



# Saving Devon's Treescapes



# Ash Dieback in Devon



1.9 million mature trees

2<sup>nd</sup> commonest tree outside woodlands in Devon.

53,000km hedgerow where ash is common

22% of woodland cover

448,000 ash trees alongside roads

*Photo Robert Darch*





Not just a rural issue - 95,000 ash trees in Torbay

Devon Ash Dieback  
Resilience Forum



Saving Devon's  
Treescapes



**Devon**  
Wildlife Trust

## Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum



- Forum was set up in 2016, led by Devon County Council.
- There are over 40 membership organisations and some independent individuals.
- The Landscape and Ecological Resilience Group (LERG) is a sub-group of the Forum.

Two main objectives:

1. Dealing with tree safety
2. Resilient treescapes



- In 2018 the LERG sub-group created the ‘Resilience strategy’ along with other guidance notes
- From this a partnership of organisations formed and a delivery project was developed
- Funding from NLHF was secured for a development phase in 2019 and the Project Leader began in March 2020
- In 2021 the project secured funding for the delivery phase, taking the project funding to the end of 2025



Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum

DEVON ASH DIEBACK RESILIENCE FORUM

July 2019

## Increasing the resilience of Devon’s treescapes

Helping our trees, hedges and woods withstand the shocks and stresses of a rapidly changing world

Devon is characterised by an abundance of trees. But as Dutch elm disease showed us in the 1960s and 70s, and as ash dieback is showing us now, our treescapes are very vulnerable to pests and diseases. Also, land-use change, including more agricultural intensification and built development, together with the pressures that accompany a growing population, results in further stresses and tolls on our trees. Climate change is perhaps the greatest risk of all. Without active intervention and forward planning our trees face an uncertain future.

Here we provide guidance on what can be done to increase the resilience of Devon’s treescapes – to make them better able to withstand new stresses and shocks. Our aspiration must be to retain the quality of Devon’s treescapes, so they remain as rich and healthy as at present, without undergoing drastic change to their fundamental nature.

This guidance is for those responsible for and working with trees in rural and urban areas, including landowners, advisors, planners, farmers, foresters, councils and local communities.



### Key factors reducing resilience

1. Trees under stress
2. Low diversity of tree species
3. Low genetic diversity within tree species
4. Arrival and spread of new and existing tree diseases and pests
5. Fragmentation of treescapes
6. High numbers of native or of non-native mammalian pests
7. Climate change
8. Unbalanced age structure
9. Lack of structural variation
10. Lack of understanding of the values and benefits of trees outside woodlands.



Saving Devon's Treescapes is led by Devon Wildlife Trust on behalf of the Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum and is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, One Tree Planted, as well as other funders. It is a partnership project with the following organisations:



# Our Vision

The Saving Devon Treescapes project will enable our stunning treescapes to thrive, for people and wildlife, for generations to come.

Our approach – connecting people with their treescapes and empowering community action – will be shared nationwide helping to ensure all treescapes have a brighter future.

Together the project's development and delivery phases will see the planting and nurturing of over 250,000 Trees Outside Woods (TOWs).

# Our motto

Ash dieback will impact everyone – Saving Devon's Treescapes will ensure everyone has the opportunity to be part of the solution



# Free Tree Scheme





# Landowners



# Community groups



# Schools



# Community Tree Nursery at Meeth Quarry



Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum



Saving Devon's Treescapes



Devon Wildlife Trust



# Citizen science



# Devon Ash Archive



HOME ASH ARCHIVE ARCHIVE MAP CONTRIBUTE ABOUT THE ASH TREE GAMES

Devon's emotional and artistic response to Ash Dieback

## Saving Devon's Treescapes Ash Archive

**About Us**  
This is why we are here and what we are

**Our Partners**  
These are the people funding what we

**The Archive**  
A repository of creative works celebrating the Ash Tree.

**Contribute Art**  
Submit your own work to be entered into the archive.



# Thank you



Devon Ash Dieback  
Resilience Forum



Saving Devon's  
Treescapes



**Devon**  
Wildlife Trust