2014/15 Local Authority baseline scoping survey – Ash Dieback (*Chalara*)

Introduction

The Tree Council is part of the Chalara Core Stakeholder Group working with DEFRA and member organisations the CLA, Woodland Trust, HTA, ConFor and National Trust to help plan the future management options for dealing with Chalara (Ash Dieback).

Chalara may have had a lower profile in the media during 2013, but the disease is becoming firmly established in many eastern coastal counties and the number of infected planted sites is rising. As with many pathogens there is a period between first infection and widespread impact so, during 2014, The Tree Council was asked by Defra to undertake some research on the impact of Chalara in non-woodland situations.

This questionnaire is the start of that work. It is your opportunity to tell us how the work of your organisation will be affected as Chalara spreads in non-woodland trees.

This survey builds upon one we undertook last year and we will be comparing this year's results with those previously obtained. The results will help to guide our work to attempt to address your concerns.

Thank you for your help. We will keep you informed of our progress during the year, and if you wish to discuss this further, please do contact me.

Jon Stokes

Survey Questions

Question 1. Please tell us a bit about you
Name: Job title: Organisation

Question 2. How important is non-woodland ash as a component of your local treescape? For example: is it mentioned in local landscape plans? Do you have many ash trees in your local hedgerows? Is it an abundant urban or urban edge tree?

Question 3. Have you undertaken any sort of survey of the numbers of ash trees in your area?
>   No
>   Yes - please give details of the numbers of ash trees recorded and if possible where they are found, e.g. parks, gardens, streets.

Question 4. Do you have any plans to undertake a survey of the number and location of ash trees in your area over the next few years? If so how are you doing this and why?
>   No
>   Yes - please give details.

Question 5. Do you feel you have sufficient information to help you to manage the impact of the disease (when it arrives)?
>   Yes
>   No - what other information do you need to help you?

Question 6. What are the practical management issues that concern you about the arrival of *Chalara*?

Question 7. Do you have any responsibility for planning issues or tree protection?
>   Yes
>   No

Question 8. Are there areas of the planning process that will be affected by ash dieback (e.g. TPOs/ Conservation Areas/ Development sites) and what do you think the impact will be on your local treescape?

Question 9. Do you feel that your organisation has suitable plans/ policies that will enable your organisation to deal with the arrival of *Chalara*?
>	No
>	Yes - please give details.

Question 10. If you are a local authority, do you know how many TPO ash trees you have (even if it's a percentage)?
>	No
>	Yes - please give details.

Question 11. Have you been getting requests to fell mature ash for reasons related to *Chalara*?
>	No
>	Yes - how many, for what reasons and have you allowed it?

Question 12. Do you have any responsibility for tree safety?
>	Yes
>	No

Question 13. Have you read the National Tree Safety Group publication – 'Common-sense risk management of trees'?
>	Yes
>	No

Question 14. Have you formally considered the tree safety issues specifically relating to ash dieback in your work?
>	No
>	Yes - what have you done to prepare your organisation?

Question 15. Which organisations do you look towards for guidance on tree safety issues?

Question 16. How will you deal with *Chalara* on private land in your area that may affect public safety?

Question 17. Have you attempted to calculate the costs of *Chalara* to your organisation?
>	No
>	Yes - please give details.

Question 18. Do you have the resources to cope with the arrival of *Chalara*?
>	Yes
>	No

Please give details of what additional resources (if any) you need (e.g. training, materials), and the potential costs of this.

Question 19. Has your organisation begun to plan for the budgetary impacts of *Chalara*?
>	No
>	Yes - please give details.

Question 20. Are there other issues that we should be raising about *Chalara* and non-woodland ash trees on your behalf?

Question 21. Do you s00EE any benefits to your organisation that may arise from *Chalara*, e.g. jobs or training?

Interview guide for stakeholders in ADB Action Planning

Aim of interview

Undertaken by FR on behalf of Defra. Understanding stakeholder perspectives on the ABD Action Planning process and the co-production of the ADB Toolkit.

Recording the interview

Seek permission to record the interview.

Gaining consent

Ask the interviewee to fill in the consent form before starting.

Questions

About the interviewee (settle down and into context)

NB. Interviewer should tailor wording of questions to suit respondent

- How did you become involved in ADB action planning, and what is your role?

About their experience of the ADB Action Planning process

- Could you please describe the process of the development of your ADB Action Plan (i.e. *Establish a clear case history/time line including internal process and the impact of involving themselves in the action research process*)?
- What in your opinion were the drivers that were absolutely key to moving the process forward (*prompt for detail around risk assessment, knowledge, and action research process)*?
- What in your opinion were the key barriers to driving forward the action planning process? (*prompt for detail around a 'menu' of things E.g. evidence and knowledge, persuasion of budget holders, recognition that there's a problem (triage / risk assessment), a step-wise approach to developing a plan?*)

About their perceptions of the people or organisations (internal and external stakeholders) of key importance in the ADB Action Planning process?

- Could you comment on any stakeholders (internal or external) you feel were critical to driving forward the Action Planning process (*use this to embellish the timeline, any links to networks which were important, and links to evidence which was important*)?

- Would you see these/similar stakeholders playing the same kind of role in other LAs (*i.e. are processes and people(roles) similar across different LAs*)?

About their perceptions of the Co-Produced outcome i.e. the Toolkit and contents

- Please can you describe the information and knowledge that you used to guide this process?
- What evidence did you use/ would you use / would you need to populate the triage/risk matrix?
- Did the co-production process and Toolkit help overcome any of the barriers to producing an Action Plan? (*prompt for detail around a 'menu' of things E.g. evidence and knowledge, persuasion of budget holders, recognition that there's a problem (triage / risk assessment), a step-wise approach to developing a plan?*)
- Was there anything missing from this process or the end product Toolkit that could have helped formulate and drive forward your Local Action Plan?
- Does the Toolkit set Ash Dieback within a wider risk management context? How important is this? (*prompt for detail*)
- To what extent do you feel the Toolkit could be used as a framework to address other tree health issues of importance to LAs? (*prompt for opportunities, barriers and details of those*)

Ending

- Having focused on the detail of ADB action planning process throughout this interview, it would be useful if we could now take a step back and widen the perspective to look at tree health and tree management as an issue in the context of all the other issues that i. you, and ii. the LA, has to deal with. How much of a priority is tree health and tree management for i. you, and ii. the LA? (*Prompt what is the "size" of the problem, the priority given to the risks presented by tree health, is it a growing awareness, is it only ever about risk and liability and what kind of risk and liability is important?*)
- Any other comments?
- Other questions?

Thank the respondent and explain what happens next.

Participant Questionnaire   **Event:**   **Group:**

We would be very grateful if you could take the time to answer these questions. This information will help us understand more about the people who came to the meeting today, and your needs with regard to ash dieback.

Gender: ☐ Male   ☐ Female   ☐ Non-binary

Age: ☐ 16-24   ☐ 25-34   ☐ 35-44   ☐ 45-54   ☐ 55-64   ☐ 65-74   ☐ 75+

1.   Which of the following most accurately reflects your position?

☐ I am a professional aboriculturalist/forestry contractor   ☐ I am a Tree Officer for a local authority

☐ I am a private individual and I own woodland ☐ I am a private individual and I manage trees/woodland

☐ Other (Please state) ……..

2.   Which of the following most accurately represents the setting of the trees/woodland you deal with?

☐ Rural   ☐ Urban   ☐ Both

3.   If you own/manage woodland what is the approximate area (in hectares)?

☐ 0<5   ☐ 5<20   ☐ 20<100   ☐ 100<250   ☐ 250+   ☐ Unsure/no data

4.   Approximately how many ash trees do you manage?

☐ 0<100   ☐ 100<200   ☐ 200<500   ☐ 500<1,000   ☐ 1,000-10,000   ☐10,000+   ☐ Unsure/no data

5.   How do you know how many ash trees you manage?

☐ Undertaken a survey   ☐ Assessed using other available data   ☐ Rough approximation

6.   Please indicate approximately as a percentage (%) the mix of species you own/manage/deal with:

……...% Ash   …….% Sweet chestnut   …….% Sitka Spruce

………% Oak   …….% London plane   …….% Other native

….. % Horse chestnut   …….% Larch   …….% Other non-native

7.   Where do you currently go to for your information about ash dieback?

☐ National Farmers Union   ☐ Institute of Chartered   ☐ Local Nature Partnership
☐ Royal Forestry Society   Foresters   ☐ Forestry Commission
☐ Small Woods Association   ☐ Tree Council   ☐ Forest Research
☐ Woodland Heritage   ☐ London Tree Officers   ☐ Other (please specify)
☐ Small Woodland Owners   Association   ……………………………………………
Group   ☐ Arboricultural Association
☐ ConFor   ☐ Woodland Trust   ☐ None of the above

8. **Do you use these same sources for information about other tree pests and diseases?**

☐ Yes, largely the same sources   ☐ No, I use other sources   ☐ No, I'm only interested in ash dieback

9. **Which of the following most accurately reflects your position?**

	Score (*please tick*)					
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No opinion or N/A
I feel confident identifying ash dieback						
I feel confident assessing the condition of trees with ash dieback and the associated risks						
I feel I have an effective level of knowledge about the management of ash dieback						
I have the information I need to plan effectively for ash dieback at a corporate/business level						
I have the information I need to plan effectively for ash dieback as an individual/in my professional role						
I have the other resources I need to plan for ash dieback						
I/my organisation/business has started planning for ash dieback						
I am confident I/my organisation/business will be able to respond to ash dieback effectively						
I/my organisation/business will able to communicate effectively to stakeholders about my/our ash dieback response						
I have the information I need to plan for restoration (i.e. replacing/regenerating trees lost from the rural and urban landscape)						
I/my organisation/business is/will be considering restoration after dealing with ash dieback						

10. **How important are the following to help you manage for ash dieback?**

	Score (*please tick*)				
	Nice to have	Useful	Very valuable	Critical	No opinion N/A
Advice about management of ash dieback (i.e. face-to-face or personal contact with advisor)					
Guidance about management of ash dieback (e.g. Toolkit, written documents)					
Best practice examples around treatment/felling					
Information and guidance around surveying and monitoring the location and condition of ash trees					
Access to contractors experienced with ash dieback to carry out the work					
Communications materials					
Availability of additional financial support for treatment/felling					
Other please specify ………………………………………………………………………………					

10. **Have you looked at the Tree Council's Ash Dieback Toolkit?**

☐ Yes   ☐ Yes, and have/will be using tools and examples   ☐ No, but intend to look   ☐ No