



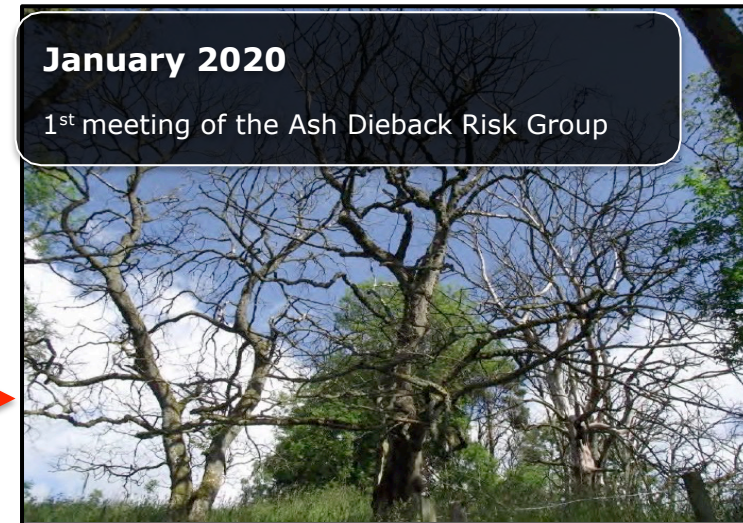
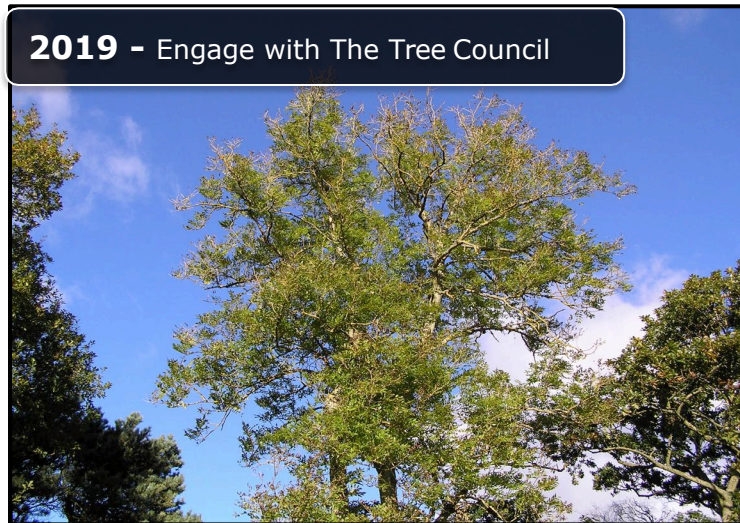
Scottish
Forestry / Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

11 February 2022

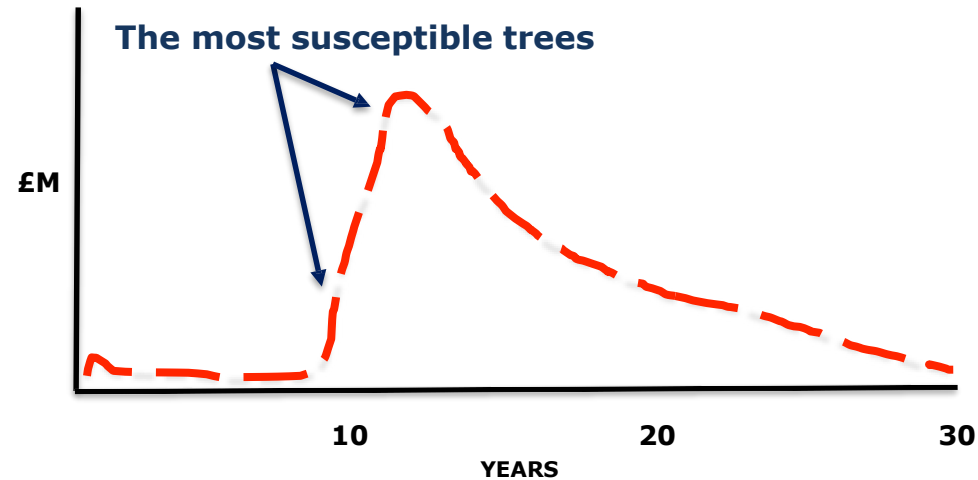
Ash Dieback: How big is the issue?

Clari Burrell
Scottish Forestry

Progression of ash dieback in Scotland



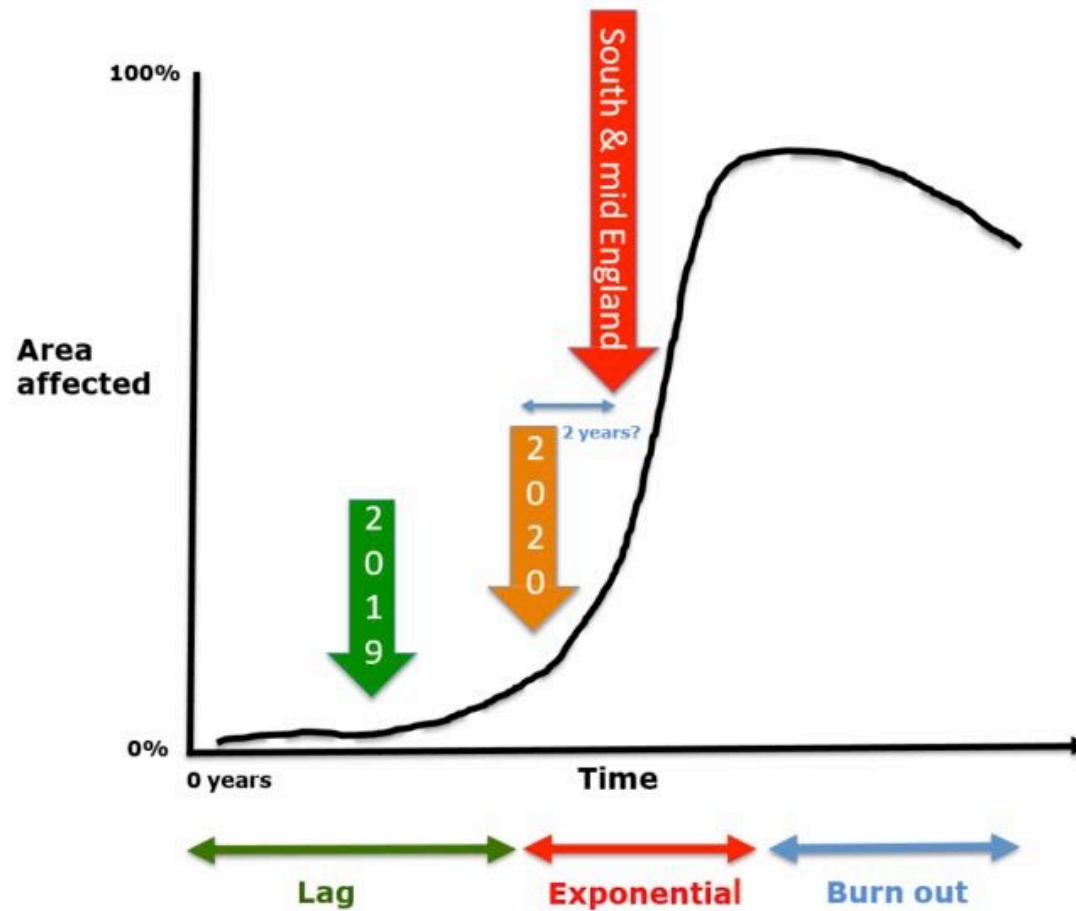
Forecasts of ash mortality



- **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**

Trajectory of ash dieback in Scotland?

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



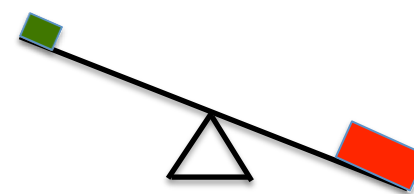
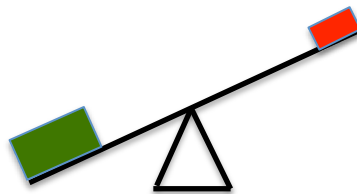
Benefits

Social, economic and environmental values

Risks

**Safety
(public and operatives)**

Sustainable forest management



Ash Dieback: How big is the issue?

Jon Stokes

Director of Trees, Science and Research



Unprepared ...

Our research has found that Local Action Plans should be developed and implemented by agencies dealing with ash dieback.

This recommendation was based upon discussions with Local Authorities who felt 'unprepared for the impacts of ash dieback'.

It is also based on research by the Food and Environment Research Agency on the management of Dutch elm disease, which caused the loss of 30 million trees.





Your Corporate Risk



HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPACTS

- Potential for death or injury as a result of ash dieback related accidents, both to professionals working on trees and to the general public
- Risks to statutory functions or service delivery such as retaining safe schools, public open spaces or highways

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- Increased liabilities in cases of death or injury as a result of ash dieback related incidents
- Inadequate staffing levels and the ability (or inability) to undertake the work required resulting in increased costs to recruit and retain the necessary staff

REPUTATIONAL DAMAGE

- Potential for disruption as a result of ash dieback management e.g. widespread road closures to deal with potentially dangerous trees
- Political and reputational risks as a result of negative press over ash dieback management and public outrage and/or anxiety

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Landscape changes with impacts on tourism and recreational opportunities
- Losses of carbon storage and sequestration

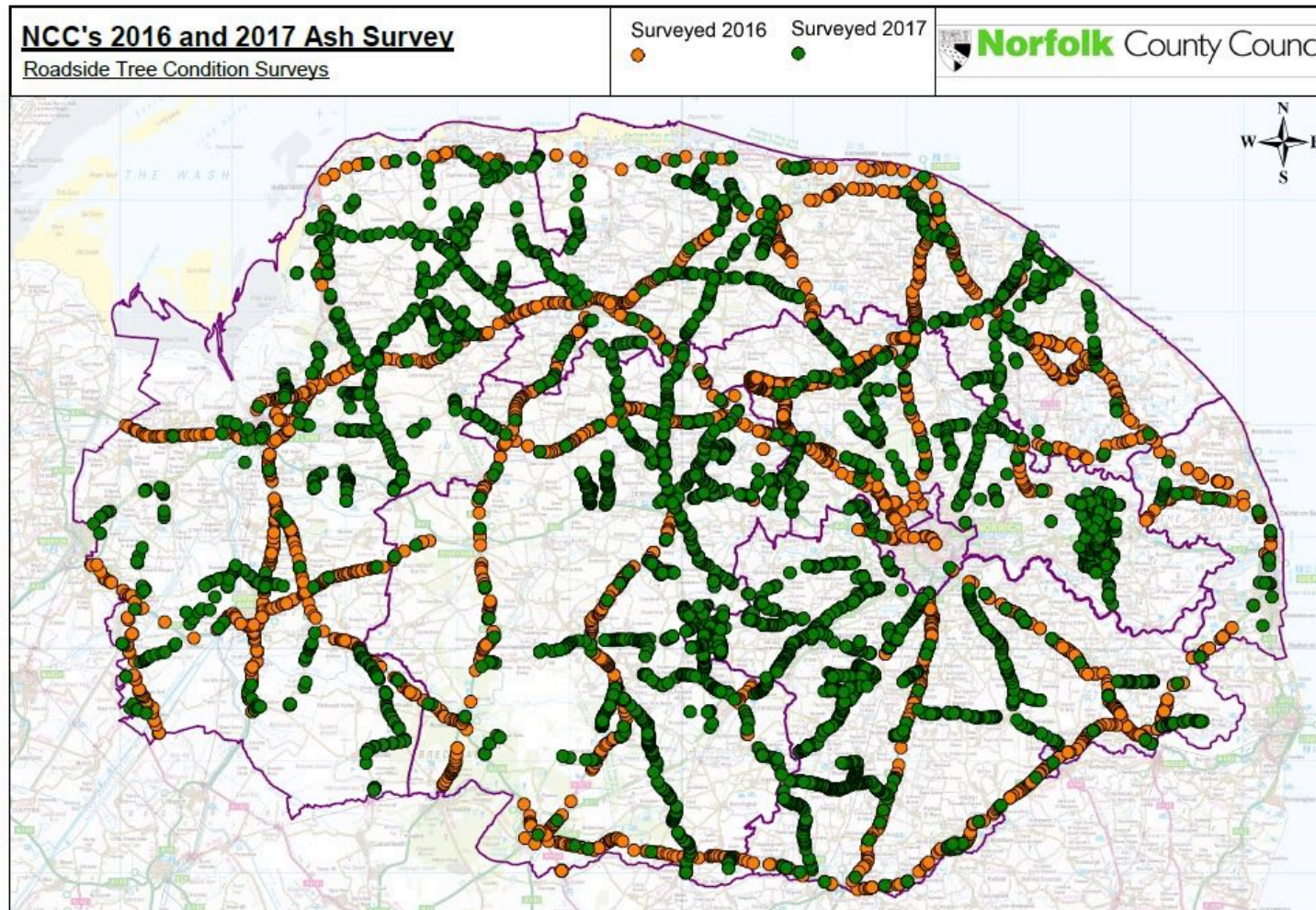




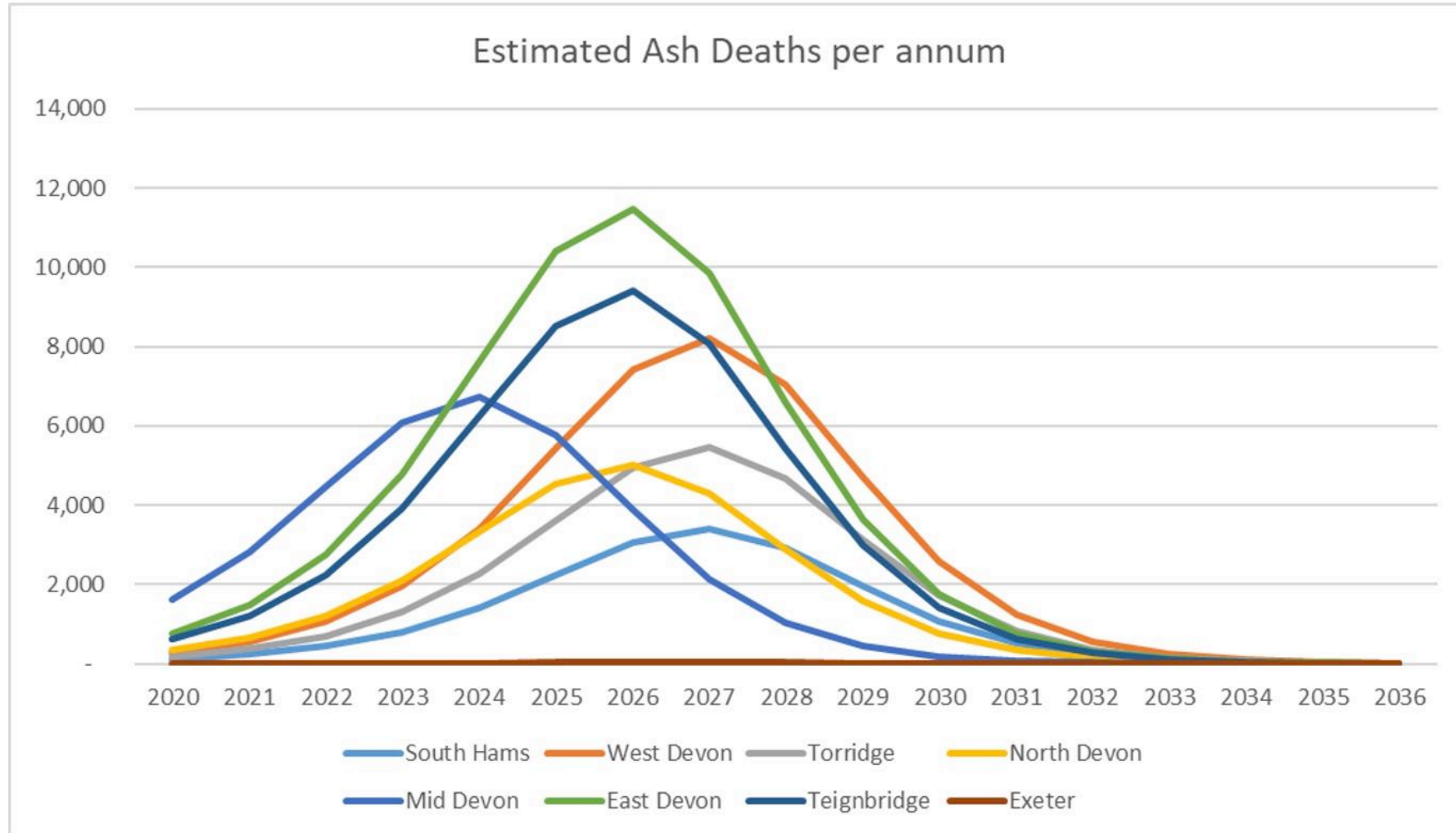




Norfolk County Council Ash Surveys 2016 and 2017



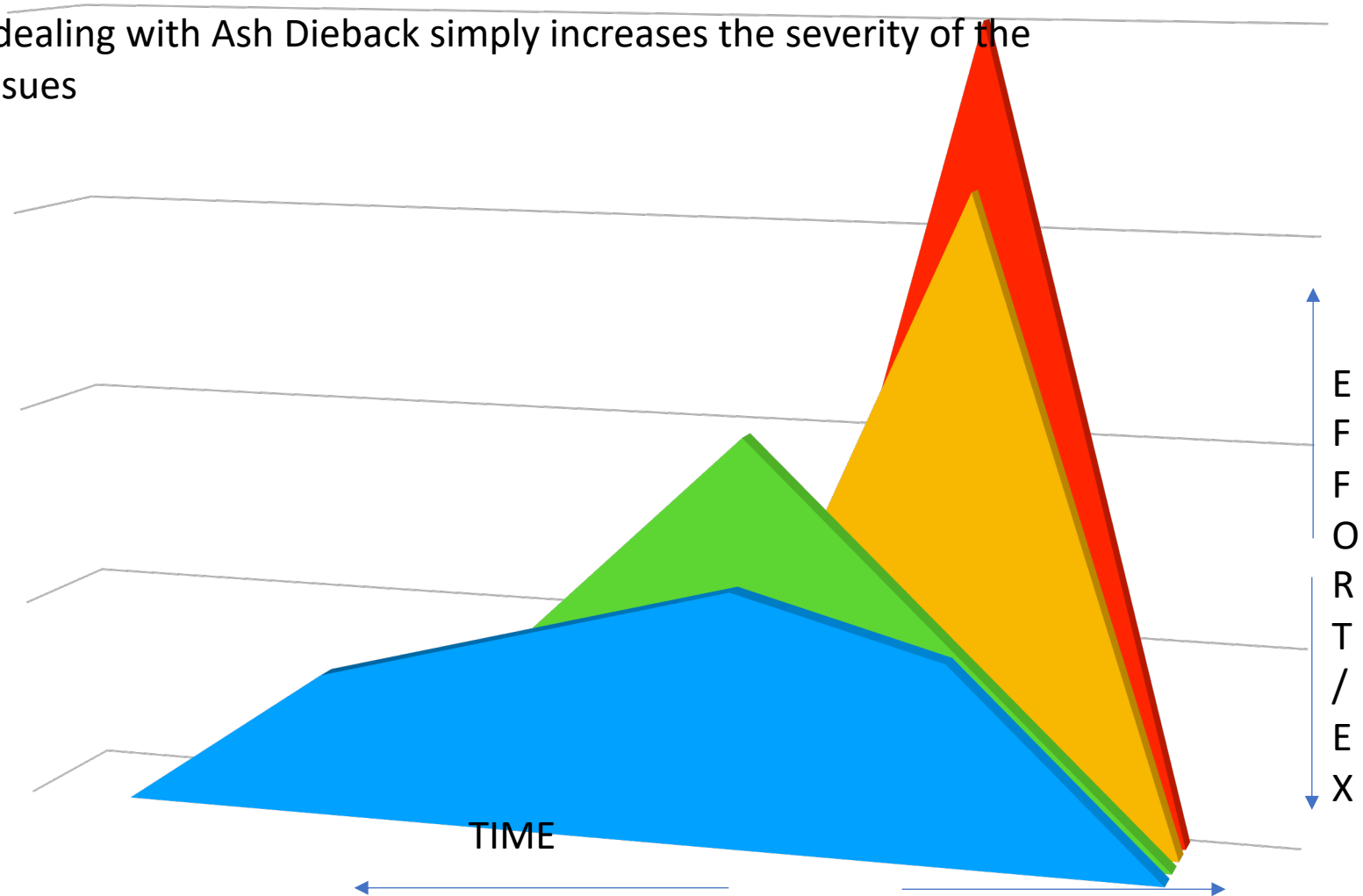
Mortality models



Effort and expenditure



- The end point of Ash Dieback is fixed – ie the trees die in a finite time period.
- Delaying dealing with Ash Dieback simply increases the severity of the funding issues

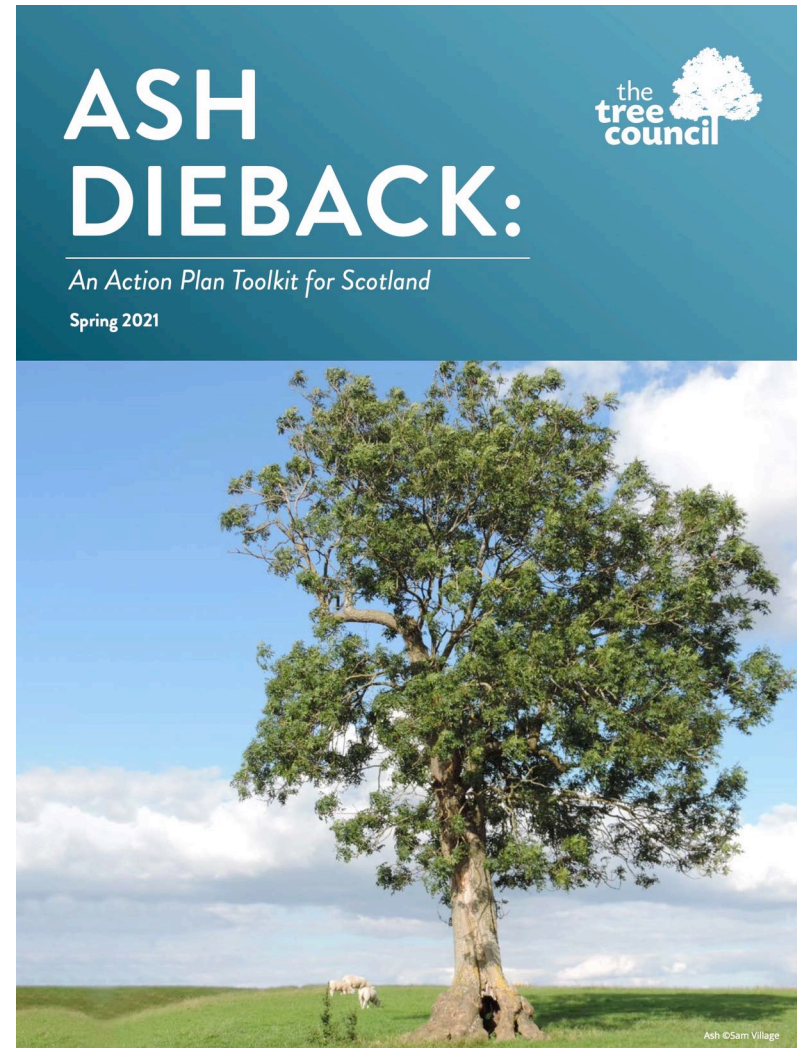




Scotland's Ash Dieback Toolkit



The Tree Council, supported by Scottish Forestry, has worked closely with a number of organisations at the forefront of dealing with ash dieback infection in Scotland to develop a new Action Plan Toolkit.

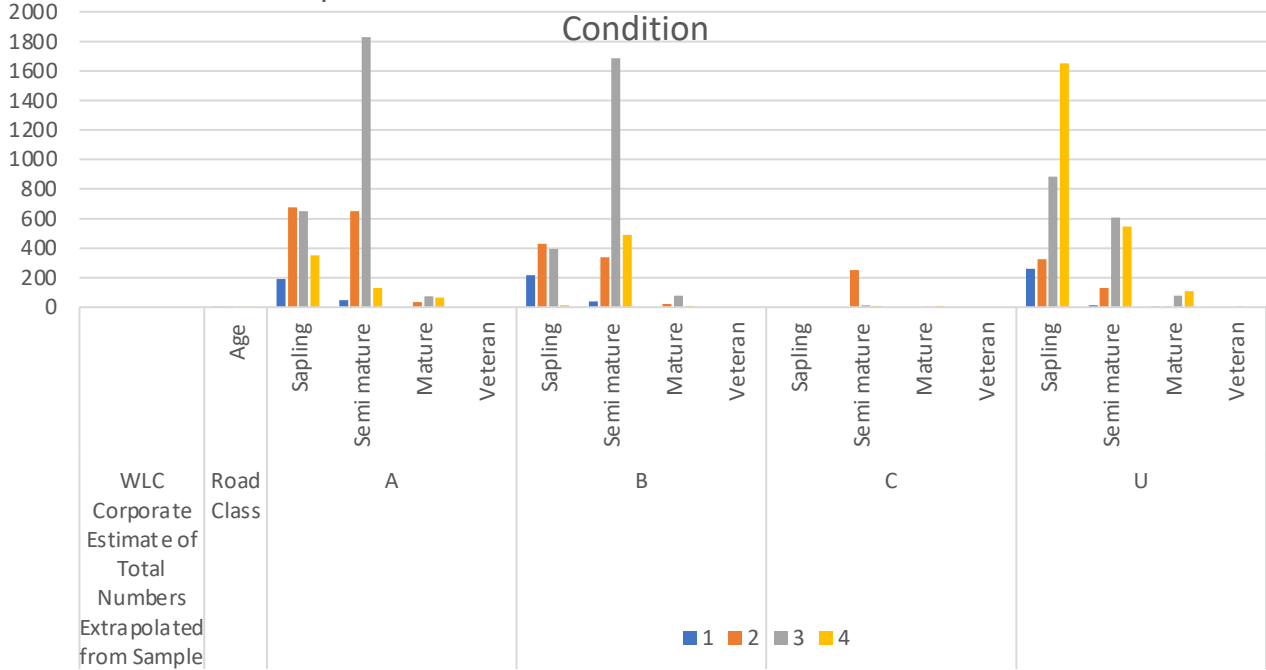


West Lothian Case Study



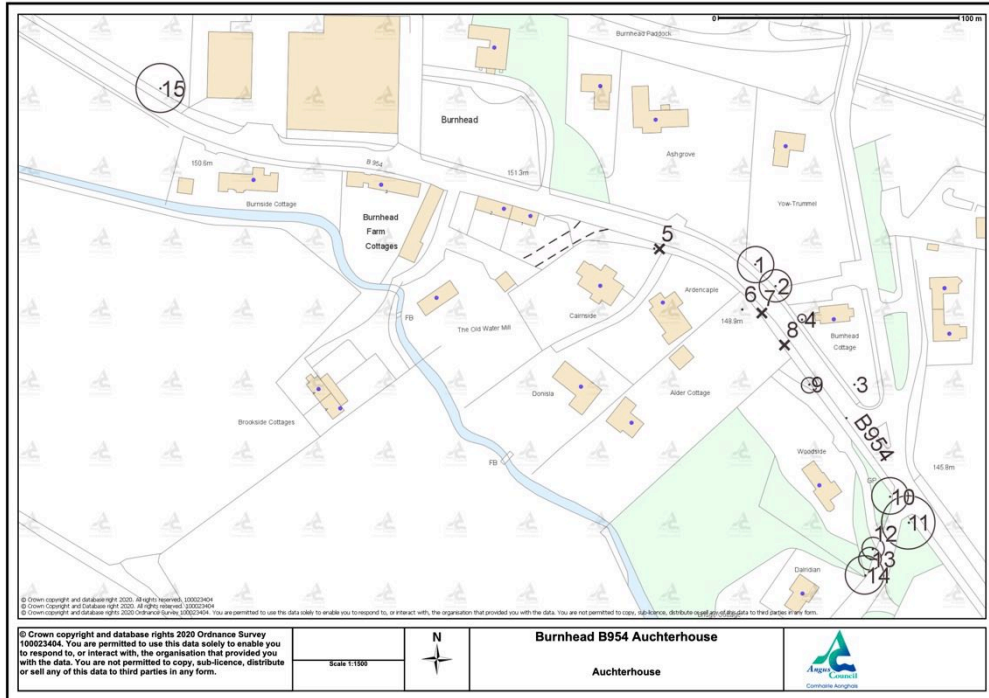
23,000 significant trees which may be lost along West Lothian’s roads. An estimated 41% of the roadside trees are owned by the council i.e. approximately **9,600 significant trees along roadsides.**

WLC Corporate Land - Estimate of Total Ash Trees and their Condition



WLC Corporate Land - Estimate of Total Ash Trees and their Condition
 WLC Corporate Estimate of Total Numbers Extrapolated from Sample

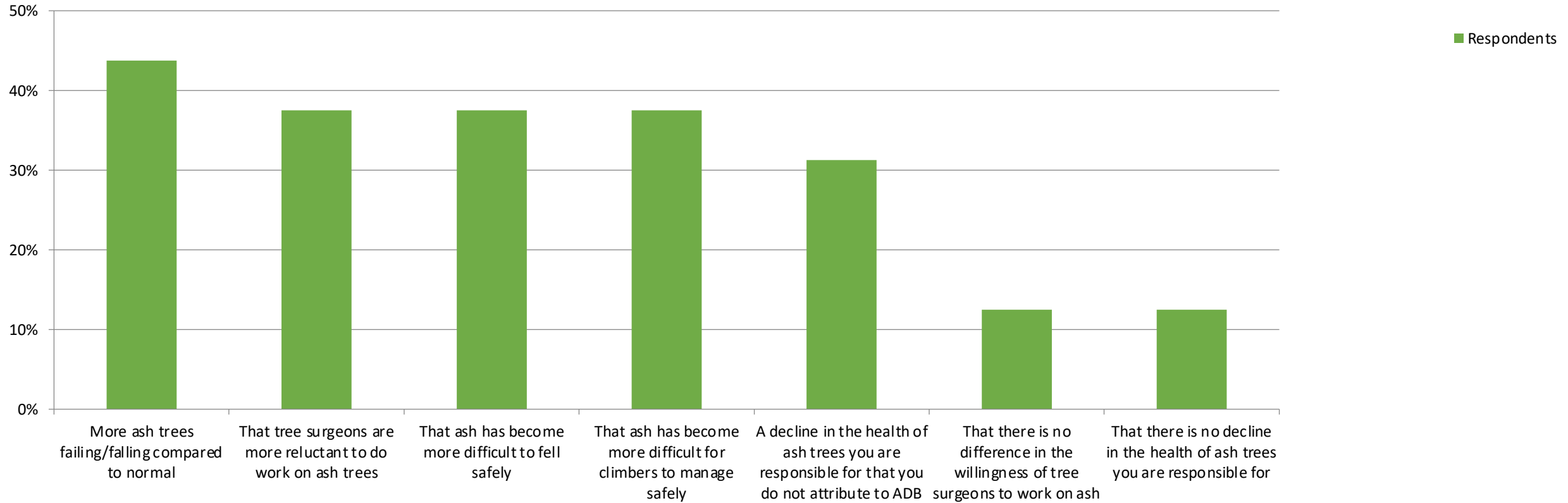
Angus Case Study 2



Angus Council Park and Roads sections decided to pilot the removal of some ADB infected Ash trees on two roads sites that both spontaneously came to light via members of the public living locally to the two sites 'worried about overhanging branch drop and next to a road'.

There was considerable complexity in the sites and the work took approximately 120 hours to resolve.

Workshops



Workshops



The conclusions:

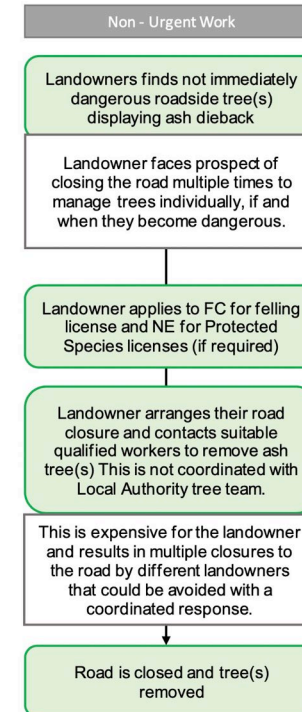
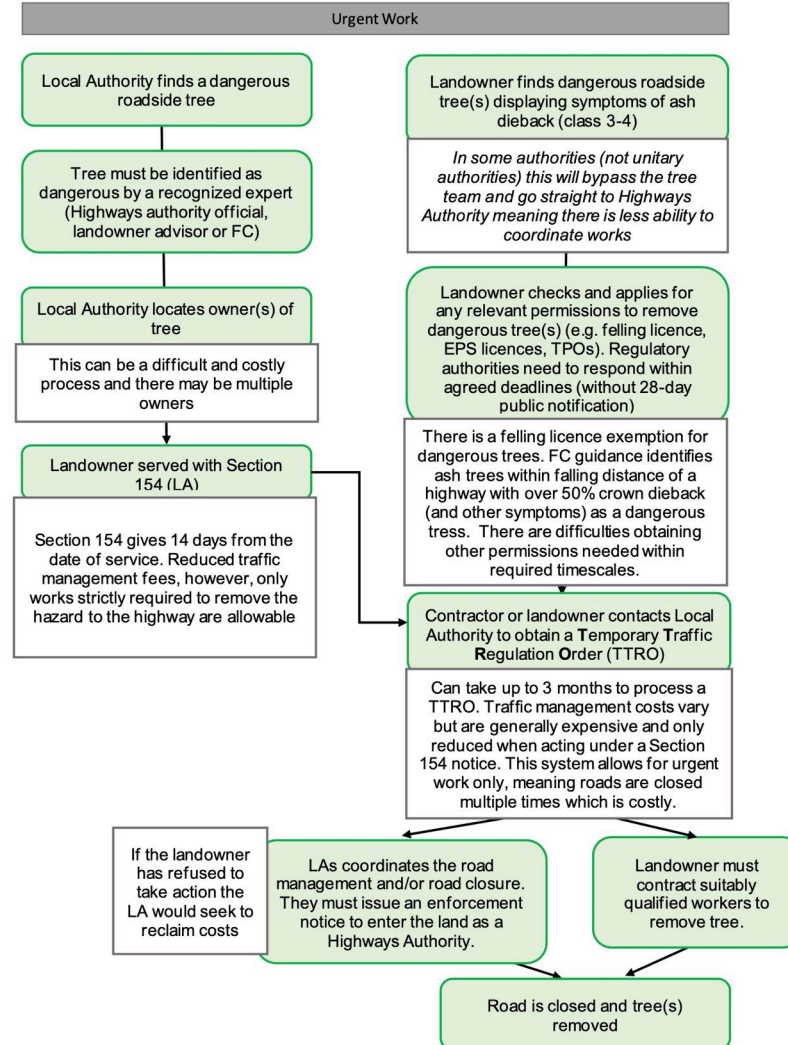
- **The scale/ speed and extent of disease progression**, in some parts of the UK are **overwhelming some local authorities**, even if they have already developed an Action Plan
- There is evidence that the scale of disease progression and the mismatch with planned response is causing **intensive stress for some tree officers**
- In some cases, even those organisations who are well prepared and resourced, are beginning to discover their **plans underestimate the scale of the challenge**
- Even though the focus has been on the risk to highways **there is a growing awareness of the need to consider other areas** subject to H&S considerations **such as public rights of way and ‘third party’ land**
- Across all the audiences (LAs, wildlife trusts, and utility companies), **there are variable levels of data**, with some organisations still lacking even basic data.
- The focus on dealing with the practical actions needed to manage ADB, **have currently left little capacity or funding, for recovery**. This issue will increase in complexity as more trees are removed from the landscape, if none are returned.

Ash Dieback Highway Surge Report



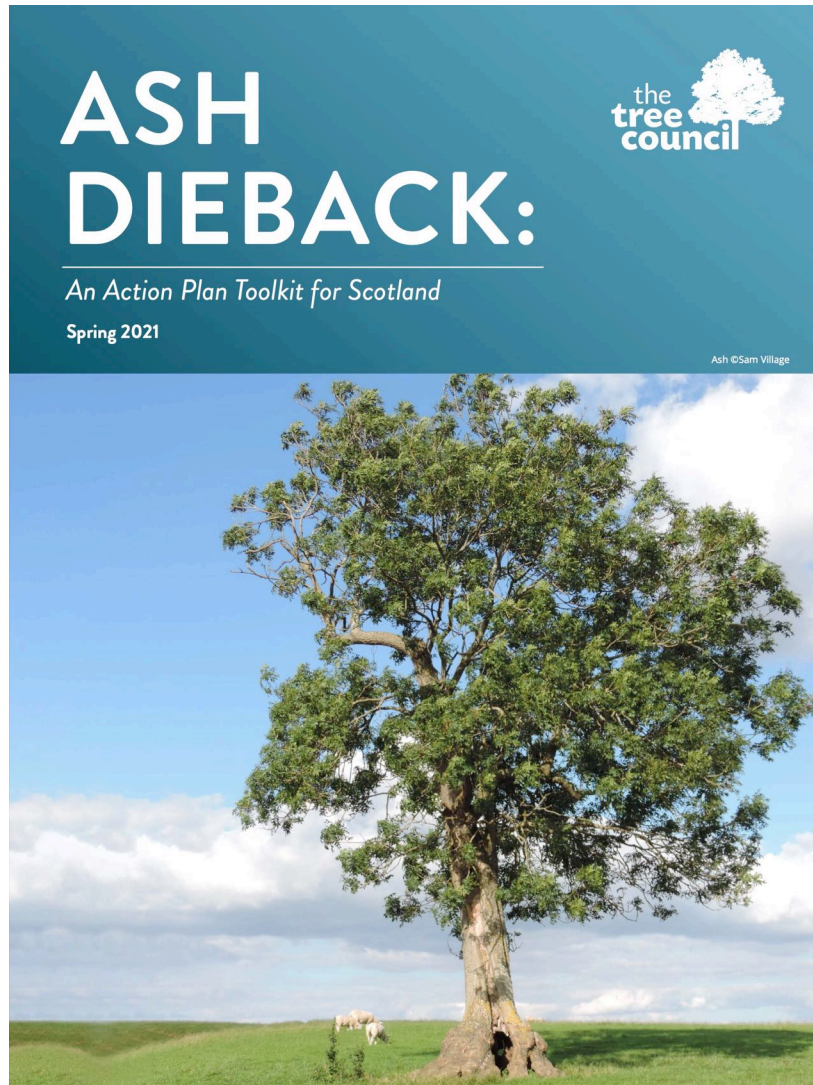
Annex 1 – Road Closure Process Diagram

1.1 Current Process



Explanatory Note: Traffic Regulation Orders/Notices
Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO): At least 7 days before making an Order the authority must publish a note of intention in one or more local newspapers. On or before the day Order is made the authority must notify relevant stakeholders including chief officer of police. Within 14 days of making the Order the LA must publish a second notice in one of more local newspaper
Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice (TTRN): Chapter 12 of the practice for coordination of street works states: *Where urgent action is needed a traffic authority may issue a TTRN. This allows work to take place without delay requiring the authority to notify all relevant stakeholders including emergency services and other traffic authority with roads that may be affected.*

Developing your own Action Plan



- The Toolkit provides a step by step guide to preparing a local Ash Dieback Action Plan
- It includes case studies and examples of authorities who have already started on the journey

Conclusions

- There will be dead/dying ash trees
- There is only a short period for preparation
- The scale of the impact must be assessed
- It will impact corporate risk
- There will need to be changes in management practices
- Working with others for efficient joint responses
- Communication and collaboration is key
- It can impact reputation
- Your organisation needs a Plan

It is vital to understand that ash dieback will not be ‘business as usual’.