

Survey of roadside ash trees

Roadside ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in the Parish of Carlton were surveyed for ash die-back disease on 13th July 2025 (see Reports 2019-17, 2020-15, 2021-16, 2022-16, 2023-13, 2024-12 for previous surveys). The map and numbering in all reports are the same (with a few minor adjustments). The survey was made during a spell of very hot and dry weather, but the foliage of all species of roadside trees was green and not wilted.

Detailed and up to date information about this disease and tree management can be found on the Forestry Commission and Leicestershire County Council websites which can be accessed through links on the Carlton Parish Council website.

The aim of these surveys is to monitor the spread and severity of the disease by a simple visual inspection of each tree or close group of trees. The criteria adopted are illustrated overleaf. Trees with normal foliage were assessed as healthy (A); trees with small areas of branch die-back in the crown were assessed as possibly infected (B); trees with branches in the crown showing significant die-back, with new leaf growth restricted to the base of the branch were assessed as infected (C); trees with many dead branches and limited leaf growth in the core of the tree were assessed as severely infected (D).

The surveyed trees are listed below, with assessments listed by year. A few trees were missed in earlier surveys and have been added with the suffix 'a'. In 2019, 59% of surveyed trees were assessed as healthy. This decreased to a minimum of 32% in 2022, and then increased to 42% in 2023, 45% in 2024 and 48% in 2025. During the course of these surveys, 15 trees assessed as showing the first signs of infection have subsequently been assessed as healthy. Of these 15 trees, 13 remained healthy in 2025. Since the first survey in 2019, 5 badly infected trees have been felled.

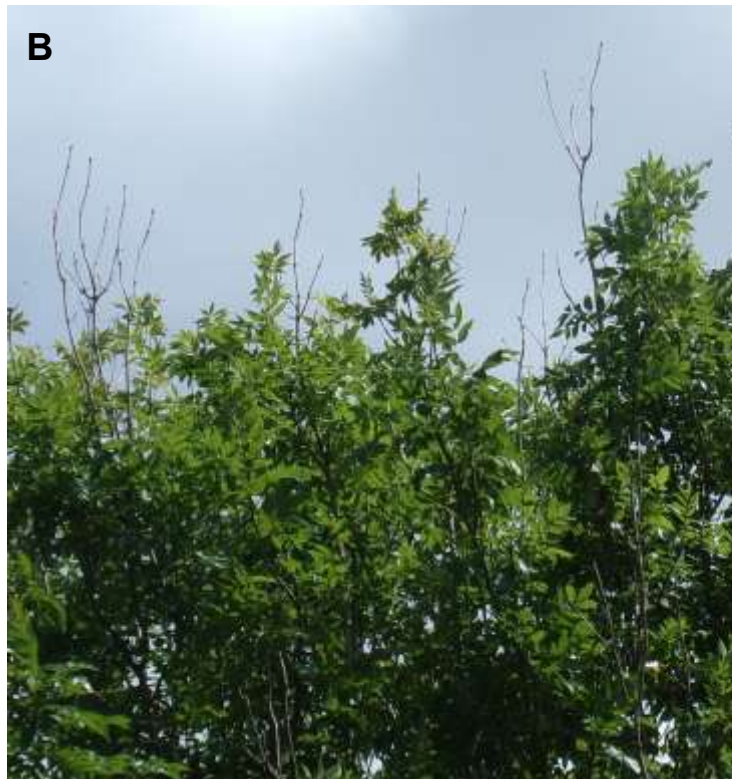
The disease is not progressing as fast as it was in our area, and some trees appear to be recovering. Other Leicestershire tree wardens have noticed the same thing, and it is thought that the hot and dry conditions over the past four summers have been less favourable to the fungus which prefers a cool and wet environment. The very wet winter and spring in 2024 did not result in increased disease, so it would appear that the critical factor is the weather conditions during the growing season when the trees are in leaf and photosynthesising.

There are marked differences in susceptibility to the disease, and in the progress of the disease in different trees. Some trees very close to badly affected trees still show no signs of infection. Other trees have shown signs of infection for three or four years but with no increase in severity and some appear to have recovered, while in others the disease has rapidly progressed to severe infection. The data are summarised in graphical form at the end of this report.

This survey will be repeated to monitor the spread of infection, the progress of the disease in infected trees and the recovery of infected trees.



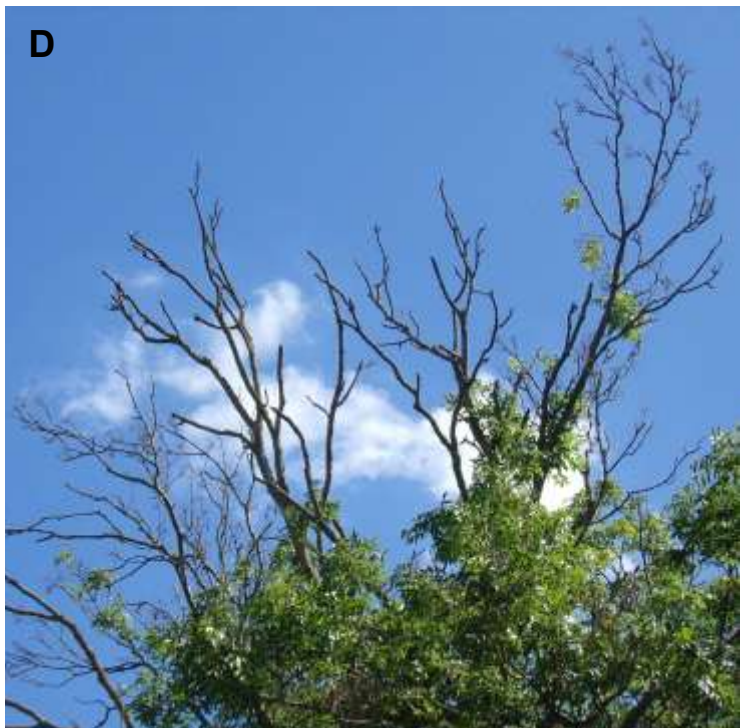
A. Healthy ash tree



B. Infection suspected

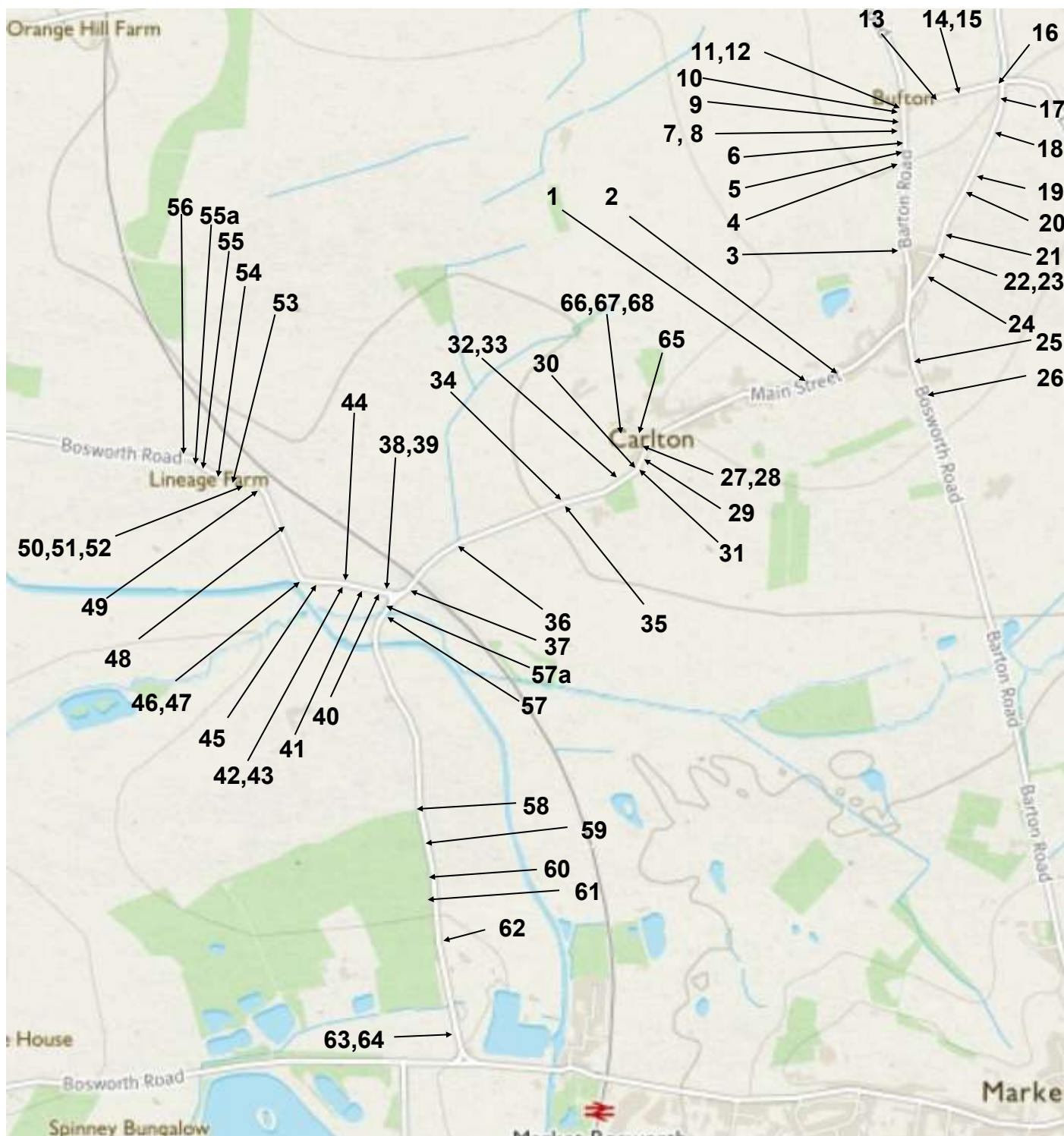


C. Infected tree



D. Severely infected tree

Location of surveyed trees



Survey of roadside ash trees

nc = no change

Main Street

1. Outside 65 Main St. Large mature ash subject to TPO. 19-Appears healthy. Very small amount of branch die-back – normal for a mature tree. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25 nc.

2. Outside 71 Main St. 19-Young pollarded ash tree shows early signs of infection. 20-Badly infected. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. Tree removed.

Barton Road

3. Pair of ash pollards in hedge to Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard, E side of road. 19-Appear healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-N tree shows die-back; S tree healthy. 25 nc.

4. Small ash in hedge, E side road, N of field gate. 19-Healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25/nc

5. Young ash in hedge, E side of road. 19-Shows first signs of infection. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-healthy. 24-n/c. 25nc.

6. Young ash in hedge, E side of road (before 2 sycamore). 19-Appears healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-first signs of infection. 23-healthy. 24-first signs on infection. 25nc.

Two partly dead sycamore, E side of road - ? squirrel damage. 21-Vigorous growth from trunk and lower branches. 22-leaves all dead—drought. 24-both show abundant leaf growth. Both trees now recovered and growing vigorously.

8. Small ash in hedge, E side of road, opposite electric pole. 19-Healthy. 20-Minor die-back in crown. 21-n/c. 22-appears infected. 23-n/c. 24-healthy. 25nc.

9. Multi-stemmed ash in hedge, E side of road. 19-Shows signs of infection. 20-No change. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25 healthy.

10. Semi-mature ash adjacent gate to r/o Bufton Lodge, W side of road. 19-Infected. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-Healthy. 25nc.

11. Mature single stem ash opposite Bufton Cottage on W side of road. 19-possible first signs of infection in crown. 20-Infected. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c, overhanging branches cut back. 24-Infected. 25nc.

12. Group of multi-stemmed young ash, W side of road opposite Bufton Cottage. 19-? first signs of infection in some crowns. 20-n/c. 21-Appears healthy. 22-2 stems removed as overhanging road & cottage. 23-healthy. 24-n/c. 25nc.

Bufton Lane

13. Mature ash, S side of road adj field. 19-Small amount of branch die back in crown; may be healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/v. 23-n/c, abundant seed clusters. 24-infected; die back in all small branches. 25nc.

14. Mature ash adjacent drive to Willowfield. 19-Small amount of die back in crown; may be healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25 healthy.

15. Mature Ash, opposite bungalow, S side of road. 19-Some die back in shaded branches but this may be normal in an old tree. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-increased die-back, possibly due to drought. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25 healthy.

16. Multi-stemmed young ash at corner with Nailstone Road. 19-Infected. 20-Increased amount of die-back. 21-Severe infection. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-part dead. 25nc.

Nailstone Road

17. Spindly young ash in hedge between row of oaks, W side of road, N of field gate. 19-Healthy. 20-No change. 21-Becoming shaded out. First signs of infection. 22-n/c. 23-nc now seriously shaded. 24-n/c. 25nc.

18. Mature ash, W side of road between 2 mature oaks. 19-Small amount of die back in shaded branches; may be normal for mature tree. 20-No change. 21-First signs of infection. 22-n/c. 23-infected. 24-n/c. 25 healthy—very little die-back.

18a. Young ash, E side of road, 20m before 30mph sign. 21-Healthy. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25 becoming shaded by adjacent sycamore; healthy.

19. Young ash, E side of road adjacent 30 mph sign. 19-Healthy. 20-No change. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25nc.

30 mph sign

20. Multi-stemmed young ash, E side of road. 19-Healthy. 20-No change. 21-No change. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25 nc.

Carlton village nameplate

21. Multi-stemmed young ash opposite drive to CDJO. 19-Shows first signs of infection. 20-No change. 21-No change. 22-n/c. 23-healthy. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

22. Group of young ash trees opposite no.11 Northfields on E side of road. 19-First signs of infection in crown. 20-Infected. 21-No change. 22-increased die-back in crown. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25 50% canopy loss, some dead branches.

23. Group of young ash opposite end of back garden of 1 Northfields, E side of road. 19-First signs of infection. 20-Infected. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c abundant seeds. 24-die back in crown. 25-n/c.

24. Group of young ash opposite No.3, E side of road. 19-A few yellowed leaves; may be healthy. 20-Infected. 21-n/c (? Increased die-back). 22-increased die-back. 23-minor (reduced) die-back. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

Bosworth Road

25. Semi-mature ash, adjacent drive to farmyard to New House Farm, E side of road. 19-First signs of infection in crown. 20-Healthy. 21-No change. 22-increased die-back ?drought. 23-n/c abundant seeds. 24-infected. 25-n/c.

26. Semi-mature ash, adjacent to road junction sign, W side of road. 19-First signs of infection in crown. 20-Healthy. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25-infected; reduced canopy.

Congerstone Lane

27. Young ash, front garden of Field View, N side of road. 19-Healthy. 20-No change. 21-First signs of infection. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25– tree removed.

28a (east) & b (west). Pair of young ash near gate to Field View, N side of road. 19-Minor die back in crown – may be infected. 20-Infected. 21-1 badly infected and dying, other infected. 22-28b dead and removed; 28a badly infected. 23-n/c. 24-28a tree removed.

29. Semi-mature ash, S side of road. 19-Healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

30. Twin stemmed ash, N side of road W of front garden to Woodmill, adj tel pole. 19-Die back in shaded branches near base of crown – may be healthy. 20-n/c. 21-? First signs of infection. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25-infected—50% leaf loss.

31. Multi-stemmed ash near electric pole, adj field entrance, S side of road. 19-Healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

31a Leggy ash sapling between 31 and road, adj electric pole. 21-Badly infected. 22-badly infected. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25-badly infected, 50% canopy loss.

32. Group of 6 trees at side of small enclosure adjacent drive to Carlton Grange, N side of road. 19-Healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-1 tree infected. 24-middle tree badly infected. 25—2 trees near Rectory drive 80% canopy loss; 2 middle trees infected; 2 adjacent drive to Carlton House Farm healthy.

33. Pollarded ash adjacent to public footpath, N side of road. 19-Infected. 20-No change. 21-Badly infected. 22-n/c. 23-n/c abundant seeds. 24-badly infected. 25-n/c 40% canopy loss.

34. Pollarded ash, N side of road opposite Green Barn. 19-Infected. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c abundant seeds. 24-badly infected. 25-n/c. 40% canopy loss.

35. Young ash, Rectory Field on N side of road before village nameplate. 19-Infected. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-die back in all crown shoots. 25-n/c.

36. Young ash, Charity Lands hedge, S side of road. 19-Healthy. 20-Infected. 21-n/c. 22-increased die-back. 22-healthy. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

Railway bridge

37. Twin-stemmed ash, S side of road. 19-Small amount of die back in crown. May be infected. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-healthy. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

Congerstone Road

38. Young ash, NE side of road behind street nameplate. 19-Healthy. 20-? First signs of infection. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-healthy. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

39. Three young ash trees either side of 14' bridge height warning sign, Associated with three field maple. 19-Minor die back at branch tips in northernmost tree; others appear healthy. 20-No change. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

40. Semi-mature ash in verge on SW side of road. 19-Shows first signs of infection. Young ash in hedge nearby also shows first signs of infection. 20-Badly infected. 21-No change. 22-no change. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

41. Semi-mature ash in hedge on S side of road. 19-Healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-? First signs of infection (or drought). 23-infected. 24-n/c. 25-healthy.

Bend sign

42 a (east) & b (west). Two semi-mature ash on S side of road and to E of gate into field. 19-Small amount of die-back in crowns. Might be infected. 20-42a n/c, 42b infected; 22-42a & 42b infected. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25-n/c—canopy thin.

43. Semi-mature ash, W side of gate into field, S side of road. 19-Die back in shaded branches – may be healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-? Infected (or drought). 23-n/c abundant seeds. 24-thin foliage, die back in lower branches. 25 infected.

44. PC planted young ash in verge on N side of road. 19-Healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

45 a (east), b (centre), c (west). 3 young ash trees across road from 44. 19-Small amount of die back at branch tips. May be infected. 20-45a&b n/c, 45c infected. 21-45a&b n/c, 45c badly infected. 22-45a&b n/c, 45c badly infected. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

46. Group of young ash in ditch on S side of road. 19-Healthy. 20-No change. 21-First signs of infection. 22-n/c. 23-healthy. 24-infected. 25-n/c.

47. Semi-mature ash on E side of corner and on S side of road. Crown healthy. 19-Minor die back in shaded branches at base of crown. Probably healthy. 20-n/c. 21-First signs of infection. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-thin foliage, die back in crown. 25-n/c.

Granny Sands Corner

48. 2 young ash associated with oak on E side of road. 19-Appear healthy. 20-First signs of infection. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-infected. 25-n/c.

49. Semi-mature ash on W side of road at corner, opposite kissing gate. 19-Healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

50. Semi-mature ash on S side of road. 19-Infected. 20-n/c. 21-Badly infected. 22-n/c. 23-20% crown die-back. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

51. Pair of ash trees on E side of field gate on S side of road. 19-Die-back and thin foliage in crown. Probably infected. 20-Infected. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-healthy. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

52. Pair of semi-mature ash on W side of field gate and S side of road. 19-Healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

53. Group of semi-mature ash between 52 and larch tree on S side of road. 19-Healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

54. Young ash tree near to corner of Lineage Farm farmhouse. 19-Healthy. 20-No change. 21-? First signs of infection. 22-infected. 23-n/c. 24-healthy. 25-n/c.

55. Young ash, W of gate to Lineage Farm. 19-Infected. 20-Healthy. 21-No change. 22-no change. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

55a. Group of ash saplings growing up in hedge. 20-Healthy. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c but thin foliage and abundant seeds. 24-healthy 25-n/c but thin foliage.

56. Young ash, S side of road, near corner of garden. 19-Infected. 20-Badly infected. 21-50% crown loss. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25 50% crown die-back.

Carlton Road

57. Mature ash covered with ivy S side road adjacent to Carlton Brook. 19-Infected. 20-Badly infected. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-tree removed.

57a. Clump of semi-mature ash on N side road between low bridge sign and brook. 20-?first signs of infection. 21-First signs of infection. 22-n/c. 23-healthy. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

Canal bridge; drive to Westfields Farm
Farm traffic sign

58. Mature ash, W side of road. 50% crown die back. 19-Badly infected. 20-No change. 21-Now 80% crown loss. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c-big fallen branches in field. 25-n/c.

Three big oak trees on W side road.

59. Semi-mature ash, W side of road. 19-50% crown die-back. Badly infected. 20-No change. 21-No change. 22-now 80% crown loss. Big branch overhanging road removed. 23-n/c 80% crown die-back. 24-n/c. 25-n/c. 95% crown loss.

60. Mature ash, W side of road opposite footpath. 19-Healthy. 20-?first signs of infection. 21-? First signs of infection. 22-n/c. 23-infected. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

61. Young ash, W side of road (next to young oak). 19-Healthy. 20-First signs of infection. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-healthy. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

62. Mature ash, W side of road adjacent power line. 19-Healthy. 20-No change. 21-? First signs of infection. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-healthy, but thin foliage. 25-n/c.

63. Young ash tree - N one of a pair between Marina entrance and bus stop, W side of road. 19-30% crown die back. Infected. 20-Badly infected. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-minor dieback in crown. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

64. Young ash tree - S one of a pair between Marina entrance and bus stop, W side of road. 30% crown die back. 19-Infected. 20-Badly infected. 21-Now 50% crown die back. 22-n/c. 23-now 20% crown die-back. 24-30% crown die back. 25-n/c.

Shackerstone Walk

65. Coppiced ash at corner of West Green. 19-Healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22- ? first sign of infection (or drought). 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25-n/c.

Little Lane

66. Two mature ash, W side of Little Lane. 19-Minor die back – possibly first sign of infection. 20-Infected. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c abundant seeds. 24-n/c. 25-canopy thin.

67. 3 semi-mature ash, W side of path, close to 66. 19-Healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c first 2 are being shaded out. 24-n/c. 25 healthy.

68. Mature ash near N end, on E side of path. 19-First signs of infection. 20-Infected. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-n/c. 25-n/c thin canopy.

Wellesborough Road

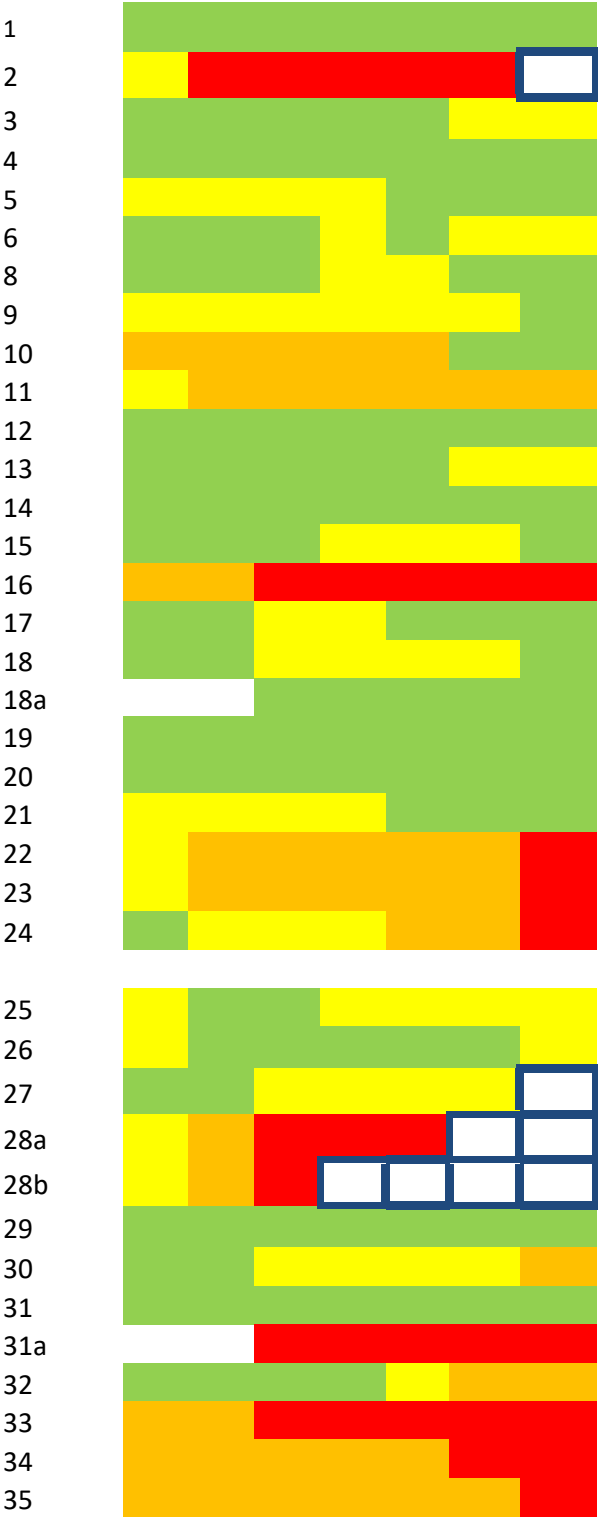
There are no ash trees along this road within the Parish of Carlton.

On S side of this road between Carlton Road and Far Coton Lane there are three mature ash trees with 50% crown die back. At the junction of the Wellesborough Road and Far Coton Lane there is a mature ash tree with 60% now 80% crown die back. This is the most severely affected tree in this area. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-n/c. 24-tree removed.

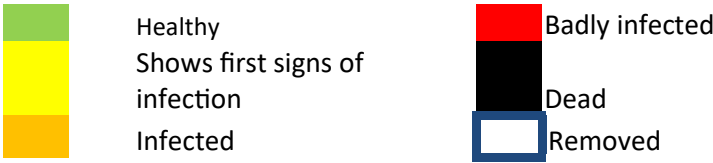
25 - there are now 4 mature trees in this hedgerow, 3 opposite junction triangle with 50-80% crown die-back; one between here and Far Coton Lane which is badly infected.

Graphical summary of survey data

Tree number 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025



KEY



Healthy
Shows first signs of infection
Infected
Badly infected
Dead
Removed