

LIMPLEY STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Ash trees / branches in our valley are now falling without warning. We are interested to learn who has trees affected: environment.lspc@gmail.com
DEFRA also ask you to report cases: [08459 33 55 77](tel:08459335577) / [01626 773499](tel:01626773499) or email info@ashdieback.co.uk

WHAT DOES ASH DIEBACK LOOK LIKE?



Healthy leaves (left) vs infected leaves (right). Blackened and wilted.



Elongated-diamond shape lesions where branches join the trunk. Photo courtesy of Forestry Commission



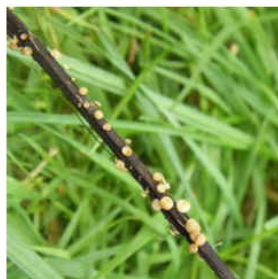
Sometimes the lesions dry out and crack open over time. Picture: Thomas Kirisits



Chalara lesion staining underlying wood. Photograph courtesy of Forestry Commission



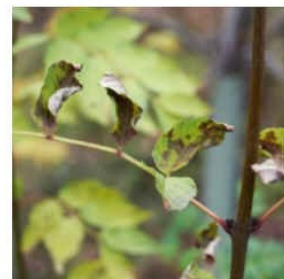
Leaf necrosis extending into leaflet vein and rachis (leaf stalk). Photograph courtesy of Forestry Commission / Joan Webber



Fungus fruiting bodies on a dead Ash twig. Photo courtesy of Forestry Commission



Infected canopy. Dieback of shoots and twigs.

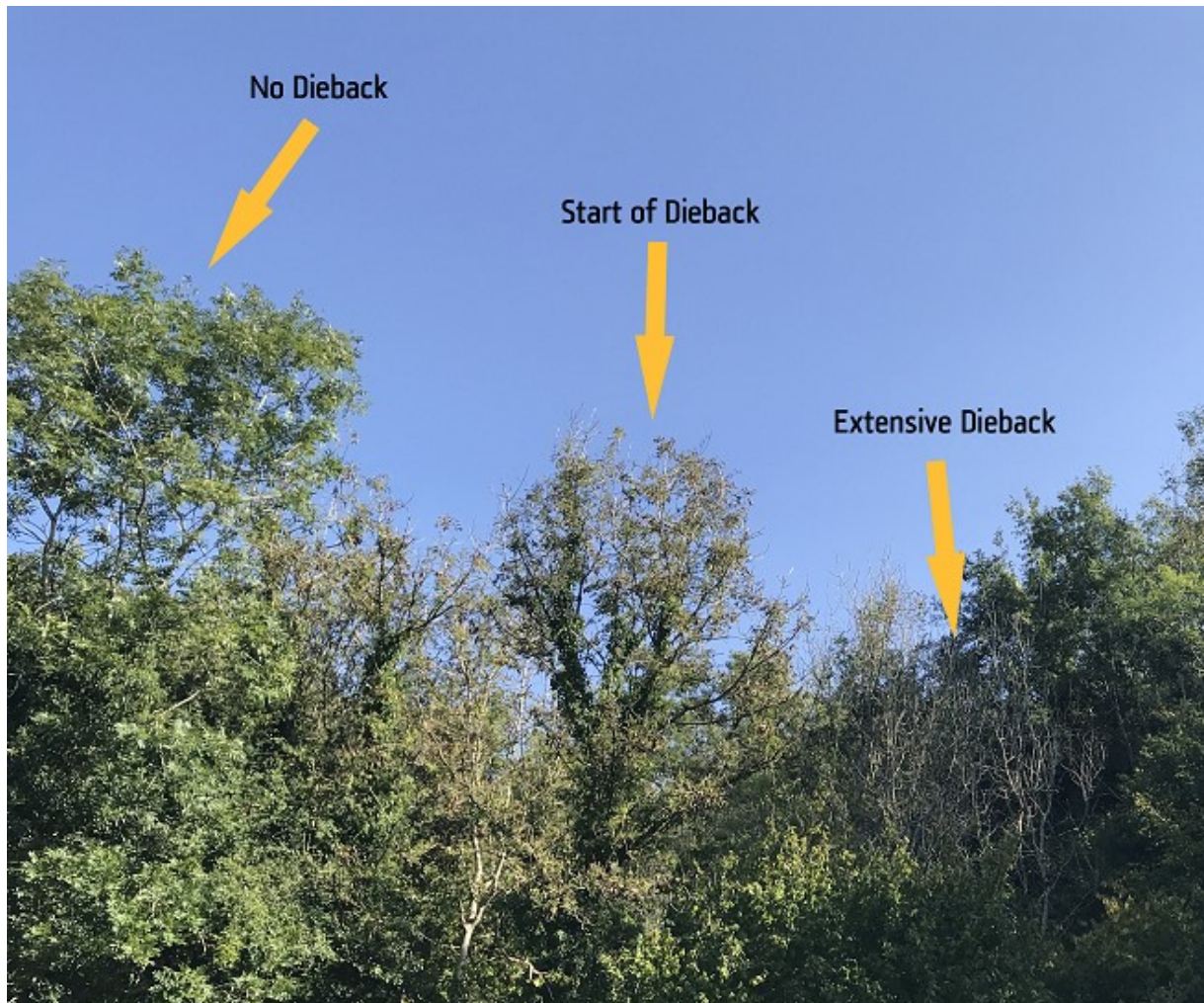


Leaves showing spotting caused by infection from aerial spores.

Ash dieback can affect ash trees of all ages. Younger trees succumb to the disease more quickly. All affected trees will have these symptoms:

- Leaves develop dark patches in the summer.
- They then wilt and discolour to black. Leaves might shed early.
- Dieback of the shoots and leaves is visible in the summer.

- Lesions develop where branches meet the trunk. These are often **diamond-shaped** and dark brown.
- Inner bark looks brownish-grey under the lesions.
- New growth from previously dormant buds at base of the trunk. This is known as epicormic growth and is a common response to stress in trees.



WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

<https://ashdieback.co.uk/>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/search/?q=Ash+dieback&p=1>

<https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/?s=>

WHY IS IT A CONCERN?

Ash is the third most common tree in Britain so we are due to lose 1/3 of an ecosystem as well as losing machines which sequester carbon dioxide from the air. The UK is already one of the most deforested of countries in the world.

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO SURVEY?

July-September. This is because once autumn begins, the normal seasonal change in the colour of the leaves can be mistaken for symptoms of the disease.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

- o You are not legally required to take any particular action if you own infected ash trees, unless you are served with a Statutory Plant Health Notice.
- o DO NOT FELL infected trees **UNLESS for public safety** or planned woodland management. There is evidence that a small proportion will be able to tolerate the disease and recover. Disease resistant trees could be the source of our future ash trees.
- o Where appropriate and safe, leave standing dead trees for their high dead-wood value for biodiversity. Leaving high stumps is an alternative approach, reducing risk whilst retaining dead-wood habitat.
- o Watch for basal lesions or fungus near the bottom of the trunk which can weaken the tree and make it more likely to fall.
- o. Any felling near a highway will require liaison with the Highway Authority for your area. Also be aware of the requirements of protected species and their habitats e.g. active bird nests or bat roosts. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-felling-overview>
- o Consider pollarding ash trees at breast / head height as an alternative to felling.

o Avoid cutting ash-dominated hedgerows during the summer months and during the bird-breeding season, when the spore production from dead leaves on the ground is highest, and disturbance might increase dispersal.

WHAT SHOULD I REPLACE ASH WITH?

o CAONB suggest: establish replacement trees of suitable alternative native species using the 3 for 1 formula so one will survive.

o Provide for wildlife, the landscape, and people – “plant oak, beech, lime, field maple, and hazel to reflect the character of the area & give us the best hope for the future of the landscape.” Smaller trees - Woodland Trust suggest Crab Apple, Rowan, Silver Birch.