

# A Farmer's Guide to Ash Dieback

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Six Simple Steps  
to identifying,  
assessing &  
managing  
Ash Dieback



LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND FARMING



# Introduction

Having healthy and plentiful trees on your farm is increasingly important in the face of the climate and ecological crisis. Ash dieback is a fungal disease affecting ash trees across Britain and with farmland accounting for 71% of the UK's land use, farmers play a critical role as stewards of ash and other tree species.

Ash trees provide a multitude of benefits to farm businesses and nature, contributing to biodiversity, habitat connectivity and resilience. Benefits include flooding and soil erosion prevention, providing habitats to pollinators and crop pest predators such as birds and insects, protecting watercourses, providing shelterbelts to help reduce spray drift and run-off and providing farm business diversification opportunities.

LEAF is delighted to have developed this practical manual with expert guidance, outlining six simple steps to help farmers and landowners identify, assess and manage ash dieback. It also has useful sections on wider health and safety issues, legal obligations around felling and ways to reduce costs associated with managing ash dieback.

We hope this simple guide will be an invaluable resource to help you make more informed decisions to protect your business, people, nature and the planet.

This guide has been developed by LEAF in close collaboration with Defra and Forest Research with input from the University of Exeter and Fera. Our grateful thanks to all those involved in developmental workshops, review sessions and video production.





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## Who is responsible for trees on farms?

Ash dieback can render trees dangerous and unpredictable. Owners of farmland are responsible for any trees on their farm. Tenant farmers need to liaise with the landowner to establish who has responsibility for trees on farm. The legal owner of any tree has a 'duty of care' under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957. Tree owners are expected to offer reasonable protection to 'visitors' and ensure employees and contractors are not put at risk. While tree owners are not expected to guarantee that a tree is safe, they are responsible for minimising any risks they present. Therefore, understanding and managing ash dieback is important for farmers and landowners. Failing to manage ash dieback can, in the worst-case scenario lead to serious harm, and the tree owner can in such circumstances be prosecuted.

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## Purpose of this Guide

This simple guide is designed to help you make informed decisions and take the necessary steps to protect people, nature and your businesses from ash dieback and other tree health issues. If you have ash dieback, you will need to be proactive and take action. However, acting on ash dieback can take many forms, with felling being the last resort. Start with mapping and monitoring your ash trees, recording the state of the trees. Then seek advice, inform yourself about statutory obligations, and manage the trees where necessary.

The guide sets out two phases:

1. **Responding** to ash dieback
2. **Recovering** from ash dieback

There are **six steps** within these phases. Each section of the guide addresses important questions that will help inform your ash dieback management decisions.

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# Responding to Ash Dieback

## STEP 1. IDENTIFY AND ASSESS ASH DIEBACK ON YOUR FARM

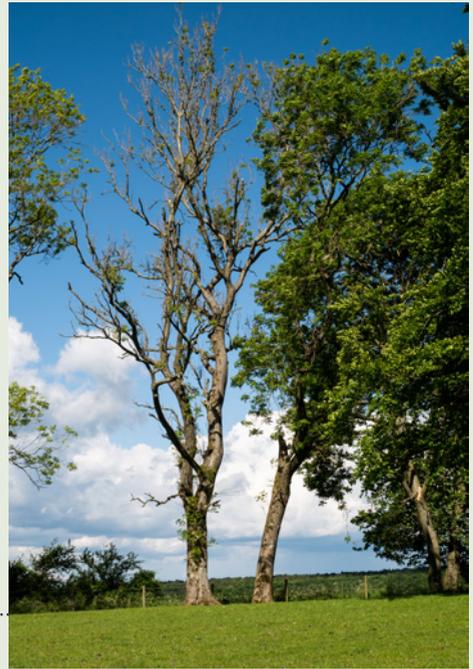
### How do I identify ash dieback?

Ash trees are affected by a range of different pests and diseases and are often prone to leaf loss and leaf wilt caused by late frosts and heavy winds, so it is not always easy to identify ash dieback. The easiest time to do an ash dieback assessment is during the summer months. Photos showing common symptoms affecting ash trees are shown here. For more guidance on identifying ash dieback, visit the appendix on page 30.

Healthy ash seeds,  
leaves and leaf stems



# Gallery of common ash dieback symptoms



○ Thinning of the crown due to ash dieback



○ Dropped debris from ash dieback



○ Presence of secondary infection, typically shaggy bracket fungus



○ Evidence of ash dieback in felled tree logs showing reduced internal integrity and limited water flow

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## How do I assess the health of my ash trees and the levels of risk?

There are three steps to assessing the health of your ash trees and their level of risk:

- **Risk mapping:** noting where infected trees are on a farm map and zoning these as high, medium, or low risk.
- **Ash Tree Health Class assessment:** Identifying infected trees using the health class assessment method below.
- **Monitoring:** Continuing to assess and monitor the changing condition of your ash trees.

Watch our video:

Assessing tree  
health & risk level

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## How do I map risks on farm and know where to act?

Mapping high risk zones on your farm will help you minimise the number of trees that will need **monitoring** and **management**, as the trees outside these zones can usually be left standing.

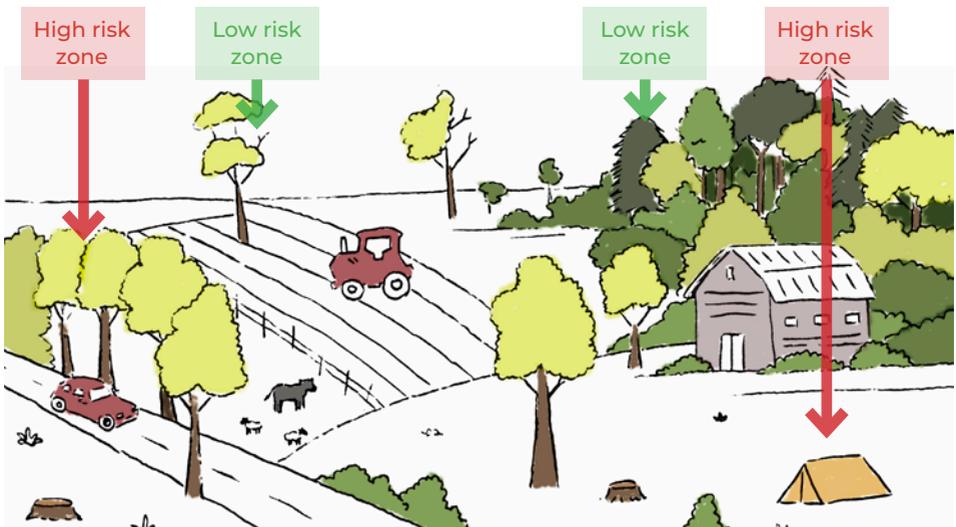
### Identifying high risk ash trees

Assessment methods can help identify which individual trees may need attention more urgently than others by categorising those with the most advanced symptoms, secondary infections, and therefore greatest risk. If you are unsure, consult with a local professional (Forestry Commission officer or arboriculturist) who can provide a detailed report.

## Mapping risk zones on farm

Mapping infected trees can be an easy, desk top exercise using existing maps, this will help you prioritise areas or zones of the farm where diseased trees pose high, medium and low risk, and any remedial actions or assessments you may need to carry out.

- **High risk zones** are areas frequently used by people (roads, paths, carparks, farmyards, campsites, footpaths, and bridleways). Property and other valuable infrastructure may be present too (e.g. farm buildings, car parks, power cables) depending on the proximity of an ash tree. High risk zones require frequent inspections and tree health assessments. Trees in high-risk zones are more likely to require remedial action.
- **Medium risk zones** may be areas on farm less frequently used or accessed by farm staff or the public. This may include permissive walking routes or farm tracks.
- **Low risk zones** are likely to be infrequently used, with no or little valuable infrastructure in reach of a diseased tree (e.g. ash trees in fields or field boundaries, shelter belts or woodlands sparsely populated with ash).



# Ash tree Health Class assessment

The **ash tree Health Class assessment**, adapted from the Tree Council and Suffolk County Council's original four-part system, provides a quick assessment as to the severity of the infection by looking at the condition of the tree crown. This assessment uses leaves in the canopy so needs to be done when the tree is in leaf.

CLASS		
VITALITY (LEAVES) IN THE CROWN	100 - 75%	75 - 50%
RISK LEVEL	MINIMAL RISK	MODERATE TO HIGH RISK DEPENDING ON LOCATION & SECONDARY INFECTIONS
ACTIONS	Inspect annually if in high to medium risk areas. Inspect for fungus or basal lesions which may increase level of risk, despite a healthy crown.	Increase inspection frequency. Apply for a felling licence if next to a public highway / access. Consult a professional if unsure.
BENEFITS	Benefiting wildlife, soil, and livestock and people. Carbon sequestration.	Benefiting wildlife, soil, and livestock and people. Carbon sequestration.

Health Class 1 shows little evidence of dieback and can be considered a healthy tree while Health Class 4 shows extensive dieback of leaves and dead branches. The rate of deterioration from Class 1 to 4 varies. There are different actions that may be appropriate for each Health Class depending on the risks posed.

Tree health and safety is not solely determined by the vitality or health of the crown. An ash tree may display a green and full canopy but show secondary infections elsewhere. **Secondary infections, indicated by rot and fungal growth, affect the tree's internal structure. Therefore, you must consider the integrity of the branches, the tree trunk and tree base, alongside the tree canopy's health.**

		<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CLASS</p>
<p>50 - 25%</p>	<p>25 - 0%</p>	
<p><b>HIGH RISK DEPENDING ON LOCATION &amp; SECONDARY INFECTIONS</b></p>	<p><b>ELEVATED RISK DEPENDING ON LOCATION &amp; SECONDARY INFECTIONS</b></p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">RISK LEVEL</p>
<p>Apply for a felling licence if you haven't already. Seek professional advice before proceeding with any works at this stage.</p>	<p>For Class 4 trees next to a public highway / access action should be arranged to remove the hazard. You are encouraged to seek professional help for determining and carrying out works needed.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">ACTIONS</p>
<p>Continued benefits to wildlife. Dead wood provides habitat and nutrients to soils. Carbon still being sequestered.</p>	<p>Continued benefits to wildlife. Dead wood provides habitat and nutrients to soils. Carbon still being stored.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">BENEFITS</p>



## Risk Zones: gallery of examples

These images show examples of common on-farm situations for ash trees and potential risk zones.

### High Risk Zone



#### Roadside ash trees

Frequently used roads, with fast moving traffic. Risk of debris dropping, or tree falling, and striking road users. Infected ash trees should be assessed regularly to establish their risk.

If unsure, seek a professional opinion and apply to the Forestry Commission for your felling licence as early as you can for diseased roadside ash.

Under the Highways Act 1980, the authorities may contact landowners and request actions on their trees. If landowners do not comply, they may carry out the work then claim the costs from the landowner.



#### Areas with public use

Typically, areas with high 'foot-fall' or usage for a range of activities. Busy footpaths, or campsites. Risk of dead wood dropping, or tree falling, and striking people below.

Ash in these areas may provide aesthetic value to people. Consider how you can avoid felling by changing how the space is used. A risk assessment, and regular inspections or even trimming of branches may be recommended by a professional.



### Areas with infrastructure: buildings and powerlines

Typically, areas with infrastructure that may pose an indirect risk to people if damaged by falling deadwood or trees, or where damage to assets represents a significant liability or risk to business.

## Medium Risk Zone



### Areas with public use

Typically, areas with low to moderate and infrequent usage. Remedial actions may still be recommended after tree health and risk assessment.

## Low Risk Zone



### Field Trees

In-field trees are typically low risk to people and livestock. They have great nature, soil, carbon, and aesthetic benefits. Unless debris interferes with the field's role, leave deadwood wherever possible.



### Ash trees in woodland

Low risk woodlands are typically those where ash makes up a small-medium proportion of the trees, and where there are no or very few permissive paths. Advice about managing woodlands with a high proportion of ash can be found on the Forestry Commission website.



## STEP 2. PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Health and safety considerations are a critical element of all tree management. Ash dieback can render ash trees dangerous and unpredictable.

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### **What are the health and safety risks I need to consider dealing with ash dieback?**

Ash dieback and secondary infections cause ash trees to lose their structural integrity and become brittle. Infected trees can react unpredictably when being worked on or felled, even in the early stages of infection. Take extra safety precautions when working on infected ash trees and let the professionals do the work.

Dangers include:

- Potential whole tree failure (falling trees)
- Branch (limb) failure (falling or breaking away)
- Rapid and widespread shattering of wood as it hits the ground or other limbs.

It is crucial that work associated with mature, diseased trees, in high-risk zones, is completed by professionals with appropriate machinery and protective equipment. Climbing ash trees and other traditional approaches for remedial works are no longer recommended by organisations including the [Forest Industry Safety Accord](#).

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## What are my legal obligations?

The overall risk of trees to human health and safety is relatively low, however legal obligations exist for ash as for other trees on your farm. The legal owner of any tree has a 'duty of care' under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957. Those responsible for trees are expected to offer reasonable protection to 'visitors' from any hazards they present. Employers are also responsible for ensuring employees are not put at risk during any works on trees according to the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

While tree owners are not expected to guarantee that a tree is safe, being aware of your legal responsibilities and the level of risk is especially important if you have diseased trees. For tenant farmers, your legal obligations will be determined by your contract so be sure to check.

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## Do I need insurance and / or records?

Storms, high winds, and other natural events may result in harm or damage regardless of any actions you may have taken to lessen the risks. Having insurance suited to your circumstances, including public liability insurance and employers' liability insurance, should provide you with financial protections from such events. Advisors and contractors should also have the relevant insurance. It is good practice to check this. Generally, regular tree surveys are required to comply with the chosen insurer's policy.

Record keeping will be important if you face a liability claim. It is not necessary to keep records for every tree on farm, but they are useful for trees present in a high-risk zone. Priority trees on farm maps, photographs, records of previous assessments, surveys or remedial actions or other records demonstrate your efforts to manage risk.

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## STEP 3. PREPARE TO ACT

Being proactive and planning where possible is highly recommended. This enables you to make well informed, measured decisions which can save time and costs. In most cases, this includes applying for a felling licence in good time. Through this process, you can get professional advice from your local the Forestry Commission Woodland Officer on actions to take, including replanting after any felling. Ultimately, you will need a felling licence to remove any trees.

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### Will I need any permissions to deal with infected ash trees?

Different permissions or licences may apply to trees you have decided to reduce or fell. Diseased trees are not exempted from the need for permissions. Employing a tree management professional can help you through this process. Some basic pointers on conditions and permissions associated with the most common legal mechanisms are shown in the flow chart below.

Plan to avoid felling during the main breeding season for nesting birds (March-August). What you need to know about getting permission to fell your trees can be found [here](#).

You can find financial support for managing ash dieback or replanting after losing trees to the disease on the government's webpage on [tree planting and woodland creation](#).

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#### Watch our video:

Acting on infected  
ash trees on farm

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## Do I need a Felling Licence?

- Felling should only be necessary in high-risk zones; trees should be retained where possible across the farm.
- Felling licences are required in most cases if ash trees need to be removed, because tree felling is a regulated activity monitored by the Forestry Commission. The tree owner, agent, or contractor must have a felling licence. If not, the tree owner, timber merchant or contractor could be prosecuted.
- Felling licences are free and valid for a 5-year period. You are therefore encouraged to apply for a felling licence as early as possible. There is no obligation to use the licence once received.
- Your local Forestry Commission Woodland Officer can assist you with this process. If you are using an agent or contractor, they can also apply for a felling licence on your behalf. They will probably charge a fee.
- Note that felling licences can include restocking conditions. Evidence of tree restocking plans may be required during the application. The Forestry Commission can provide advice on what to plant.
- In certain emergency circumstances, i.e a tree is posing an imminent threat to people, you can remove it without a felling licence. However, it is important to have evidence (photographs, assessment notes) to justify the urgency of the actions taken. If such evidence is insufficient, then the Forestry Commission may take action against you.



Watch our video: [Felling Licences](#)

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## Other special permissions to consider before acting on diseased trees

1

Trees providing habitat to nesting birds, European Protected Species (EPS) or UK Red List species, (e.g. Red Squirrels, bats, owls)

Seek advice from wildlife and tree professionals, Natural England and Forestry Commission.

2

Trees protected under a Tree Protection Order (TPO)

Consult with the local authority that issued the TPO about any actions required on the diseased tree(s).

3

Trees within a conservation or other protected area (eg Site of Special Scientific Interest or heritage site etc)

Consult with the local authority about required works at least six weeks in advance. You may need to complete a Supplementary Notice of Operations.

You currently do not require a felling licence if:

- Target trees are less than 8cm in diameter at 1.3m height
- Pruning or pollarding has been recommended
- Target trees are less than 2m<sup>3</sup> of timber (or 5m<sup>3</sup> if timber not sold).
- You can prove that a tree was posing immediate danger before being removed

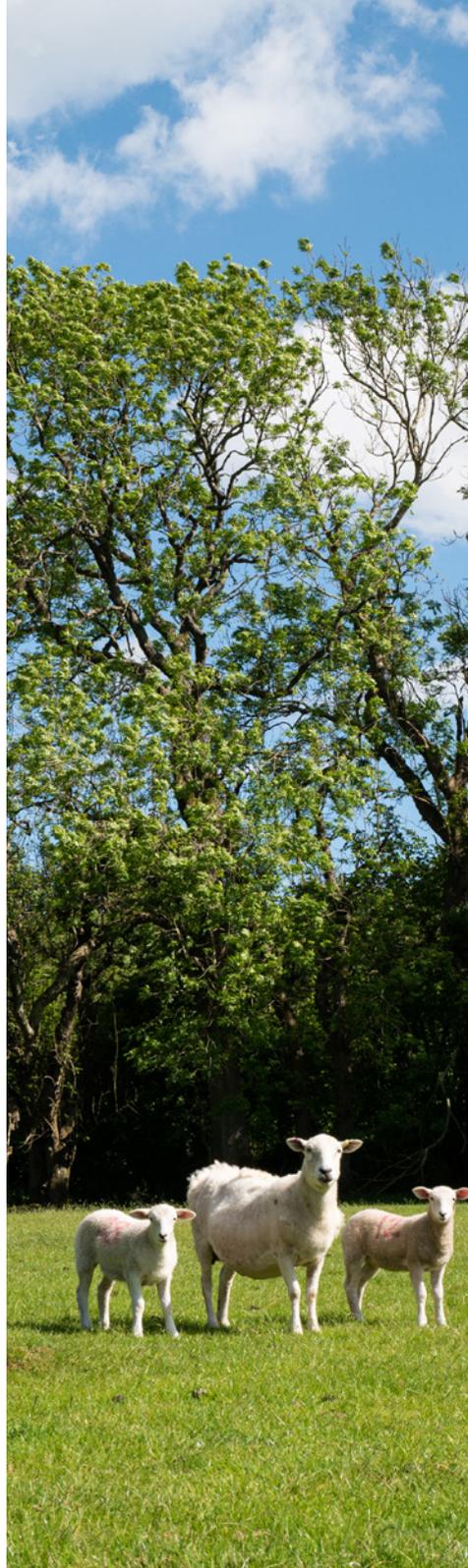
Check with the Forestry Commission, you may still need permissions and a licence in scenarios mentioned above.

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## How can I reduce the costs of managing ash dieback?

Be proactive and plan. Last minute interventions typically cost more. Acting early can reduce costs in the long run. Some of the actions to consider include:

- **Leave dead wood and ash trees standing** wherever possible, saving money and supporting local wildlife.
- **Coordinate work with your neighbour.** Having one contractor deal with multiple trees during one road closure can save closure and administration costs.
- **Act early** in high-risk zones by scheduling in contractors before ash trees appear to be class 4 condition. More severely infected trees can have a lower commercial value and can be more costly to remove.
- **Investigate payment options** with contractors. For example, can work be undertaken for the value of the wood removed?
- **Selling ash**, even for firewood or wood chipping can be lucrative, and other markets may be available depending on condition.





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## Should I engage with the local community?

Felling, removing, or pruning tree branches can raise community concerns. Engage with the community about the work you propose to do and why you need to do it. This can be beneficial where ash trees in high-risk areas provide significant aesthetic value but are declining. Community engagement can lead to:

- **Improved understanding** of the risks presented by diseased trees and the need for their management
- **Greater cooperation** when access to roads and paths are restricted for works
- **Proactive reporting** of tree issues or risks they come across which may need your attention

Engage with your local community about ash dieback on and off farm through:

- **Clear signposting** along paths or on notice boards, gates, stiles, individual trees
  - **Communicating** about ash dieback during farm events, walks, talks, community gatherings
  - **Sharing updates** about ash dieback or other tree risks via social media, local forums, or other online channels
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## STEP 4. TAKE ACTION

Acting on ash dieback can mean many things. For example, monitoring and recording your trees is one way to protect yourself and your business against liability claims. Leaving the trees is the desired option where possible. However, in some cases you will need to undertake work on the tree. This section outlines your considerations and options if tree works are required.

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### **When should I act? Do I need a professional opinion?**

A rule of thumb for deciding when to act is when an ash tree in a high risk location displays 50% or more dieback in its crown (Health Class 3-4). These actions may include removing branches, reducing the canopy (trimming/pruning), or felling. Continued monitoring of seemingly healthy ash trees is also important.

Evidence of a secondary fungal infection, significant rot, or lesions at the base and main body, may justify an ash tree in Classes 2 to 3 being reduced or removed, when in a high-risk zone. It is best to consult a tree health professional to ensure that only essential actions are being taken.

Consulting a qualified professional can help you assess whether there is a significant risk and explain any authorisations and licences required before acting on your ash trees. They can also identify additional considerations before actions are undertaken. These include ways to reduce the impact on wildlife, and potential commercial returns.

There are a range of actions used to manage ash dieback, each with different costs and benefits. These are considered on the next page.

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## What are my choices for acting on diseased ash trees?

Action	Details
Leave the tree	<p>This is a cost-effective and environmentally beneficial approach in low-risk zones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy ash trees should remain standing</li> <li>• Diseased ash trees should remain standing where appropriate in low-risk zones. The standing deadwood provides many benefits to wildlife.</li> </ul>
Modify public access	<p>Minimise risks by limiting access close to an infected tree. For example, limit vehicle or people's ability to approach an infected tree by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using warning signs / markers to warn people or redirect the path if permitted</li> <li>• Restricting access using permanent or temporary barriers</li> <li>• Allowing long grasses, nettles or other vegetation, to grow around trees</li> <li>• Leaving deadwood or logs at the base of the tree</li> </ul>
Pruning or pollarding	<p>Removes the risk of branch failure whilst leaving other parts of the tree alive. In certain circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It can help prolong the life and benefits of the ash tree</li> <li>• Trees can be trimmed back to create beneficial deadwood.</li> <li>• Pruning cuts may draw in infection and pruning or pollarding may also shock a tree and stress it if not done early enough. Consult with a professional to help reduce these risks.</li> <li>• These actions may need repeating, bringing ongoing costs.</li> </ul>
Felling high-risk trees	<p>Only recommended for infected, dying trees located in high-risk zones. Professional contractors, appropriate machinery and health and safety protocols and road closures must be carried out.</p> <p>The highway authorities have a duty to keep roads safe under the Highways Act 1980. They may contact landowners and request actions on their trees. If landowners do not comply, the authorities may carry out the work then claim the costs from the landowner.</p>
Ongoing monitoring	<p>It is not always necessary to reduce or fell trees.</p> <p>Monitoring and checking your trees on a regular basis is one action which helps you demonstrate that you are responsibly managing ash dieback on your farm.</p>

Actions taken will depend on the location of your trees and your assessment of your trees' health. Use the check sheet below to ensure you have taken the required actions before and after working on infected ash trees.

## Action Checklist

Action	Action Checklist	✓
Roadside trees  (High risk zone)	Identified trees between Health Class 2 and 4 and their locations on a map or other media	
	Applied and received a felling licence from the Forestry Commission	
	Consulted with a professional and/or contractor about works and/or special permissions needed	
	Decided on an appropriate action (pruning, trimming, felling, leaving in place etc) and when this can be done	
	Local highways authority has been consulted by yourself and/or your contractor to make road closure arrangements	
	Necessary works completed by professionals	

### Watch our video:

Managing risky roadside ash trees

Trees in areas with significant infrastructure  (High-risk zone)	Identified and mapped mature trees between Health Class 2 and 4 within 10 meters of the powerlines or overhanging a railway to continue monitoring	
	Applied and received a felling licence from the Forestry Commission	
	Contacted relevant utility and transport authorities to arrange works required	
	Provided access and information as required by professionals	
	Monitoring plan in place for ash trees left standing	
Ash trees in areas of public use  (High - medium risk zones)	Identified trees between Health Class 2 and 4 and their locations on a map or other media	
	Surveyed trees for presence of nesting birds or protected species	
	Applied and received a felling licence from the Forestry Commission	
	Consulted with a professional about permissions required (e.g. footpath closure).	
	Necessary action has been decided and arranged with contractors or other work force.	
	Notified local community (signs, discussions, social media)	
	Required works completed safely and professionally	
	Monitoring plan in place for ash trees left standing	
Ash Trees in woodlands, field boundaries, in field  (Low-risk zone)	Determined the risk ash trees in the woodland pose to people/environment	
	Monitoring plan in place to assess their condition in the future	
	If necessary, applied and received a felling licence from the Forestry Commission	
	Ash trees and dead wood left to benefit nature etc.	



# Recovering from Ash Dieback

## STEP 5. PROTECTING TREES ON YOUR FARM

Ash dieback is having a visible and lasting impact on our landscapes. It is important to think about how to maintain tree cover across your farm especially as climate change becomes increasingly evident.

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### How can I reduce the spread of ash dieback and other tree pests and diseases on my farm?

Ash dieback is well established in the UK. The focus is on maintaining and restoring tree cover, rather than preventing the spread of the ash dieback fungus. Nevertheless, there are some simple biosecurity measures that can reduce the risk of other tree pest and diseases spreading on your farm:

The [Keep It Clean campaign](#) promotes good biosecurity practice. Before and after entering any area with vulnerable tree species you should clean:

- Footwear
  - Vehicle wheels
  - Tools or machinery used on trees
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## How can I improve the health of my trees?

Environmental stresses or pressures make trees more susceptible to pests and diseases and accelerates their decline. Reduce environmental stresses to help your trees live longer, especially young, or diseased trees.

Environmental Stress	Environmental stress reduction methods
Waterlogged / Water deprived	Widen field margin width to increase infiltration. Clear or redirect drainage ditches away or further towards the tree(s).
Root damage from compaction by people, livestock, or heavy farm machinery	Allow grass or shrub growth to deter people or animals. Ensure farm machinery is not driven or parked near the base of trees.
Chemical or pollutant exposure	Widen field margin width or install buffer strip. Reduce chemical use and use Integrated Pest Management, or other regenerative practices.
Browsing by animals	Fence and add biodegradable tree guards to young trees.
Climbing plants	Plants such as ivy or honeysuckle can hide the condition of tree but are not a risk to tree health as such. In high-risk zones it may be necessary to cut ivy stems at the base to reduce the risk of windblow. Ivy and other climbing plants are beneficial to wildlife, so only remove where absolutely necessary.
Overcrowding	Thin or coppice surrounding trees accordingly, allowing more light into the undergrowth and more air flow between the trees.

## STEP 6. RESTORING TREES ON YOUR FARM

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### Which tree species should I plant to replace ash?

It is recommended that you replace any lost ash trees with a mixture of species appropriate to the soil and climatic conditions on your farm. Diversifying tree species across your farm will help to build greater long-term resilience to pests, diseases, and a changing climate. A diverse tree stock also brings additional benefits for your farm environment and wildlife.

Forest Research have a web-based tool to help you select tree species ecologically suited to your area for replanting: [Ecological Site Classification \(ESC\)](#).

Bio-secure sourcing: Buy stock from tree nurseries whose seeds and saplings are collected and grown in UK and/or are signed up to the [Plant Healthy](#) scheme or the [UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown](#) (UKISG) certification schemes. This reduces the risk of importing or spreading pests and diseases.

Duties on public bodies result in them having to conserve and enhance the environment, so replacing or regenerating trees is expected. There are many ways to establish trees across the farm, including shadow planting: Planting saplings of another tree species close to the ash tree that is expected to die. Wildlife will transfer to the healthy tree as it matures, and the dead and decaying tree will benefit the soil and wildlife.

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## What support is available to restore trees on-farm?

The Forestry Commission can help fund the restocking of ash woodland. Charitable organisations also provide financial support to farmers looking to plant trees: such as the Tree Council and the Woodland Trust.

- The Tree Council has various [grants](#) available that are related to tree planting
- The Woodland Trust has tree planting [grants and schemes](#)
- Hedge-link also offer an overview on current tree planting [grants](#)
- The government's webpage on [tree planting and woodland creation](#) (England)
- The government's [woodland grants and incentives](#) page
- Your local authority may have relevant schemes.

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## Can we keep ash in the landscape?

**Natural regeneration** of ash will allow dieback-tolerant trees to emerge in the tree population, and should be left to grow where possible. Growing shrub species such as hawthorn, wild plum, and hazel, protects young ash trees from grazers and weather damage.

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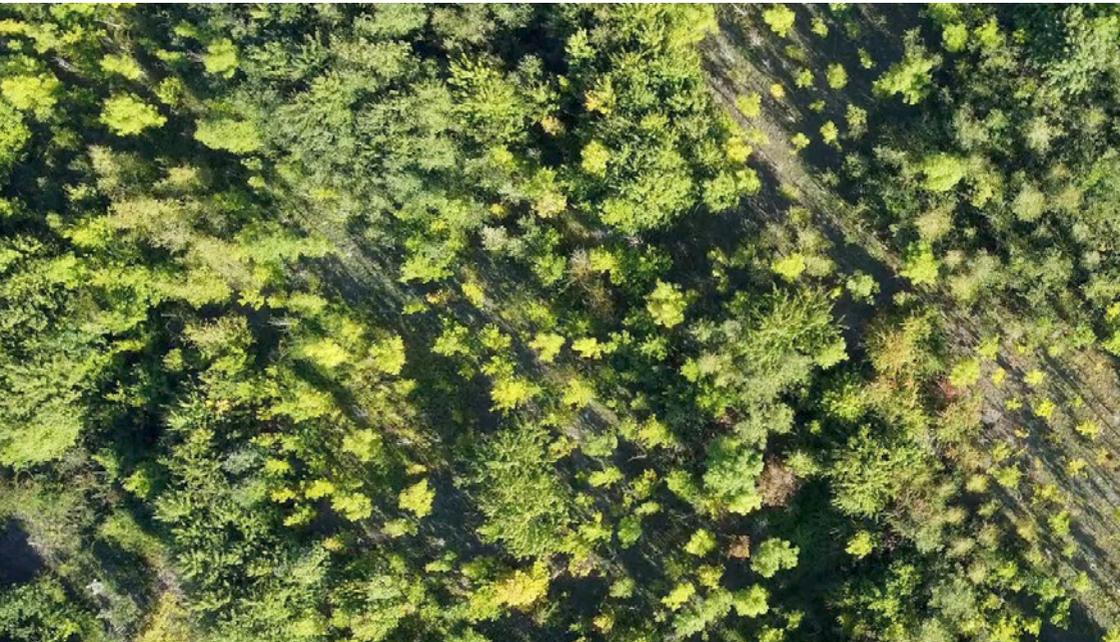


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## What long term gains could having more trees on my farm bring?

**Business diversification:** Improve the resilience of your farming business by incorporating trees into the existing field systems. Agroforestry or silvoarable systems are a combination of trees with other enterprises. The trees can protect crops from climate change and provide alternative income streams such as fruits, nuts, and timber.

**Additional income from carbon offsetting:** Register new woodland with the [Woodland Carbon Code](#) and sell your carbon units from woodland or trees planted on farm. Note that only new woodland, not restocked existing woodland, is currently eligible for carbon credits. Planting trees will also help offset your own business' carbon footprint.



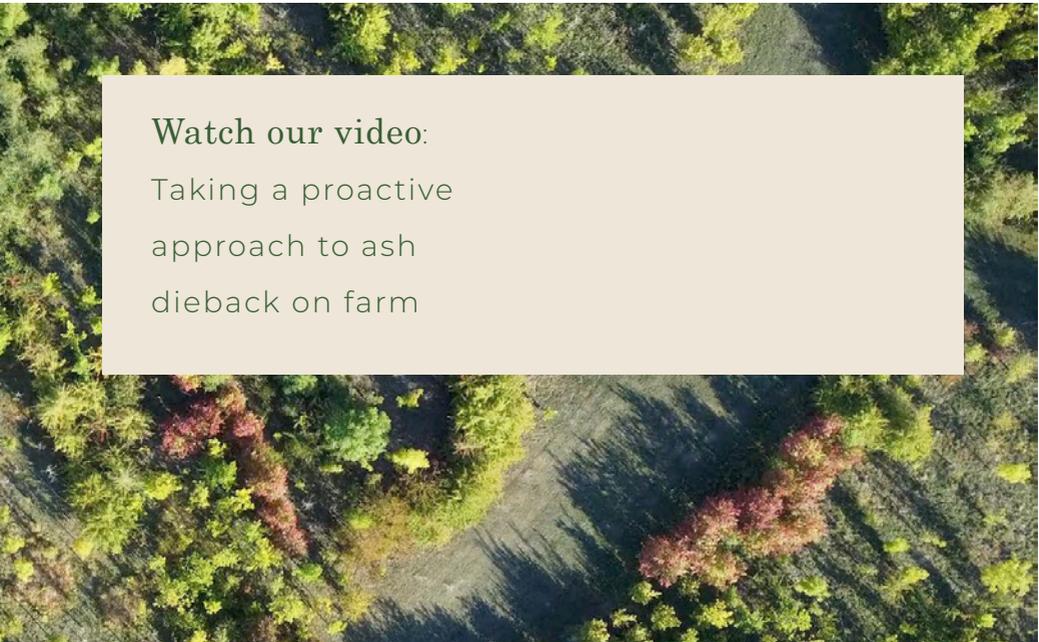
**Additional income or cost recovery from timber:** Harvest woodland trees for timber or fuel. There is a need for more sustainable, local wood products. However, infected ash is usually only suitable for firewood or for biofuel.

**Trees as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system:** Trees can be part of an Integrated Pest Management approach to help protect your crops.

**Trees as part of regenerative farming:** Tree cover on-farm supports nature recovery and ecological connectivity. Ash and other broadleaf tree species can help restore important natural processes on-farm such as air and water purification. They help reduce flooding, restore soil health and structure, and provide valuable habitat for wildlife, pollinators and pest predators such as beetles, birds and hoverflies.

**Public benefits:** On-farm trees provide a range of benefits to the public including contributing to landscape aesthetics, regulating temperatures by providing shade or shelter, and mental health benefits too.

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**Watch our video:**

Taking a proactive  
approach to ash  
dieback on farm

# Appendix

## Helpful contacts

### [Forestry Commission](#)

- Ash dieback [symptoms gallery](#)
- Find and contact your local Woodland Officer from your [area office](#).
- Forestry Commission: [operations note](#) on managing ash dieback in individual or small groups of trees
- Apply online for a [felling licence](#)
- More on [Tree Preservation Orders](#)

### [The Tree Council](#)

- More on the Tree Health Class System: [Ash Dieback Disease: for tree owners](#)

### [The Woodland Trust](#)

- [Ancient and Veteran Trees: Caring for special trees on farms](#)

### [The Arboricultural Association:](#)

- [Find a Professional](#)

## Grants and funding support

- UK Government: [Tree planting and woodland creation: funding and advice](#)
- Woodland Trust: [Tree planting grants and schemes](#)

## Health and Safety:

- Forestry Industry Safety Accord: < [Health and Safety and risk assessment](#) > Specific Note on < [Felling of Dead Ash](#) >
- The National Tree Safety Group: [Common Sense Risk Management of Trees](#) guidance.

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# Glossary

ADB	Ash Dieback
Ancient Tree	A tree which is remarkably old for its species, and this can vary dramatically depending on the species. All ancient trees are also veterans.
Coppicing	Repeated removal of the tree but leaving the base (or stool) to resprout. Allows quick regrowth from an already developed root system.
Felling	Cutting down of a tree, typically with the intension aim that it does not regenerate from the stool. This is relevant to Ash, but the overarching intent is that trees should be replaced.
H&S	Health and Safety
Hazard	Situations, objects, and conditions with the potential to cause damage and harm. Any part of the tree can be a hazard.
Pollarding	A method of pruning that keeps a tree canopy smaller than its potential size. The main body of the tree remains to allow it to re-grow.
Pruning	The selective removal of branches from a tree. Only removing unwanted branches to encourage new, healthy growth.
Risk	The probability of a particular hazard causing harm and the severity of those consequences.
TPO	Tree Preservation Order, an order made by a local planning authority in England to protect specific trees.
Veteran Tree	Veteran trees are trees which have features of an ancient tree but at a younger age. These features include missing branches, hollow trunks and habitat features more commonly associated with ancient trees.



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