



## Chalara fraxinea in ash trees in Great Britain

### Introduction

This briefing follows on from earlier Sector Briefings which can be downloaded from the [FC Wales website](#). The situation is developing rapidly and the latest information can be found on the [Forestry Commission GB pests and diseases website](#).

### Chalara found in more newly planted sites in Wales

There are now 10 confirmed cases of Chalara fraxinea in Wales: A small new planting site in Carmarthenshire, 5 new planting sites in Welsh Government woodlands in the Wye Valley; a small new planting in Caerphilly, a small new planting at Llanwern High School in Newport, a planting scheme at Glynllifon College in Gwynedd and a new planting scheme at Betws y Coed. Most of the young trees from these sites have been lifted and destroyed.

### Update on actions

The Welsh Government is taking the threat of Chalara ash dieback very seriously and staff are working closely with partners in the Forestry Commission, Defra, the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) and the devolved administrations in Scotland and Northern Ireland on an UK wide response.

#### Key actions taken so far include:

- Restrictions on the import and movement of ash plants and seeds into and within Great Britain.
- Suspension of the planting of ash trees in the public forest.
- Rapid survey of 970 sites in Wales, as part of a UK wide survey.
- Trace-forward survey of plantings from known infected nurseries.
- Advice to woodland owners to request a change of species to their grant contract or felling licence conditions.

On 9<sup>th</sup> November, the UK Government announced a series of short-term actions to begin to address Chalara. For more information, see the [Defra website](#) and the [written statement](#) issued by John Griffiths, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, to the Welsh Government on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

### Future management of Chalara

As the disease largely spreads in summer, there is now time in which to obtain the best scientific advice on the appropriate action to take, including how best to deal with infected sites.

#### Future management actions will therefore be to:

- Provide advice on management of mature infected ash trees.
- Identify mature ash that are resistant to the disease and could be used to propagate and develop new strains of ash to restock woodlands.
- Investigate woodland management and forestry techniques that could help slow down the spread of the disease and lessen its impact.
- Continue to survey in towns, cities and in the countryside surrounding infected sites.



This work will be co-ordinated with the UK and other devolved governments in order to develop an agreed Control Strategy by the end of November.

Although research has demonstrated that Chalara can be transported in the sapwood and heartwood of ash, it is not established that new infections can then arise from this material. We are therefore not currently recommending the large scale felling of mature trees nor restrictions on the transport of ash timber.

## Further information

Information about Chalara, including symptoms, FAQs and a UK-wide outbreak map, can be found on the [Forestry Commission GB pests and diseases website](#) or contact Forestry Commission Wales on 0300 068 0300 or [owen.thurgate@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:owen.thurgate@forestry.gsi.gov.uk).

The UK national helpline for the public to report suspected sightings of the disease is 08459 335577 (open from 8am to 6pm, seven days a week).