

Interim Chalara control plan

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Interim Chalara Control Plan

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Ash tree dieback is caused by the *Chalara fraxinea* fungus. It has already affected a high proportion of ash trees in Northern Europe.

It was discovered for the first time in Great Britain in a nursery in Buckinghamshire in February 2012. In October this year, it was also found in the wider environment in woodland in Norfolk.

The scientific advice is that it will not be possible to eradicate Chalara. However, this plan sets out initial targeted, science-based and proportionate action to control the disease and provides a framework for future action as our understanding of Chalara, and the costs and benefits of action develops. It follows our [preliminary actions](#) which were published on 9 November 2012.

- [Interim Chalara Control Plan](#)

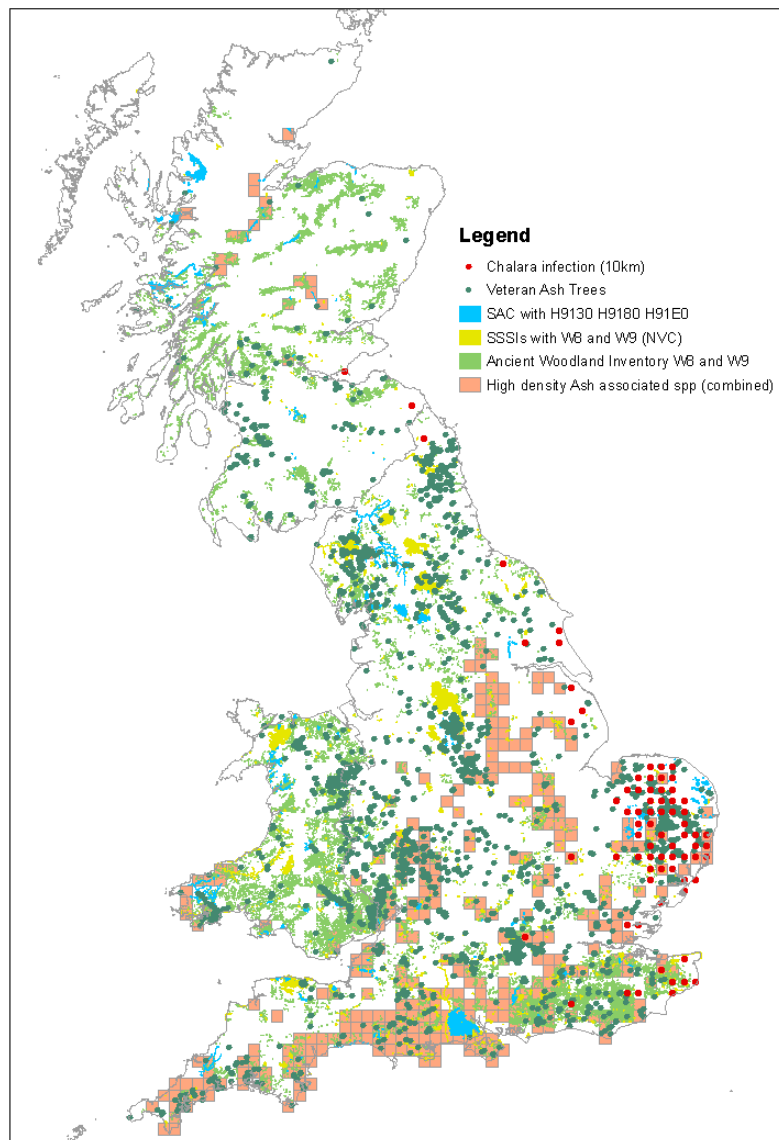
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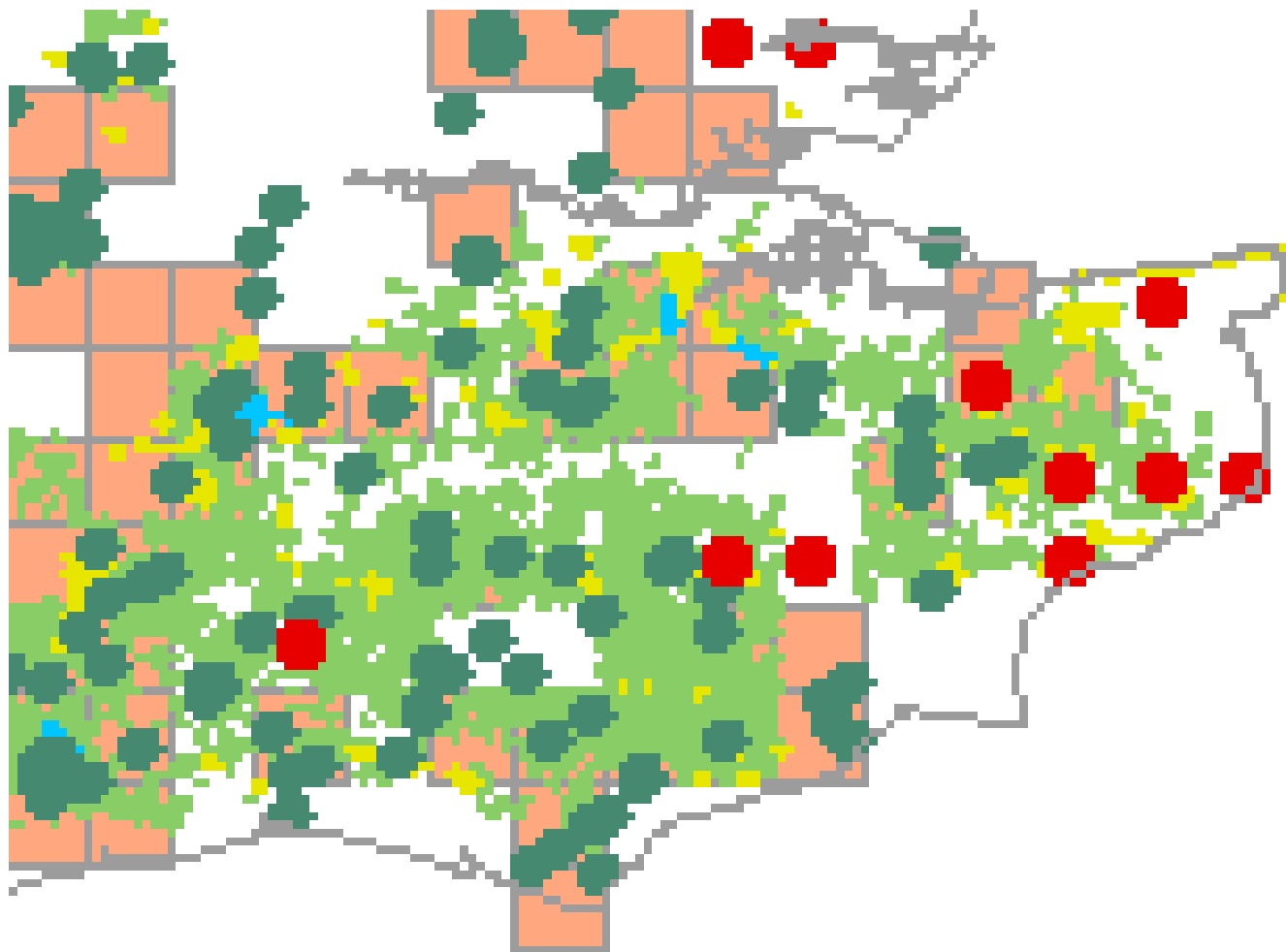
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- 124,000ha in England
- 665 SSSI
- 2nd most common tree
- Complex supply chain
- > Half recently planted trees imported
- Ecosystem services



1. Reducing the rate of spread
2. Developing resistance
3. Encouraging citizen, landowner and industry engagement in surveillance, monitoring and action in tackling the problem
4. Building resilience in woodland and associated industries

- Review the ban on import and movement of ash trees by Spring 2013
- Explore options for a targeted approach to management of infected trees by end March 2013
- Initiate research on spore production at infected sites
- Work with partners to publish information and targeted advice for a range of audiences

- Work across Europe to share data and experience on resistance to Chalara
- Work with research councils and other bodies in the UK to identify and prioritise research needs on resistance and ensure those needs are met.

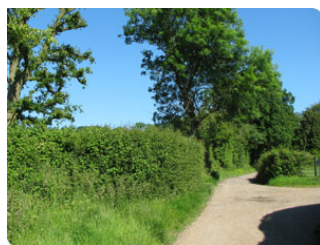
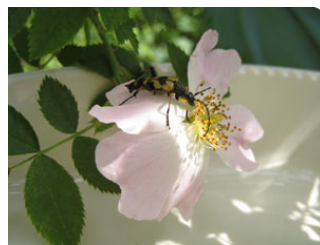
- Develop a plant health network of trained people to support official surveillance and detection



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- Fund a pilot project to accelerate the development of the ObservaTREE, a tree health early warning system using volunteer groups
- Continue to work with the OPAL consortium to develop the OPAL survey on tree health for launch in May 2013

N NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



- Support work by industry groups to develop a charter mark for plants of UK origin
- Support a biosecurity themed show garden at next year's Chelsea Flower Show



- Publish silvicultural guidance on adapting to Chalara
- Publish maps showing the distribution of important ash across Great Britain
- Work with the horticulture and nursery sectors on long-term resilience to the impact of Chalara and other plant health threats

- Bring plant health policy closer to the heart of Government
- Review recommendations of Independent Task Force on Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity
- Update control plan in March 2013



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- We already live with many endemic or naturalised pests and have learned how to mitigate their impact
- Trees will be exposed to many challenging events during their long life-span
- Catastrophic events have happened previously and the forestry sector has shown great resilience in dealing with them and moving on
- We should anticipate change and adapt our practices to deal with emerging threats