

Tree planting strategy for Hinton in the Hedges

HOW SERIOUS IS THE PROBLEM?

Ash is the third most common broadleaved tree in Britain.

There are an estimated 60 million ash trees outside woodlands in the UK.

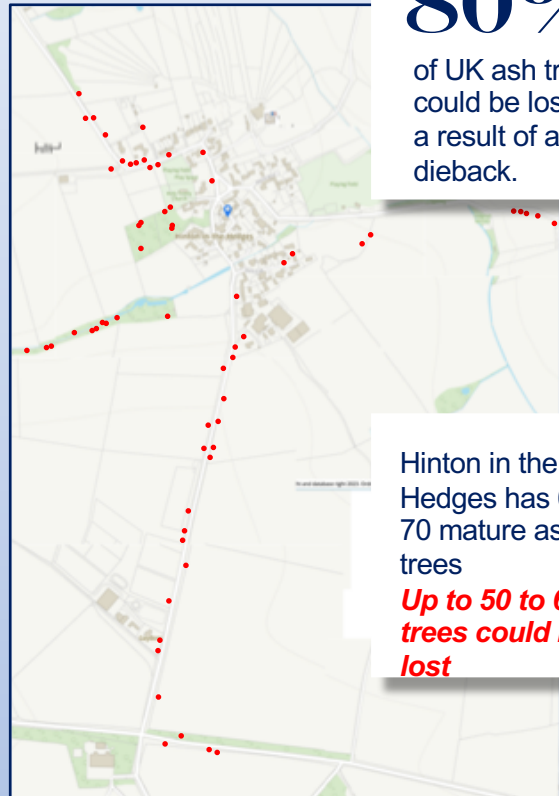
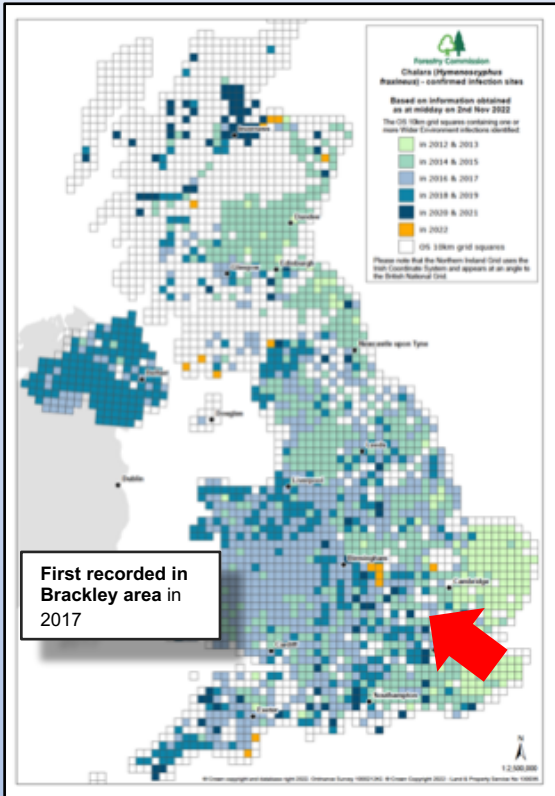
Ash dieback is the most damaging tree disease since Dutch elm.

WHAT IS ASH DIEBACK?

Ash dieback is caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*. Once a tree is infected the disease is usually fatal. The disease can kill a tree host directly through the actions of the pathogen, or indirectly by weakening it to the point where it succumbs more readily to attacks by other pests or pathogens. Ash dieback only affects ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) and ash trees of all ages can be affected.

Only **5%** are resistant to the disease

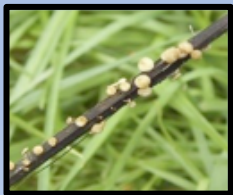
80% of UK ash trees could be lost as a result of ash dieback.



Hinton in the Hedges has 65 - 70 mature ash trees
Up to 50 to 60 trees could be lost

HOW DOES THE DISEASE SPREAD?

Ash dieback is caused by a vascular wilt fungus. This is a fungus that affects the water transport system of trees, which is just beneath the bark. The fungus (formally known as *Chalara fraxinea*) produces small white mushroom-like growths (*Hymenoscyphus pseudofraxineus*) between July and October. The fungus develops upon leaf stalks found within the leaf litter from the previous autumn's leaf fall. These release numerous spores into the air. Winds can then disperse the spores many miles from the original site. Trees need a high 'dose' of spores to become infected. This means that isolated ash trees are often slower to be affected by the disease.



The spores land on the leaves, which are then penetrated by the fungus and the disease spreads through the stems. Ash trees that are surrounded by diseased trees and diseased leaf litter can also become infected at the base of the tree. As the disease is spread by winds it is not possible to protect trees from the fungus.

The photo shows the fruiting bodies (mushroom like growths) of ash dieback upon a leaf stem (photo: Forest Research).

The disease originated within Asia. Both the Manchurian ash (*Fraxinus mandschurica*) and Chinese ash (*Fraxinus chinensis*) have resistance to the disease. Our native ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) has not had the benefit of evolving with the fungus and so has very little or no resistance to it. The disease is also known to affect other ash species. These include Manna ash (*Fraxinus ornus*), Black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), Green and Red ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*). It is very unlikely that other trees species or plants will be affected. There is also no evidence of harm to animals or wildlife apart from the considerable loss of ash tree habitat

If the UK is to reach its carbon neutral target by 2050, the Committee on Climate Change has recommended an increase in woodland cover from 13% to 19%

What types of land can WT plant on?

The UK needs millions more trees to reach its 2050 carbon net-zero target. we can assist to meet this important goal if we work with Woodland Trust

Approach local council tree enquiries team and Woodland Trust

Who can apply? All kinds of different groups such as resident associations, sports clubs, parish councils, scouts, guides and many more

What types of land can WT plant on?

Public land

Eligibility as a **community group, the land needs to be accessible to the public.**

The local community should be made aware of plans to plant and are happy for WT to go ahead. The community involvement needs to be more than just being in sight of a public footpath or an annual open day. ***Woodland Trust are unlikely to award trees which will be planted on private land such as large gardens or paddocks, unless there is genuine public access***

Trees can be planted as copses, groves, avenues, shelter belts, hedgerows and many other ways.

The amount of space needed will differ depending on how new trees from WT are planted.

- 30 sapling pack will cover around one tennis court, or create 6-8 metres of double-row hedging
- 105 sapling pack will cover 4 tennis courts, or create a double-row hedgerow of 20-25 metres
- 420 sapling pack will cover a football pitch, or create a double-row hedgerow of 85-100 metres

Highway land

A highway is defined as: A way for public use, including a footpath, bridleway, or byway. Any route over which all persons have an absolute right to pass and repass as often and whenever they wish.

Section 138

It is an offence to plant a hedge in a Highway without written authority

Section 142

The Highway Authority may grant a license to the owner of an adjoining property to plant and maintain or to keep and maintain trees and shrubs in the highway.

Private land

Approaches to local farmers directly, and private landowners in and around the village.

Trees - Where 500+ trees are planted on at least half a hectare, TW will visit the site, help design the woodland, create a bespoke species mix, supply the agreed trees and tree protection, and cover up to 75% of costs.

Hedgerows - TW will subsidise up to 75% of the cost and supply the trees and tree protection if more than 100 metres of new hedging are planted