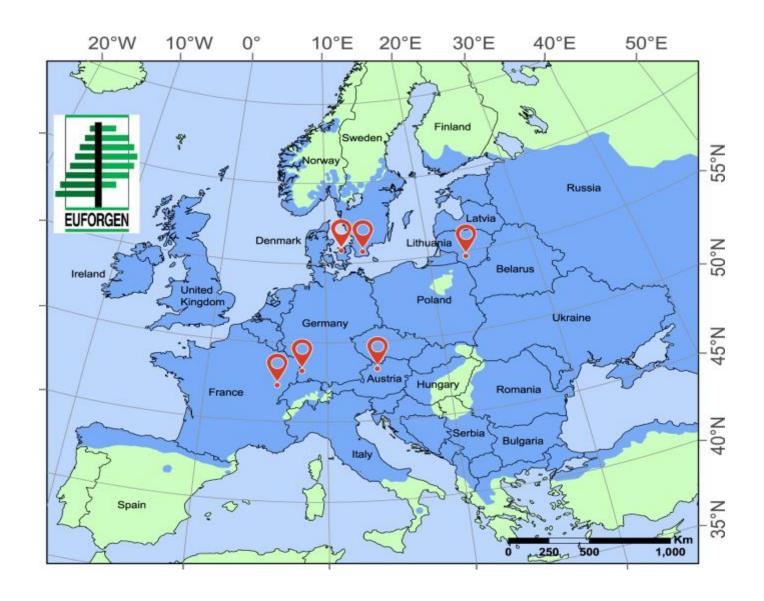
# Ash dieback — What to do...!!!



### Whatever you do,

#### Don't do nothing....





*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* – or - chalara



UGA1523074









+ many, many more across the country, some regional others national

### Where to start.....



### **Identify.....**





Measure.......
Quantify......

Highly destructive, incurable fungus affecting ash trees that is spreading across the UK First case reported in Telford & Wrekin in 2013.

Leaves die back from the ends of the branches, leading to whole branches and eventually the tree dies.

Trees will need to be felled as they become brittle and dangerous



### Remember...... You also have a ......

## DUTY OF CARE

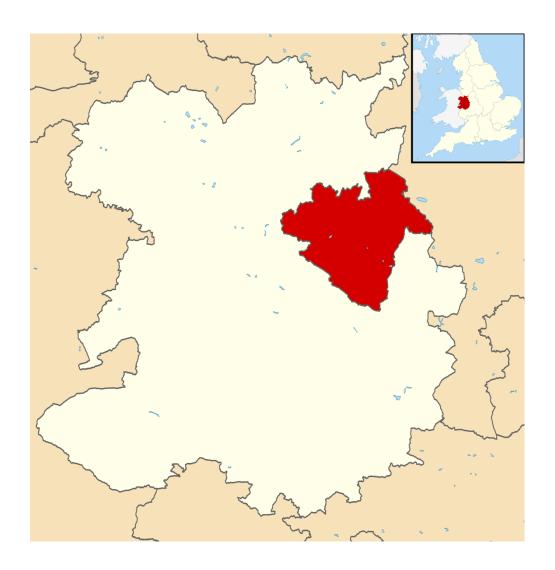


Not just your land / trees but anything within striking distance of your asset.....!!!!!!!!!



Where there's blame.....

Negligence



## 290.3 km2 or 180.3 miles2

We have 626 miles of road, 743 miles of footpaths, 132 cycle ways, 20,000 street lights, 120 roundabouts, around 400 parks and open spaces.

Over 700ha of woodland

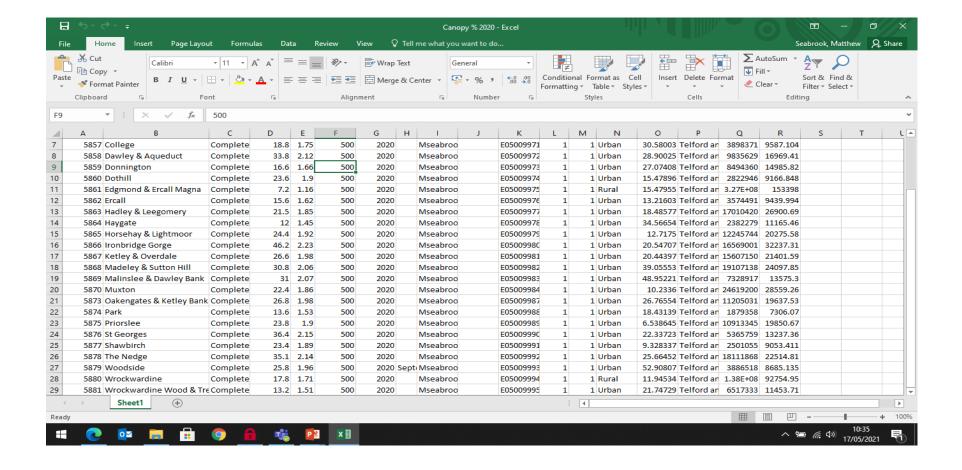
Designed as a 'forest city'.

30 million trees planted, 50% success rate...!!!

## In excess of 15 million trees!!!!!!



In 2020 we measured the canopy cover across the Borough, by wards and parishes



### A major threat in T&W

Estimated 35% of tree population is ash, rising to around 42% in the Gorge.

Predicted that all ash trees will die from the disease Current council resources are not be sufficient to manage the ash dieback

Extra resources required for extensive surveying and felling works

Ash dieback works will be ongoing for a number of years









Raise awareness within your LA / governing body by including within

other documents and cabinet reports being submitted;

Tree and woodland policy

Climate change commitments

Trees bring environmental, social, economic and health benefits

Working with communities to protect green spaces and trees through Green Guarantee sites

Trees4TW scheme launched in November 2020;

Gave away 8,600 trees to volunteers to plant



Toxins infest the trees through the xylem, affecting the structural integrity of the wood, making it brittle. Heavily infected trees must not be climbed and must be made safe with MEWP's, very expensive.

Infected trees become stressed and other diseases then attack the tree further – honey fungus attacks the roots making the tree unstable in the ground.





# The longer you leave it, the worse it gets, the more it spreads, the more it will cost...!!!!!







### How much?



T&W Council currently spend £ half a million a year on our tree asset (which has been approximated as having an asset value of +£1bn)- but this is just for management and safety works!! It's a struggle!!

Tree survey in 2018, risk rating applied to trees - High risk trees have been monitored since 2019

### **Risk Rating**



A roads, high traffic / footfall, routes to schools, bus routes, tourism, estate access roads minimum of every 18 months. Where traffic congregates- r/abouts etc...

B roads, cycle routes, PRW, Parks and Open Spaces (visitor dependant)

Everything remaining – where there is only a minor target area – industrial estates

Different seasons, legally defensible position

Traffic survey data – every 3 years

Every 5 years

At a national level the cost of Ash dieback management in 2019 was £14.8 billion!!

Government funding was available (DEFRA), but this has now been withdrawn – Covid!!

Costs must cover a surveyor and a team to undertake the works -Plus additional equipment and traffic management!!



T&W Council have managed to achieve funding for an initial year for surveying and tree works



And working with other departments and external bodies



Structures and Engineering

Highways







Some developers – section 106 agreements









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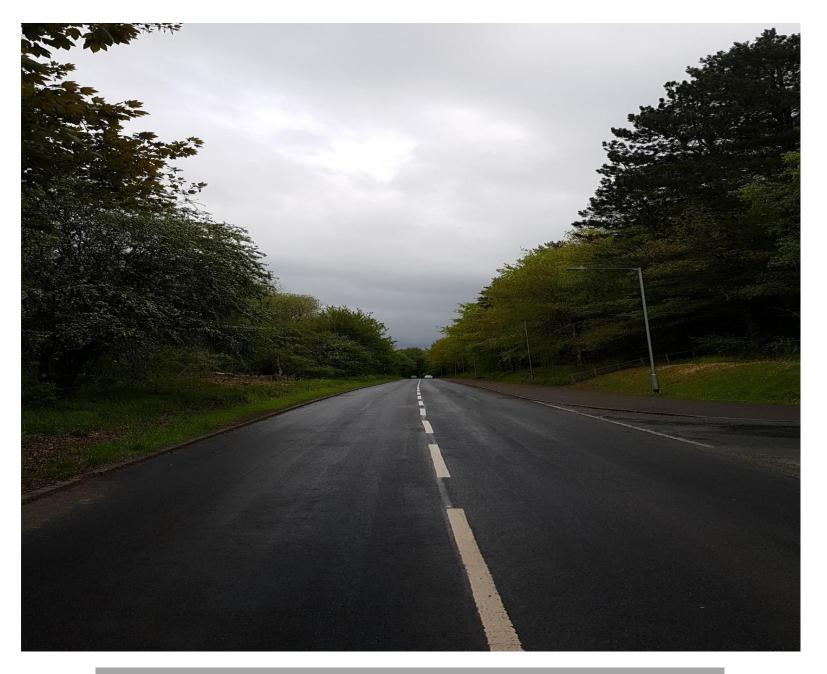
This action plan is still in the draft stage and we're working now on how best it will be delivered and executed

### **Telford and Wrekin Ash Dieback Action Plan** 2019









Ironbridge attracts up to 545,000 visitors per year (pre COVID)



Thank you for your time.

Having started the delivery of tree works to combat this disease, the ongoing delivery is still fluid and requires a great deal of work and commitment given the challenges contained within it.



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