

## Chalara dieback of ash (Chalara fraxinea)

Chalara dieback of ash is a serious disease of Ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*) caused by a fungus called *Chalara fraxinea* (*C. fraxinea*). The disease causes leaf loss and crown dieback in affected trees, and it can lead to tree death. Further cases of Chalara, also known as ash dieback, have recently been confirmed in woodland in Sussex, Berkshire, Bedfordshire, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and Northumberland.

As yet inspections of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council (RBBC) owned Ash trees have not shown any signs that can be attributed to *Chalara fraxinea*. Members of the public who suspect that they may have found an outbreak of this fungal disease **should not remove** any material from site as this may transport the disease spores to other sites. They are strongly advised to check the Forestry Commission website <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara> for details on how to identify this disease as there are a number of other Ash tree ailments that may cause a false alarm. See page 2 of the following [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/pest-alert-ash-dieback-2012.pdf/\\$FILE/pest-alert-ash-dieback-2012.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/pest-alert-ash-dieback-2012.pdf/$FILE/pest-alert-ash-dieback-2012.pdf). Should the symptoms found be consistent with the identification of *Chalara fraxinea* then the public are advised to contact the Forestry Commission as they are co-ordinating the national response to this issue.

Chalara helpline: 08459 33 55 77 (open 8am - 6pm every day)

[plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

If the on-going inspections of RBBC owned Ash trees highlights an infection of *Chalara fraxinea*, we will contact and follow directions given by the Forestry Commission on how best to tackle the issue within the context of the location that it may be found in.

Further sources of information:

<http://www.trees.org.uk/aa/news/IMPORTANT-Information-regarding-Ash-Dieback-107.html>

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2012/11/07/ash-disease-in-six-further-counties/>

<http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/plantHealth/>

End.