



Scottish
Forestry / Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

Overview of ash dieback in Scotland

**South of Scotland SFTT meeting
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forestry.gov.scot

Presentation outline

- Past and current situation with ash dieback in Scotland
- Work with the Ash Dieback Risk Group and The Tree Council
- Guidance sources

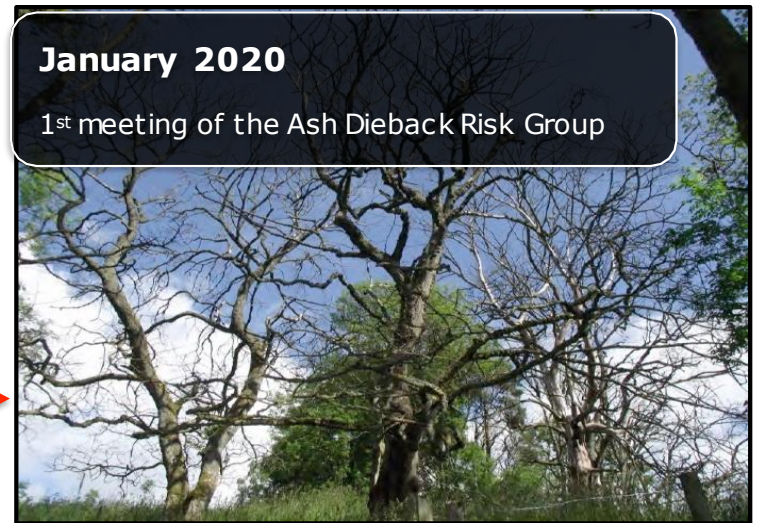
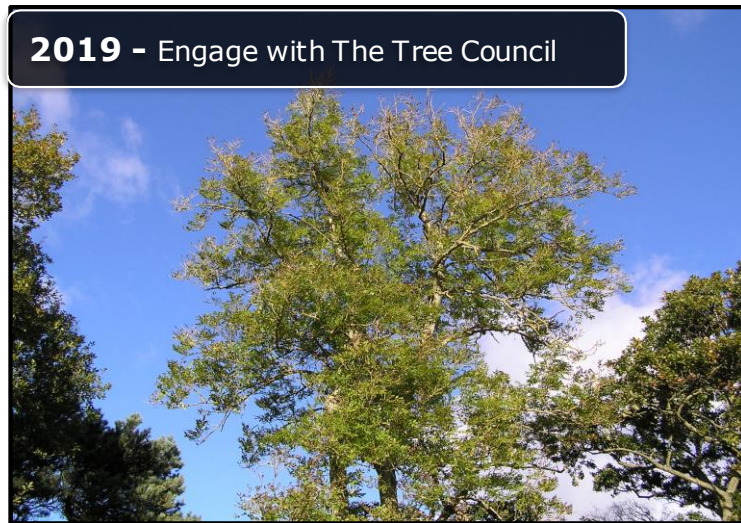
Ash in Scotland



- ~ 1% of total forest/woodland area
- ~ 5% of broadleaved woodland area
- ~ 11 million mature ash trees
- ~ 1 million mature ash trees outside woodland



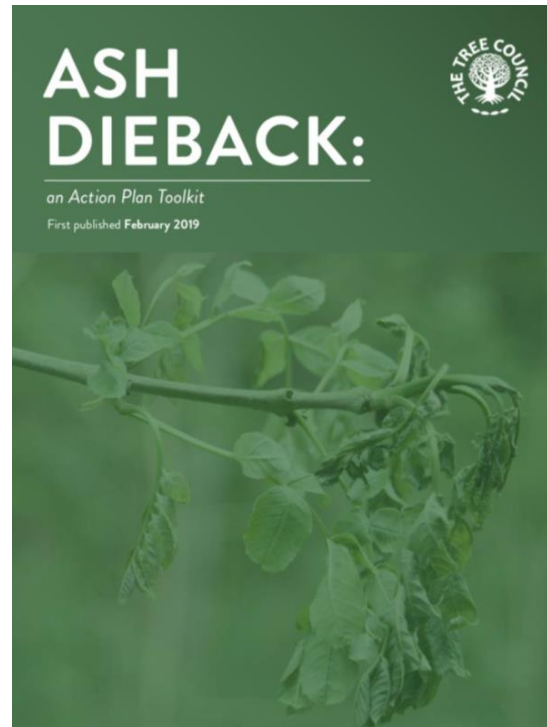
Progression of ash dieback in Scotland



The Ash Dieback Risk Group

- Representatives from government agencies, local authorities, industry, infrastructure, transport and NGOs
- Discuss the challenges ash dieback creates, share information and expertise, and help advise the Scottish Government

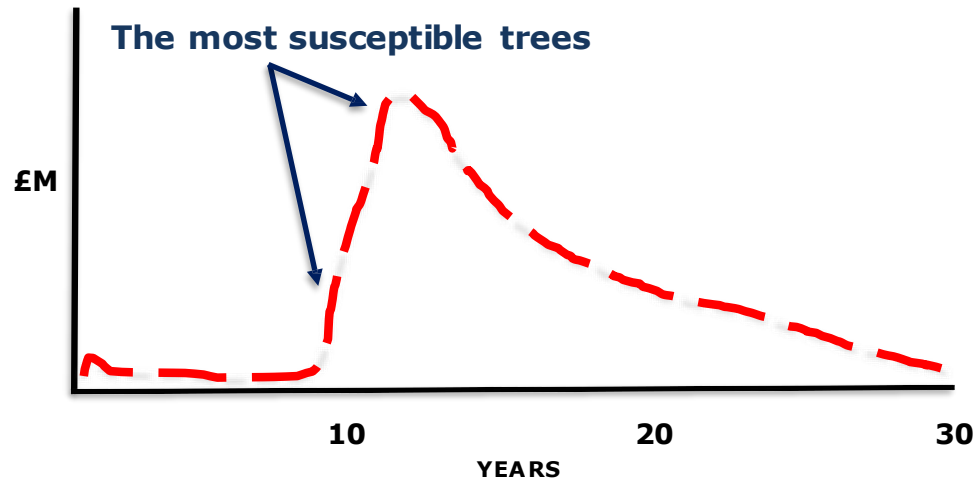
Working with The Tree Council



Key issues

- Understanding how ash dieback may progress in Scotland
- Understanding issues around responsibility and liability for ash trees affected by ash dieback
- Balancing the risks posed to people, property and infrastructure from dying ash trees with minimising harm to the environment
- Developing methods for monitoring the location and condition of ash trees and planning for remedial action and recovery
- Developing policy framework and guidance

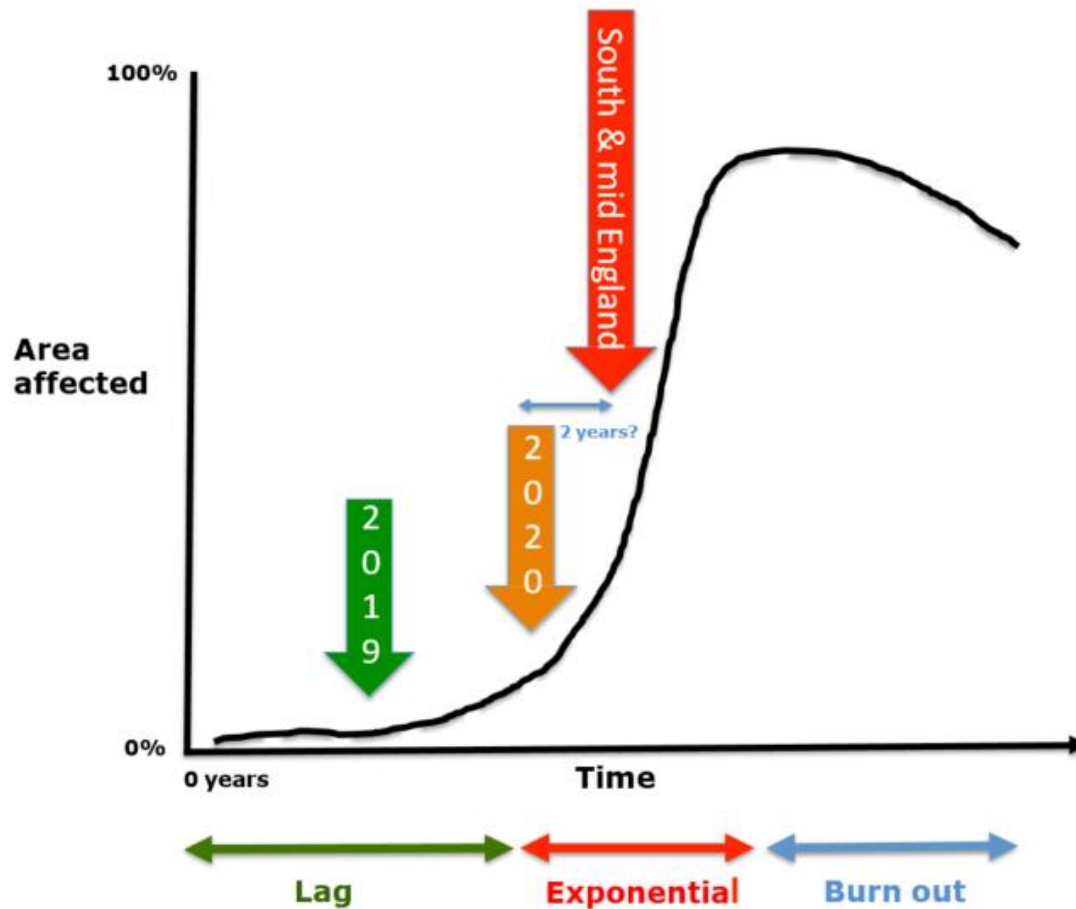
Forecasts of ash mortality



- Estimating mortality rates of European ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) under the ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) epidemic. Coker, T *et al.* (2018)
 - 50% - 75% mortality in natural ash woodland over 30 years post-arrival
 - 100% in plantations over 30 years post-arrival
- Dr Iben Thomsen: forest pathologist, Denmark (2021)
 - Don't panic
 - Most ash trees with moderate crown symptoms stay alive for years
 - Get the balance right between the two extremes of ignoring the issue and felling every ash in sight
 - Focus on the trees that really are dangerous

Trajectory of ash dieback in Scotland?

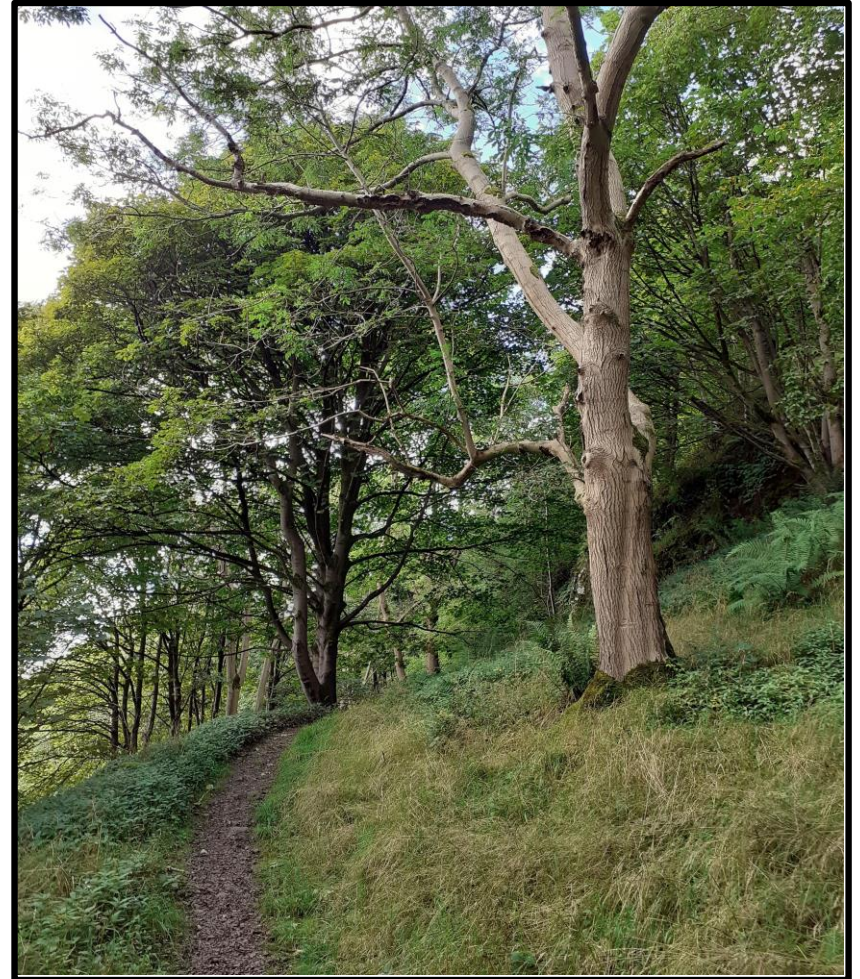
- Significant increase in dieback seen 'across the board' in Scotland in 2020



Public safety



Roads (Scotland) Act 1984



Occupiers' Liability (Scotland) Act 1960
Health & Safety at Work Act 1974

Operator safety



Benefits

**Social, economic and
environmental values**

Risks

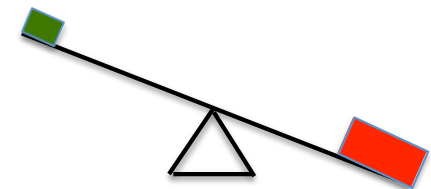
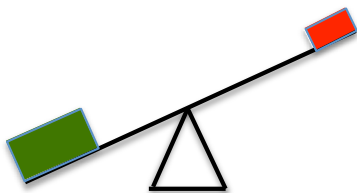
**Safety
(public and operatives)**

Sustainable forest management

UKFS

Deep woodland

Major road



Guidance

The management of individual ash trees affected by ash dieback in Scotland

<https://forestry.gov.scot/publications/1013-the-management-of-individual-ash-trees-affected-by-ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus-in-scotland/viewdocument/1013>

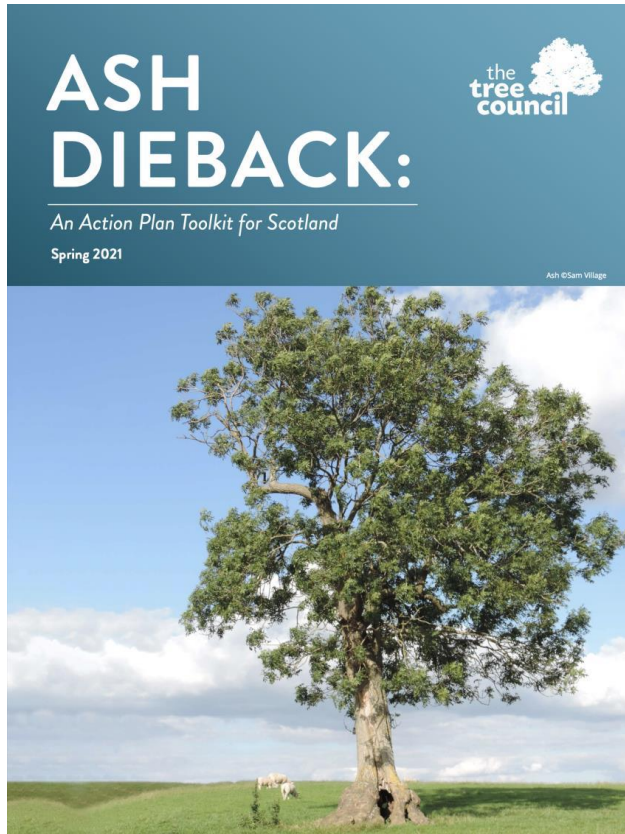
This guide contains detail on managing affected trees in higher risk locations e.g. beside roads, paths or property.

The management of woodlands affected by ash dieback in Scotland

<https://forestry.gov.scot/publications/1011-the-management-of-woodlands-affected-by-ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus-in-scotland/viewdocument/1011>

This guide contains detail on managing ash dieback at woodland scale e.g. restock species selection and measures to maintain biodiversity and landscape continuity. Also advice on management where ash is being grown commercially.

Ash Dieback Action Plan Toolkit for Scotland



<https://treecouncil.org.uk/science-and-research/ash-dieback/ash-dieback-toolkit-for-scotland/>

- The Tree Council, supported by Scottish Forestry, has worked with a number of organisations at the forefront of dealing with ash dieback in Scotland
- The Toolkit provides a step by step guide to preparing a local Ash Dieback Action Plan
- It includes case studies and examples from local authorities and other organisations including FLS