



Coping with Ash dieback
CONFOR
30th September 2020
Mark Williams & Ben Manterfield

Introduction

- ▶ Mark Williams - Euroforest Director Operations England & Wales
- ▶ Ben Manterfield - Euroforest General Manager Southeast England
- ▶ Major supply contract to Kent Renewable Energy in Sandwich, Kent.
- ▶ Averaging 210+ loads of wood fibre each week - 5250 tonnes.
- ▶ Heavily involved in Ash dieback works across Southern England.



Ash Dieback - Scale of the Problem

- ▶ UK has an estimated 44 million m³ of standing Ash.
- ▶ An estimated 8 - 10 million m³ in Southeast England
- ▶ Expected mortality rate is in excess of 90%
- ▶ Infected trees appear to not recover
- ▶ Major health and safety issues associated with both forest and amenity trees
- ▶ Large amounts of mechanised harvesting required.
- ▶ Huge implications for the transport network.



Is the problem as bad as you've heard?







Harvesting Practicalities

We quickly discovered that infected Ash was too dangerous to work with tree surgeons or chainsaw operators on the ground.

The majority of sites have high numbers of public rights of way and adjacent public highways, leaving woodland owners with significant liability issues.

We had to find mechanised methodologies for harvesting infected Ash trees.

How do we now harvest Ash trees?

- ▶ Through undertaking various trials we now have a number of different harvesting methods.
- ▶ We're able to use more traditional harvester/forwarders in woodland settings.
- ▶ Large scale usage of Tree Shears to dismantle trees on public highways and public rights of way.

Ash dieback video: Ashdown Copse MOD, Salisbury plain

<https://www.facebook.com/euroforestltd/videos/387584122645295>

Additional considerations

- ▶ The fragile condition of dead and dying Ash crowns presents a risk of damage to harvesting heads and cabs
 - ▶ Additional guarding and protection may be required to protect lighting, mirrors etc
 - ▶ Increased levels of damage to bars and chains due to the nature of timber
 - ▶ Lack of any meaningful brash can increase the ground damage - resulting in challenges on how to protect sites such as SSS's.

What have we done?

- ▶ Recognising our wider responsibility within the supply chain, we are organising contractor awareness days - highlighting the risks involved in felling trees with increased levels of deadwood.
- ▶ Working with Contractors aiming to develop and refine safe systems of work.
- ▶ Maintaining contact with colleagues at home and across Europe - monitoring the spread of the disease and understanding new techniques

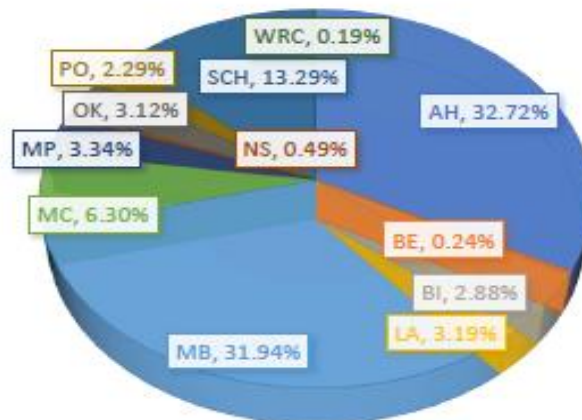
Kent Renewable Energy Ltd

- ▶ Opened in 2018
- ▶ Combined Heat and Power plant (27MW) supplying electricity to 50,000 homes and heat for a local science park.
- ▶ Euroforest exclusive supply contract.

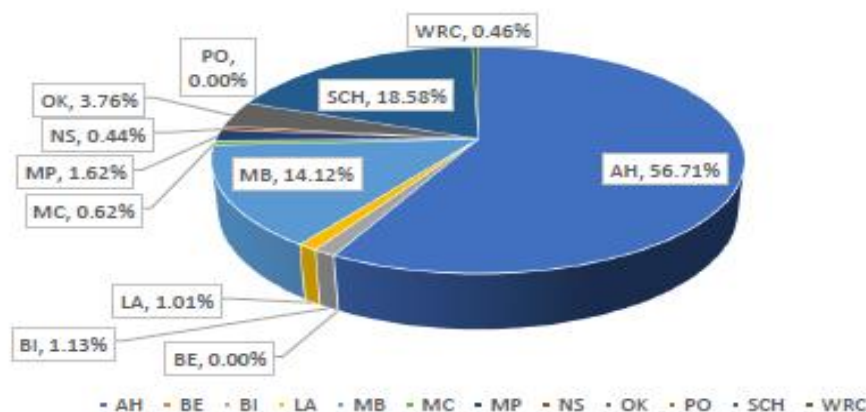
Product	Tonnage
Sawmill Chips	20,000 tonnes
IEDx (A grade)	35,000 tonnes
Softwood roundwood	25,000 tonnes
Hardwood roundwood/chips	160,000 tonnes
Total	240,000 tonnes

What impact has Ash dieback had on deliveries?

2019 SPECIES SPLIT BY PERCENTAGE



2020 SPECIES SPLIT BY PERCENTAGE YTD



Questions?