

Kington Living Ash Survey Helpers



The purpose of this project is to make a record of a representative sample of ash trees in and around the parish, in order to monitor the spread of Ash Dieback (Chalara).

Ash Dieback is already in Kington!

The idea is for you to select a number of trees in your locality, both healthy and diseased, photograph them, and fill in a simple form. The photograph should be taken when the tree is in full leaf and repeated at the same time each year (July-August). Forms can be submitted by email to kingontrees@live.co.uk or as hard copy and the photos should preferably be in jpeg format.

We have set up a simple [GoogleMap](#) to put our Ash Trees on. Eventually we would like to have all the data on a GIS map which is open access and can be added to at will. However, we do not have this set up at the moment. (Does anyone have the IT skills to help us set this up?)

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

- **Reference:** Each tree should be given a reference number, maybe your initials followed by a number, followed by the year. e.g. JMC/1/2016.
- **Location:** The location should preferably be in the form of a 10 figure grid reference. This can be found by logging into gridreferencefinder.com This will be demonstrated at the meeting. Street addresses and postcodes can also be used.
- **Type:** Basic information only, e.g. single tree, hedgerow tree, coppice, street tree...
- **Size:** Just a basic small (<7.5cm dia), medium (7.5 to 30 cm dia) and large (>30cm dia).
- **Leaf cover:** The Tree Council use a simple 4 order system, 100% leaf cover (virtually none of the tree structure/ branches visible), 75% (some branches visible), 50% (much of the structure visible), 25% (most of the structure visible). We have examples to show you at the meeting.
- **Description, condition and comments:** Fairly self explanatory, keep it brief, we can discuss this at the meeting.
- **Photo filename:** This should be the reference, e.g. JMC/1/2016.jpeg Or just write the filename you have and I will rename it.

This is 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 asap, the exact form of the digital database 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

Jon Cooke