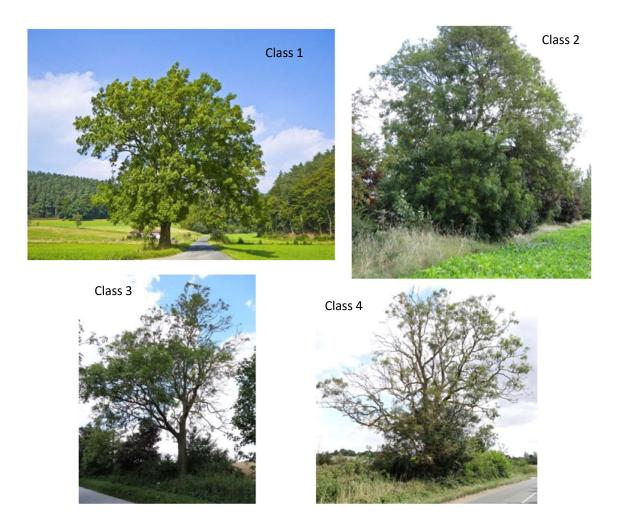# The Ash Health Monitoring Pilot

As you heard in the National Tree Wardens' Conference, 2018, Ash Dieback is an ever-increasing problem, that experts and the public are still coming to terms with. Though this disease is being researched, there are some questions that remain unanswered. One of these questions is how long it takes for an Ash tree to go from being a healthy tree, to one that is seriously affected by the disease and potentially dangerous, to dead.

The Ash Health Monitoring Pilot is a project that will help to answer this question, and we're calling upon all Tree Wardens to get involved!

This project documents the health of the tree by capturing the changes to individual tree canopies photographically, and over time. A little bit like time lapse photography, each Tree Warden's photos will show whether the tree has moved from one health category to the next (Class 1 being a healthy tree, Class 4 being extremely unhealthy/dead), and what time span it took.

Class 1

Class 2

Class 3

Class 4

We're asking Tree Wardens to start documenting their Ash trees. Tree Warden, Richie Cotterill, who has been developing this project, has provided a guidance document and a form to record your findings, but in a nutshell, this is what we're asking people to do:

Select a number of Ash trees that you can photograph

- at the same time of year
- same time of day
- preferably with the same weather conditions (all blue sky or all grey sky)
- preferably with an uncluttered background e.g. sky
- illuminated rather than shaded out or back-lit – *e.g. not facing south at mid-day*

Photograph the trees, recording the exact spot you took the photo from (and it can also be useful to note the camera and lens you used and if you zoomed in or not).

Printing out your photos so that you can take them into the field for the following year is suggested; Richie has found the following check sheet to be very useful when trying to capture the same angle and position of the tree. As you can see from the example below, if it's photographed the same way each time, it's easy to compare the canopy.

File the photograph according to Richie's guidance and keep it safe.

The Tree Council will collect these photos from you in the future to contribute to research. For further guidance or questions please contact Jon Stokes or Richie Cotterill by email:

jon.stokes@treecouncil.org.uk

info@htreewardens.org.uk

Happy snapping, and thank you from The Tree Council, Richie Cotterill and all the Ash trees!

# Richie's KLASH Pix Positions - 2017

Headbrook

A441 Pond

Allotment

Park View

A44 By-pass

Headbrook East

Tanyard Lane

Kingswood

# UK Ash Survey Helpers Monitoring Form Notes

The purpose of this project is to make an annual photographic record of a representative sample of ash trees in and around your parish; to monitor the spread of Ash Dieback (Chalara) and watch for any signs of resistance to the disease.

The idea is for you to:
- select a few ash trees to monitor in your locality both healthy and diseased, young and old
- photograph them (in jpeg format) annually when the tree is in full leaf (July-August)
  *record where you stand to take the photo – it's important to take them from the same spot*
- record basic information about the tree using a simple monitoring form

**Photo filename:** This should be the reference and year, e.g. JMC-1-16.jpeg
We have also set up a simple UKASH GoogleMap to put our trees on and see each other's
You can of course create your own local Google Map to localize your project
Data is exportable as KML files which are compatible with other digital mapping systems

The forms are fairly simple, but here are a few tips:

- **Reference Number:** e.g. JMC-1
  Give each tree a reference number; your initials followed by a hyphen (-) and a number

- **Location:** Preferably a **10 figure grid reference** beginning SO ……
  This can be easily be found by using gridreferencefinder.com

- **Site Description:** Describe the position; street addresses and postcodes can also be used

- **Size:** Just a basic small (<7.5cm dia), medium (7.5 to 30 cm dia) and large (>30cm dia).

- **Type:** Basic information only, e.g. single tree, hedgerow tree, street tree, riverside etc. coppice, pollard, maiden,

- **Leaf cover:** Record the canopy as a % of total canopy cover (100%)
  The Tree Council propose a simple 4 class system
  CLASS 1    100% leaf cover - virtually none of the tree structure/ branches visible
  CLASS 2    75% - some branches visible
  CLASS 3    50% - much of the structure visible
  CLASS 4    25% - most of the structure visible

- **Condition and comments:** Record any signs of Chalara, dieback, fungi and other signs

- ***Sex:*** *We had thought it'd be clever to record the gender of the tree by the presence of "keys" but, it appears that ash is a LGBT of the tree world; capable of any or all manifestations from "male" to "female", to a bit of both on different branches or even "perfect" hermaphrodite flowers!*

This is simply an initial attempt to start recording ash trees and will no doubt develop over time.
Any comments or suggestions would be welcome, especially on the IT side.
The important thing is to start getting photos taken a.s.a.p.
The exact form of the digital database and internet-based mapping will develop as we go along.

Further information on Ash Dieback can be found at:
http://www.observatree.org.uk/toolkits/chalara-ash-dieback-toolkit/

Thanks for your help …………

# UK Ash Survey Helpers' - Monitoring Form

| Surveyor Name | Phone | | Email | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

| **Tree Reference** *Initials-Number* | | **Location** *10 Fig. Ref.* | SO | |
|---|---|---|---|---|

| **Camera Position** *Where you stand* | |
|---|---|

| **Site Description** | |
|---|---|

| **Size** *Large/Med/Small* | |
|---|---|

| **Type** *Maiden / Pollard* | |
|---|---|

| **Date**(s) | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Leaf cover** *as %* | | | | | | |

| **Condition   2018** *Signs of Disease(s)* | |
|---|---|
| Comments | |

| **Condition   2019** *Signs of Disease(s)* | |
|---|---|
| Comments | |

| **Condition   2020** *Signs of Disease(s)* | |
|---|---|
| Comments | |

| **Condition   2021** *Signs of Disease(s)* | |
|---|---|
| Comments | |

| **Condition   2022** *Signs of Disease(s)* | |
|---|---|
| Comments | |

| **Condition   2023** *Signs of Disease(s)* | |
|---|---|
| Comments | |