

Highways

Highways Commissioning
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Date: Friday, 27 November 2020

Ash Dieback Project

Dear Sir/Madam

This year Gloucestershire County Council launched the Ash Dieback Project to start to tackle the effects of Ash Dieback within the county, as our immediate concern will be to protect users of the Highway and County Council land from the danger posed by numerous dying trees. The general consensus currently is that up to 95% of ash trees in the UK may eventually become affected by the disease.

What is ash dieback?

Ash dieback is a disease that causes leaf loss and dying branches, and can lead to the death of a tree. The disease attacks ash trees quickly and there currently is no prevention or treatment available.

Ash dieback may kill a young tree in only a single year, but older trees may take a number of years to perish.

Ash trees are very common in Gloucestershire and cutting down any tree is a huge loss to our county's biodiversity, but this is something we must do to stop more trees becoming diseased.

We are fully committed to stopping this disease, saving as many trees as we can and undertaking a programme of tree planting throughout the county.

What is the ash dieback project?

Ash dieback damages tree's limbs and causes them to become unsafe. These diseased trees have an increased risk of collapsing which can be dangerous, especially if they fall on a road.

Our crews are carrying out essential work around the county to remove the unsafe trees that are infected with ash dieback.



Private Landowners

Privately owned ash tree/s that are within falling of the highway which are considered to be an imminent risk to highway users will be identified, we will write to the landowners advising them of their reasonability and required action to be taken within a stipulated time period.

Symptoms Guide of Chalara Dieback of Ash

Symptoms Guide: Chalara Dieback of Ash



Crown dieback
Dead or dying tops of infected trees are most obvious during the summer. Sudden foliar collapse may occur as stems and branches are girdled.

Photo: Ben Jones, Forestry Commission



Leaf collapse
Wilting and collapsed leaves are most visible in spring and early summer.

Lesions and cankers
Lesions and cankers on stems, branches and shoots are visible throughout the year. Often the lesions are diamond shaped, sunken and with uneven edges, although the appearance can vary.



Compartmentalised cankers
Some cankers may appear dry and cracked and there may be evidence of the tree compartmentalising the infection.





Leaf dieback
The dieback of leaves with brown or sometimes black leaf stalks can be most easily seen throughout summer.



Blackened rachis
Between June and October the black toughened rachises (leaf stalks) can be found in amongst the leaf litter. You may also see the tiny white trumpet shaped fruiting bodies that have emerged from the stalk.

For more details, please visit www.forestry.gov.uk/ashdieback

Useful links & further information

GCC Ash Dieback Webpage <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/road-maintenance/trees/ash-dieback/>
Article & short video about Ash Dieback <https://newseu.cgtn.com/news/2020-11-02/UK-ash-trees-losing-fight-against-deadly-fungus-V2RJtsTzTW/index.html>

Chalara Dieback of Ash Dieback Symptoms <https://www.trees.org.uk/Trees.org.uk/media/Trees.org.uk/Documents/FC/Chalara.pdf>

ARB approved Contractor Directory <https://www.trees.org.uk/ARB-Approved-Contractor-Directory>

Choosing your tree surgeon (Arborist) <https://www.trees.org.uk/Trees.org.uk/media/Trees.org.uk/Documents/ArbAC/Choosing-Your-Arborist-Lft-19-Public.pdf>

If you have any queries, please email AshDieback@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Yours faithfully



Sara Noons
Ash Dieback Officer