are formed, rising above the canopy. The leaves on these spears are dense and grow all around them (at the top of the lateral short-shoots or shortshoot chains). The crowns make a frazzled impression on the outside, and have a fastigiates appearance, because the airspace between the spears is not completely filled by leaves and twigs, and the crown has a spiky outline. Inside the crown, the branching pattern, and hence the foliage, is quite dense. In this vitality class, straight percurrent main axes of the treetop branches are still dominant, but the crowns no longer look as intact as in class 0 because of the spears shooting out of the canopy.



Ash Health Class 3 - 50% canopy Vitality Class 2:

In obviously less vigorous trees, the treetop shoots begin to build shortshoots in the stagnation phase. The leafless state could be designated as the claw stage, because the short-shoot chains in the outside of the crowns grow longer, are predominant, and stretch claw-like to the light. These short-shoot chains, growing too long, break off in summer in thunderstorms and heavy rains, and strew the forest floor in declining stands. Under normal circumstances, trees get rid of parts of their unimportant twigs in the inner and lower crown parts in this way. However, if the treetop shoots themselves are declining, the self-pruning of twigs progresses into the outskirts of the crown, and the crowns become thin from the inside outwards. The cause for this occurrence is not premature leaf fall, but broken short-shoot chains, a lack of shoots, and dead buds and twigs. The branching pattern shows a bushy and lumpy accumulation in the periphery of the crown. This accumulation causes summer and winter bushy crown structures and greater gaps. The crown periphery still has hardly any straight percurrent branches.



Ash Health Class 4 - 25% canopy Vitality class 3:

In considerably damaged or declining trees, the dieback of whole crown parts is evident, with the crown finally falling apart by breaking off larger branches. The tree seems to consist only of more or less surplus sub-crowns, dispersed randomly in the airspace and forming whip-like structures. The treetop is often dying back or is already dead, because the treetop shoots grew in the retraction phase.

7. Biodiversity

- 7.1. Ash supports a high number of species that exclusively or significantly depend on it as a host or food source. 955 species are known to be associated with ash trees: 12 birds, 28 mammals, 58 bryophytes, 68 fungi, 239 invertebrates and 548 lichens²⁶. 62 are highly associated, and 44 are restricted to ash. Those species which are in the last category or highly associated with ash and already accorded threatened status are at particular risk. There are 69 such species in the UK: 13 fungi, 6 bryophytes, 37 invertebrates and 13 lichens. Assuming the high levels of tree mortality arrive, there is a realistic risk of large population declines.
- 7.2. Historically, in the New Forest ash survived the decline in tree diversity caused by the mass Navy fellings of the 17th and 18th centuries, as occasional old pollards. Combined with the effect of grazing had led to serious declines in Ash, Small Leaved Lime and Hazel, which had survived centuries of grazing previously. Ash has recovered considerably on the most fertile soils, especially in the internationally important old growth flood plain woodlands, an Annex 1 Priority Habitat in the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 1992). The oldest Ash trees support important lichen species such as *Wadeana dendrographa* (NT, BAP, IR & NS*), and are important refuge trees for declining *Lobarion* (lichen) species. The abundant younger ash represented a promising future resource of base rich bark for colonisation by rare lichens, however the impact of Chalara and future loss of ash on the New Forest lichen community is significant, and will be in a condition worse than that produced by the Navy fellings (Sanderson, 2012).
- * NT = Near Threatened Red Data Book species, BAP = Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species, IR = International Rare species, NR = Nationally Rare & NS = Nationally Scarce
- 7.3. The ecological functioning of ash (rapid rate of decomposition of leaves with a consequent high rate of nutrient recycling, successional processes) is very different from most other tree species within the UK. The loss of ash from ash dominant woodlands will alter the ecological functioning of these woodlands. An increase in light caused by the loss of ash from the canopy or a decrease caused by the replacement of ash with a tree species that casts more shade, will initially notably affect ground flora. A gradual change of woodland composition towards other tree species may result in slower nutrient cycling, greater carbon storage, changes in soil formation, and shifts in soil community with resulting changes in ecosystem function.
- 7.4. Understanding which site-specific species and communities will likely be affected is important for woodland management, so by retaining infected trees for as long as possible, and monitoring changes in woodland ground flora, appropriate management options may be found and replacement trees to plant, to encourage to regenerate, can be selected.
- 7.5. The current choice of trees to plant or encourage as replacements for lost ash is not straightforward. No one native tree or even several species together will fully substitute for the ecological traits, biodiversity or commercial attributes of ash. Instead, replacement planting should focus on a diversity of species, the exact mix being dependent on site-specific characteristics, informed by climate change resilience and ecosystem service delivery.

- 7.6. Ash leaves are nutrient and base rich, decomposing with a fast nutrient turnover producing a higher pH soil, a large factor in soil quality. **Alder** and **lime** leaves have similar qualities, to a lesser extent **sycamore**, **field maple** and **aspen**. **Elm (Dutch elm disease resistant)** is closely matched in terms of pollen and nectar production, flowering time, fruit type and tree height, followed by **birch** and **rowan**. Many generalist animal species that feed on ash can also be found on **oak**, **beech**, **sycamore**, **birch** and **hazel**. For specialist insects, mosses and lichens, **elm** is the best substitute, followed by **sycamore**, **aspen**, **oak** and **hazel**. (MITCHELL, et al., 2014)
- 7.7. By proactively encouraging the growth of replacement trees of several different species, in line with the national recommendations, we will substantially mitigate the impact of the disease on biodiversity.
- 7.8. Natural England and the Forestry Commission have produced a guidance note SSSIs28 for SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) woodland and other places of nature conservation importance where ash is significant. This guidance note contains many practical examples and advice managers of ash dominated forests. Guidance on coppicing, thinning, stand diversification and promoting resilience, [https://livingashproject.org.uk/pdfs/NE%20FC%20Ash%20dieback%20SSSI%20management%20advice%20April%202015%20\(3\).pdf](https://livingashproject.org.uk/pdfs/NE%20FC%20Ash%20dieback%20SSSI%20management%20advice%20April%202015%20(3).pdf)
- 7.9. There is no straightforward method to conserve ash-associated biodiversity. Suitable management plans that meet the site-specific objectives for individual woodlands should be devised.

8. Future Resilience

- 8.1. The main objective will be to ensure tree population resilience; this is likely to be achieved most successfully by introducing a high level of species diversity. Diversity of tree species, and diverse genetics within those tree species, is central to adaptation and ensuring tree population resilience in the future
- 8.2. The use of healthy planting stock is critical to the biosecurity and resilience of our tree population. NFDC's Corporate Tree Team select high quality, disease free planting stock, grown strictly in accordance with BS3936 (1992) Specification for Trees and Shrubs. Due to the pests and disease risks associated with the importation of trees, we feel it is important to support and work with high quality suppliers that can meet these specifications and select trees of known provenance.
- 8.3. NFDC has a 2 for 1 tree replanting policy.

9. Impacts to Ecosystem Services

The impact to the climate through a loss of associated ecosystem regulation services currently provided by ash trees may result in the following:

- 9.1. Regulating services - Air quality & Water
- Reductions in local air quality due to loss of physical screening and particulate absorption - *Potential negative affect on public health*
 - Increases in noise levels adjacent to roads - *Potential negative affect on public health & loss of amenity*
 - Increased heat island effect - *Potential negative affect on public health*

- Water infiltration into the soil is aided by tree roots, therefore the future potential for an increase in localised flooding exists. As water extraction by these trees is also lost this runoff effect may be exaggerated. - *potential for damage to property*
- Potential for increased flooding due to dyke-killer effect as bankside roots die, and become a translocation vector from water sources - *potential for damage to property*
- Potential for future bank instability and erosion as tree roots rot and cease to provide structural support - *potential for damage to property*

9.2. Cultural services - Streetscape/Community

- Loss of visual screens between residents – *Loss of amenity*
- Changes to streetscene and local character - *Loss of amenity*

9.3. Supporting services – Biodiversity/carbon

- Risks to protected species/sites through alteration of habitat structure, stability and composition – *Potential biodiversity net losses*
- Release of stored carbon and loss of sequestration – *Tree loss will result in loss of carbon take up & storage potential, with carbon released as the wood is processed for biomass or decomposes on site. Replanting schemes should be devised to mitigate this.*

These impacts will be mitigated on NFDC land by a comprehensive replanting program, based on the current 2 for 1 strategy, to ensure no overall loss of canopy cover. Additional new woodland whip planting will also be necessary to address loss of habitat.

10. Landscape

Discussion of the impact on wider landscape character is outside the scope of this plan, due to the segmented land holdings of NFDC. However, an initial brief NFDC land specific appraisal is offered here.

- 10.1. The eventual loss of mature ash trees in town centre Car Parks and Open Spaces will have a significant visual effect in those communities. Trees with large canopies will take generations to replace, and in many cases due to site use and available planting space, soil volume and condition, establishment into maturity may be uncertain.
- 10.2. The loss of mature ash trees in Housing areas, and adjacent Open Spaces will have a significant visual effect in those communities. This will require a proactive program of planting within open spaces in ash dominant areas, whilst also within the larger housing properties, and individual council owned houses, to replace those garden trees.
- 10.3. The long-term impact on woodlands may not be so apparent from afar with other species opportunistically filling the voids where ground conditions are favourable. However woodland edges adjacent to housing areas are generally not ideal for encouraging natural regeneration; in many sites an accumulation of litter, plastic detritus and fly tipped garden waste, has affected soil conditions often raising levels significantly. This combined with usage pressure from desire line footpaths and rear access gates may require whole site management plans to establish new trees. The formulation of woodland management plans will allow application for restocking grant funding.
- 10.4. The eventual loss of mature ash trees in Cemeteries will have some visual impact however space for replanting is available within the older cemetery sections and opportunities for structural planting around each site will offset losses.
- 10.5. The decline of isolated ash trees from hedges will be obvious, requiring new trees to be selected and allowed to grow into trees by protecting them from the annual maintenance cut.

Due to the wide effects of the disease, this plan requires all NFDC landholders to fully collaborate for the measures outlined to be effective, it is required that each NFDC department fully engages with the actions placed upon them, and with the Corporate Tree Team.

11. Expenditure

This action plan considers the likely costs of responding to the disease, and so attempts to identify where extra resources are likely to be needed. The NFDC Corporate Tree Team have been proactively engaged with inspections and good management of the tree stock, as a responsible local authority. This vast inventory database has been used to model budget forecasts and we will actively engage with those department responsible, highlighting necessary budgetary implications. The additional budgets required to enable NFDC to fulfil their statutory tree safety functions, will require full cooperation from all departments, to ensure this resource is available.

12. Action Plan v1

Set out in the table below are specific actions that are required to be undertaken. This will involve a collaborate approach across many council departments, and cooperation at all levels is required. The actions are broadly organised under the following headings:

1. Policy

Primary high-level action points to be outlined, and formalised into NFDC Policy

2. Media

Communication of this action plan to all stakeholders

3. Assessment of tree stock

Further data analysis will inform the resources required, for both inspection and tree work, with reference also to Town/Parish council SLA partners

4. Training

Training will be required for operational staff to enable a timely internal reporting procedure, and ensure awareness throughout council at all levels

5. Preparedness/Operational resilience

Resources for surveying will be in high demand, the action points listed will enable the council to perform its statutory function

6. Review of corporate risk assessments

Review of this document by Corporate Health & Safety

7. Recovery

Actions to ensure budgets will be available for replanting schemes and steps to ensure no overall loss of tree cover.

	Action	Lead by	Priority	Forecast completion date
Policy [1]	Produce and adopt an Action Plan document and update as required	TO		Jan 2020
Policy [1]	Update Tree policy & Risk Strategy	TO		Jan 2020
Policy [1]	Ensure Ash dieback is a feature of any emerging NFDC Climate/Environmental (Coles, 2019) Action Plan through engagement with Cllrs/ responsible officers/panel	SM/TO		2020/21
Policy [1]	Update guidance to inform TPO decisions/ replant conditions in relation to ash dieback	TO		2020/21
Policy [1]	Standalone dedicated Planning conditions to ensure enhanced biosecurity & provenance in tree sourcing to be devised and implemented on all new developments across the entire NFDC area	TO/CPO/Planning Officers		August 2020
Policy [1]	Develop a tree purchasing standard to ensure high levels of biosecurity / provenance in trees purchased by NFDC.	Corporate trees		November 2020
Policy [1]	Development monitoring procedure to ensure compliance with conditions	Planning officers/TO /Planning Enforcement		2020/21
Policy [1]	Private landowners may be unable/unwilling to meet costs of undertaking works to affected trees. Costs of carrying out works will be prohibitively high without reclamation of costs. Request Cabinet to give Delegated powers under the Misc Provisions Act S.23 & 24 to be given to Corporate Tree Officers & Planning Tree Officers & right of entry to enable essential safety works to be carried out swiftly in these situations	TO/SM/EH		July 2020

Policy [1]	Change Tenancy conditions to further restrict tree work by Council Housing Tenants due to increased risk	Housing/Le gal		Jan 2020
Policy [1]	Review of corporate risk assessments & all Policies where Ash Dieback is likely to have an effect	All		Jan 2020
Media [2]	Hold meetings with NPA to form cohesive media & communication strategy	TO / Comms		Oct 2019
Media [2]	Hold meetings with HCC to form cohesive media & communication strategy	TO / Comms		Oct 2019
Media [2]	Release initial Ash dieback identified in area notice	TO / Comms		May 2019
Media [2]	Inform Parishes within SLA of Ash dieback	TO / Comms		May 2019
Media [2]	Inform all Parishes of Ash dieback, within Executive Head Information Bulletin	TO / Comms/ BJ		2020
Media [2]	Engagement with local tree contractors to highlight hazard	TO / Comms /PTO /NPA		Ongoing
Media [2]	Produce no tradesmen window stickers to counter rogue traders	TO / Comms		Sep 2019
Media [2]	Alert Trading Standards to any reports of rogue tree contractors linked to Ash dieback	TO / Comms		ongoing
Media [2]	Work with partners to prepare media to local land/home owners to highlight importance of inspection of trees (ongoing)	TO / Comms		ongoing
Media [2]	Produce Ash Dieback FAQ's and publish on the NFDC website.	TO		2021
Assessment of tree stock [3]	Monitoring of tree stock using revised inspection methodology	TO		ongoing
Assessment of tree stock [3]	Identification of affected trees likely to require proactive removal due to position, access etc.	TO		ongoing

Assessment of tree stock [3]	Analysis of ash tree numbers to produce forecast for parish councils under the SLA	TO		Sep 2019
Assessment of tree stock [3]	NFDC Accounts Dept to analyse financial forecast including parish councils and feedback to Tree Officers	ACC		ongoing
Assessment of tree stock [3]	Communicate financial forecast to parish councils under the SLA with advice from Accounts ref precepts etc	TO		awaiting
Training [4]	Produce training material	TO		Dec 2019
Training [4]	Hold engagement sessions with relevant service managers	TO/ SM/relevant Service managers		Jan 2019
Training [4]	Inform/train Corporate Tree Contractors of hazard	TO		April 2019 Aug 2019
Training [4]	Keep up to date with national position and latest research, attending industry seminars where possible	TO		TBA
Training [4]	Train in house ground staff	TO		Dec 2019
Training [4]	Hold training/awareness sessions with all relevant departmental heads of staff	TO/ Department Heads		asap
Training [4]	Opportunities for information sharing and collaboration with external partners will be explored	TO		ongoing
Preparedness /operational resilience [5]	Build business case & additional capacity/resource. Budgets, and work streams	TO /SM		asap
Preparedness /operational resilience [5]	Recruit additional in-house surveyor/resource	TO /SM		Start date June 2020
Preparedness /operational resilience [5]	Procure additional surveying equipment for additional surveyor	TO		May 2020
Preparedness /operational resilience [5]	Procure Additional Exytreev software license for additional surveyor	TO		May 2020

Preparedness /operational resilience [5]	Procure Additional Exytreev software licenses and tablets etc for Planning Tree Officers to update & improve data efficiency	TO		April 2020
Preparedness /operational resilience [5]	Additional demands on Grounds Maintenance staff for miscellaneous tasks. Budget for & recruit extra staff/equipment	SOS		asap
Review of corporate risk assessments [6]	Ash Dieback Action Plan to be reviewed by Corporate Health & Safety Dept	AW		April 2020
Recovery [7]	Tree replacement schemes to be planned and funded to offset expected loss of tree cover. Funding to be discussed – options may include a central (non-departmental) planting specific budget, or S.106 contributions			Ongoing
Recovery [7]	Explore available grant funding for tree planting/ replacement schemes to offset expected loss of tree cover	TO		ongoing
Recovery [7]	Increase availability of additional tree planting/ new woodland/ mitigation land through planning process. Areas identified in local plan, and other new development/ Sangs/Angs	PTO		ongoing
Recovery [7]	Increase availability of additional tree planting/ new woodland/ mitigation land. Discuss and consider viability of purchasing suitable land.	PTO		ongoing
Recovery [7]	Investigate opportunities for the development of a tree replacement scheme to provide free / low cost trees to landowners to mitigate tree loss due to ash dieback			ongoing

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