

Implications for Grants & Licences

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- Draft Guidance
- Due to be published any day
- In the form of an **Operations Note**
- See Document Library on the Grants & Regulations section of the FC website
- www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7t9e4j

Purpose -

to update owners and managers on how *Chalara fraxinea* (Chalara dieback of ash) may affect the grant and regulatory processes supporting the planting and felling of ash in England.

- There is a total ban on the movement of ash seed and trees for planting
- Ash may regenerate naturally – we don't advocate removal (it may be a naturally resistant strain).

- To be able to invoke this clause you must
 - Have a scheme with the Force majeure clause (i.e. from 2008)
 - Inform the FC within 10 days of confirmation e.g. Plant Health notice, photos etc
 - Provide details of tree Nos, locations and timing of planting
 - Not remove uninfected trees
- If your scheme is pre 2008 please contact us and we will look to work with you as if the clause was relevant to your agreement

- **Accept the loss of ash trees** as increased open ground – we allow up to 40% OG in native woodlands
- **Replace the ash component** with another appropriate species – on a case by case basis
- **Assess the viability** of a project

Status	Implications
New application or Un-approved application	No ash as planting option
Approved agreement – not yet planted	Requires alternative species
Approved agreement – Planted (and still under obligations)	3 options <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Alternative species2. Reduced stocking density3. Write off the scheme

- **We will issue Felling Licences** to allow ash trees to be felled as normal (subject to UKFS)
- **It isn't necessary to fell ash prematurely** to avoid trees becoming infected
- No restriction on the movement of timber

- Given that young, small diameter ash trees are most susceptible may need to consider alternatives e.g.
 - **Conversion to high forest**
 - **Change of species**
 - **Delay any felling**

- **FC website** – www.forestry.gov.uk
- Contact **your local WO** – every agreement/case/location will have its own unique issues to consider
- If you have Felling Licence obligations under a HLS scheme – make sure you contact **Natural England** for advice on appropriate action

