



## Managing Ash Dieback: The basics

### Quick facts

- Ash Dieback is an airborne pathogen that is more virulent within woodland situations.
- There are no known preventions or cures.
- In excess of 90% of ash trees will be lost.
- Young trees are particularly vulnerable and die quickly once they succumb.
- Stressed trees such as those growing in particularly wet or dry conditions are more vulnerable to infection.

## Latest Management Advice

- There are no restrictions on the movement of ash timber.
- There is no requirement to manage infected leaf litter or brash wood.
- Important: If the infected tree could cause harm to people or buildings as a result of failure then the risk needs to be managed.
- If the tree is not infected do not fell unless part of normal management.
- Felling licenses and Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) still apply.
- Acting now by removing dying ash and restocking with suitable alternative species will sustain the woodland structure and build in future resilience.
- Some trees may be tolerant of the infection, therefore do not fell for the sake of it.
- You are not legally required to take any particular action if you own infected ash trees other than manage the risk.

## When managing your ash rich woodlands, 3 elements should be considered:

### 1. Level of canopy decline?

Areas with more than 50% canopy decline should be made a priority in harvesting activities.

### 2. How much of the woodland is affected?

If more than 30% then prioritise areas for thinning.  
If more than 70% then a regeneration felling or clearfell and restock with alternative species should be considered.

### 3. What is the age of the woodland?

Badly effected younger stands (<25 years) may require a regeneration fell or clearfell, while in older stands selective thinning of trees may be more suitable.

**Act now while your ash trees are still an asset and not a liability!**