Ash Dieback:
Are you ready?

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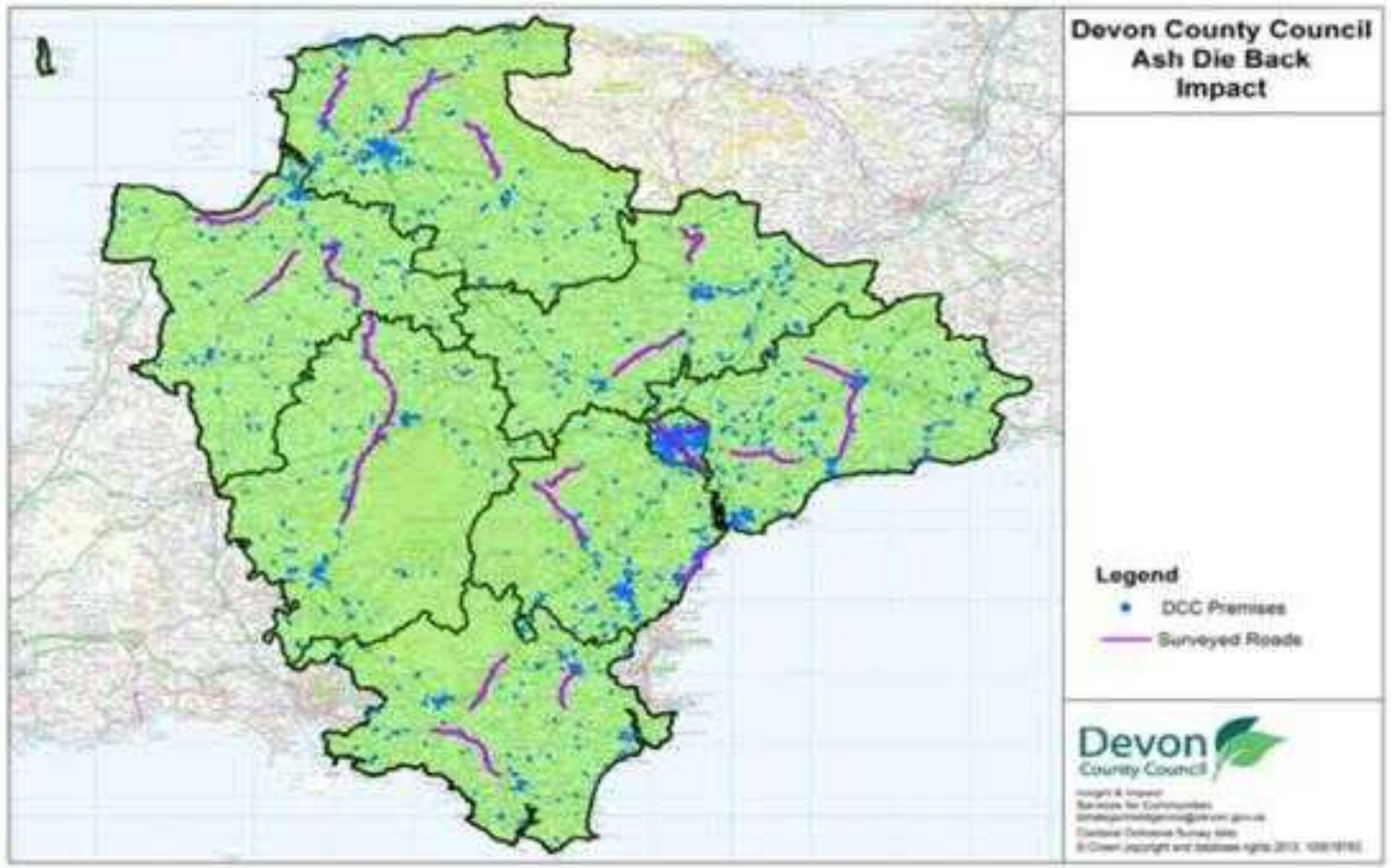
Numbers non-woodland ash

Available figures suggests that there are for example:

- 17 - 34 million ash in small woodland and plantations
- 5.4-19.7 million ash in hedgerows in the UK
- 4 million + ash on Highway Agency Land
- 3.6 - 4 million ash in Britain's towns and cities
- 1.2 -2.3 million ash in the wider agricultural countryside

The Tree Council therefore estimates there are between 27.2 and 60 million ash trees in non-woodland situations (greater than 4cm diameter at breastheight) plus 400 million seedlings and saplings

Numbers non-woodland ash



By category of road

District	Average number of trees / km
Category A road	12
Category B Road	21
Category C road	36
Unclassified Road	33

Summary of highway ash trees:
By District

District	Total Number of Ash	Ash / km
South Hams	30811	16
West Devon	74487	50
Torridge	49532	29
North Devon	45284	22
Mid Devon	58527	33
East Devon	103644	53
Teignbridge	85028	51
Exeter	325	8
Total	447639	263

Ash Health and Safety

Manage the impact of Ash Dieback on the ground e.g. health and safety risks

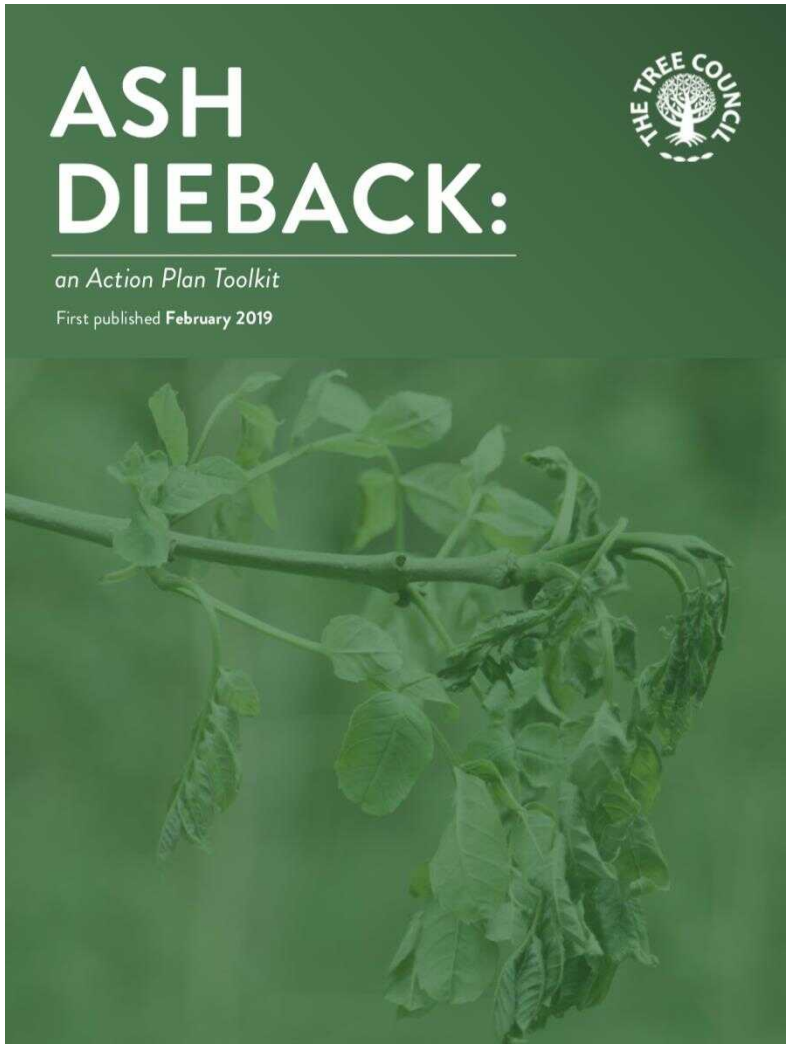
Established Ash Dieback Health and Safety Taskforce in 2015. Aims to:

- Provide advice and recommendations to inform strategic response to Ash Dieback.
- Advice on research priorities and facilitate information exchange
- Support work to build resilience of trees

Programme includes:

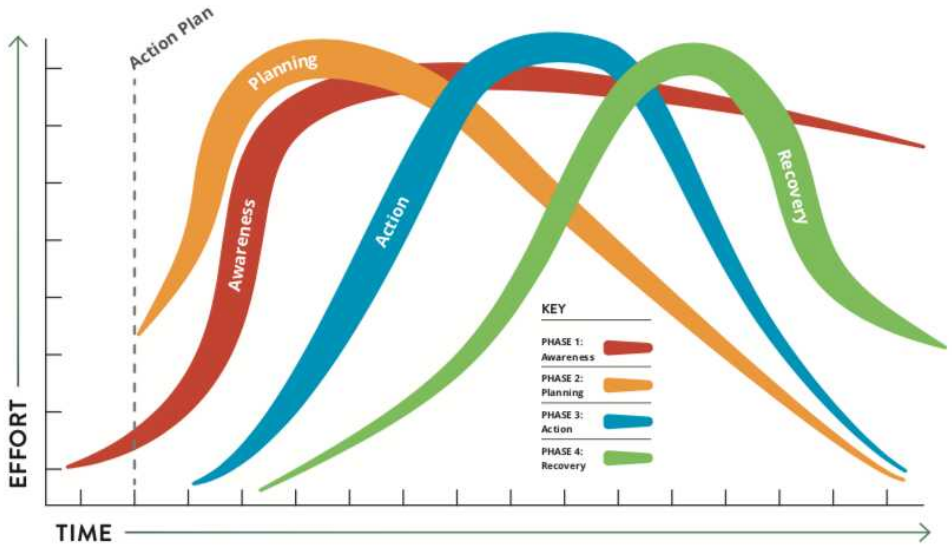
- Review of the legislative framework
- Guidance and support tools
- Training and surveying

The Ash Dieback Toolkit



This Toolkit is based upon discussions with Local Authorities who felt '*unprepared for the impacts of ash dieback'.*

This Toolkit is designed to assist Local Authorities and other regional or local agencies to prepare an **Ash Dieback Action Plan** (ADAP) to respond to the problems that the affected trees will create.



Awareness/anticipation: raising awareness about ash dieback
Planning/assessment: preparing and developing a Plan to help manage the problems.
Action/response to ash dieback: undertaking actions to remedy problems
Adaptation and recovery from ash dieback

Awareness: County Council Cost

Stats for a County Council

- 6020 recorded Ash trees on adopted highway verges
- Estimated 120,000 Ash in private ownership within falling distance of the highway
- 1546 recorded Ash trees on schools
- 468 recorded Ash trees on other County Council sites
- c. 5,500 non recorded Ash trees in County Council woodlands adjacent to areas of public use

Information to inform Costs

83% of recorded Ash trees are 6 metres plus in height

90% mortality of Ash trees in Denmark - however, assume 75% mortality in mainland Britain due to greater genetic diversity

Assume average cost of felling an Ash tree including site management is £400

Cost/Resource implications

Adopted Highway**: £1,499,200 or £150K per year for 10 years**

Private trees adjacent to Highway - **£29,880,000**

Schools - **£385,600**

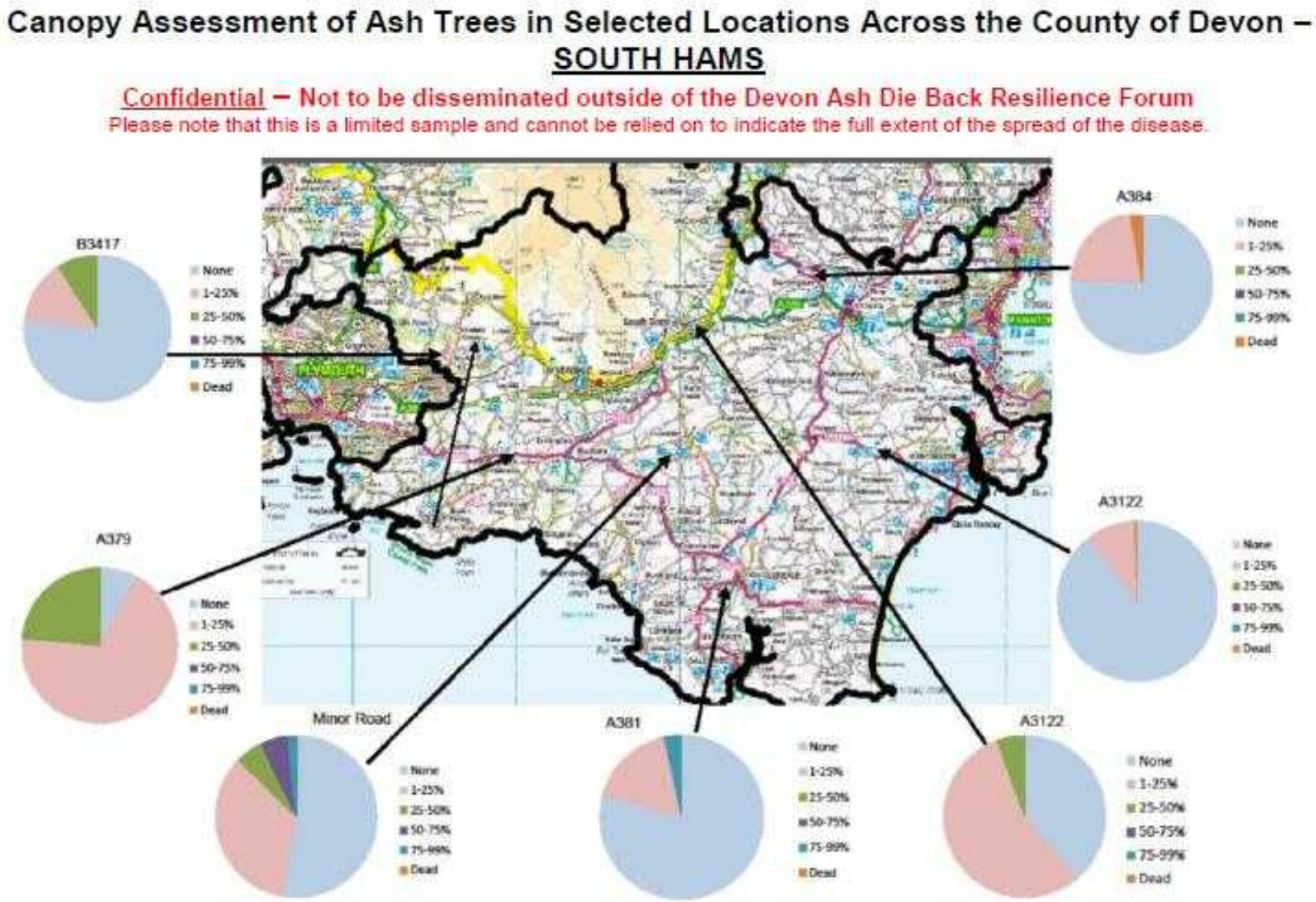
Other sites including woodlands- £1,486,000

Tree Planting to address loss in landscape, amenity etc.

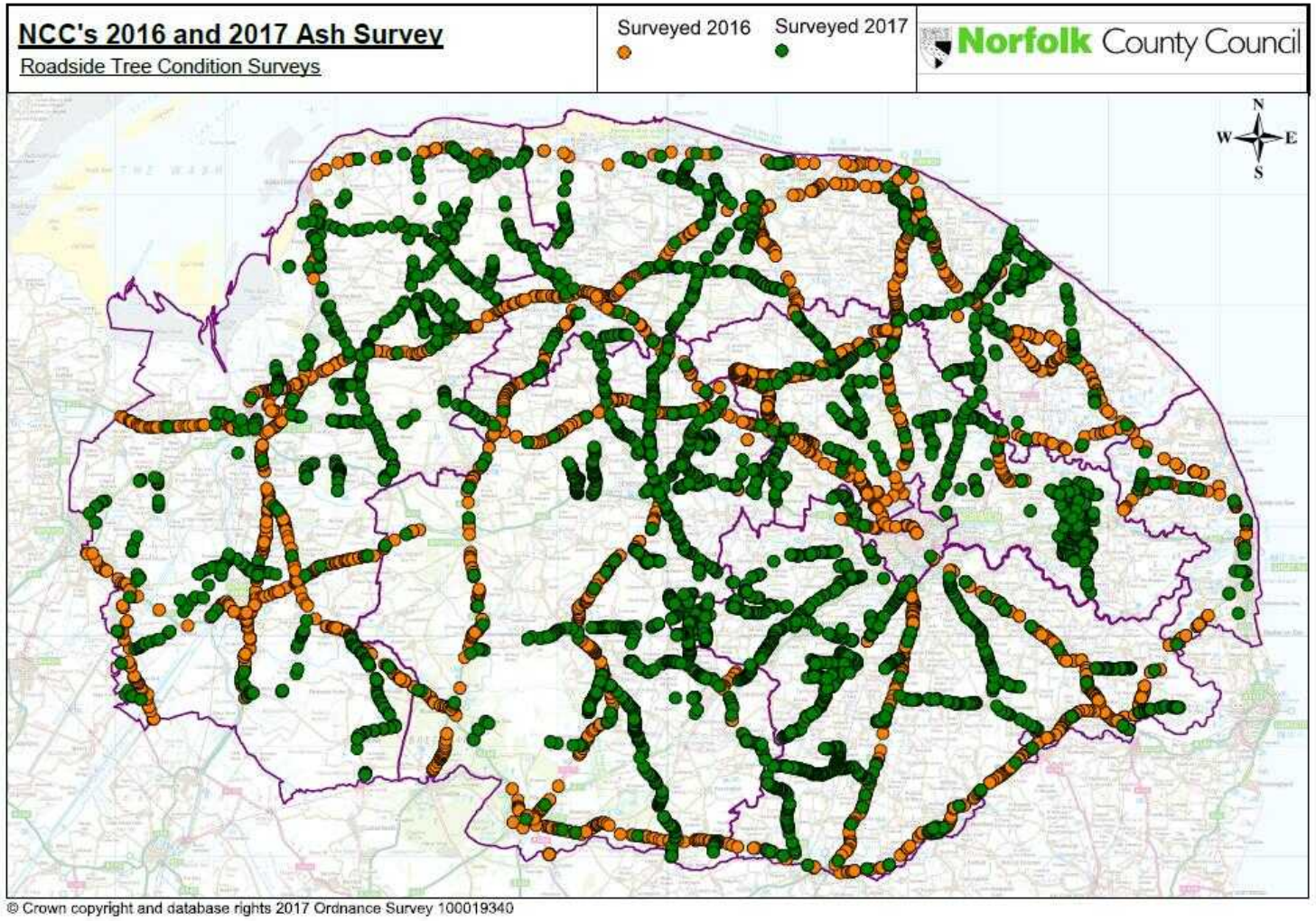
83,127 trees lost on County Council land, Schools and adjacent to the highway

Based on Free Tree Scheme @£15 per tree = £1,246,905 i.e. £83K per year for 15 years

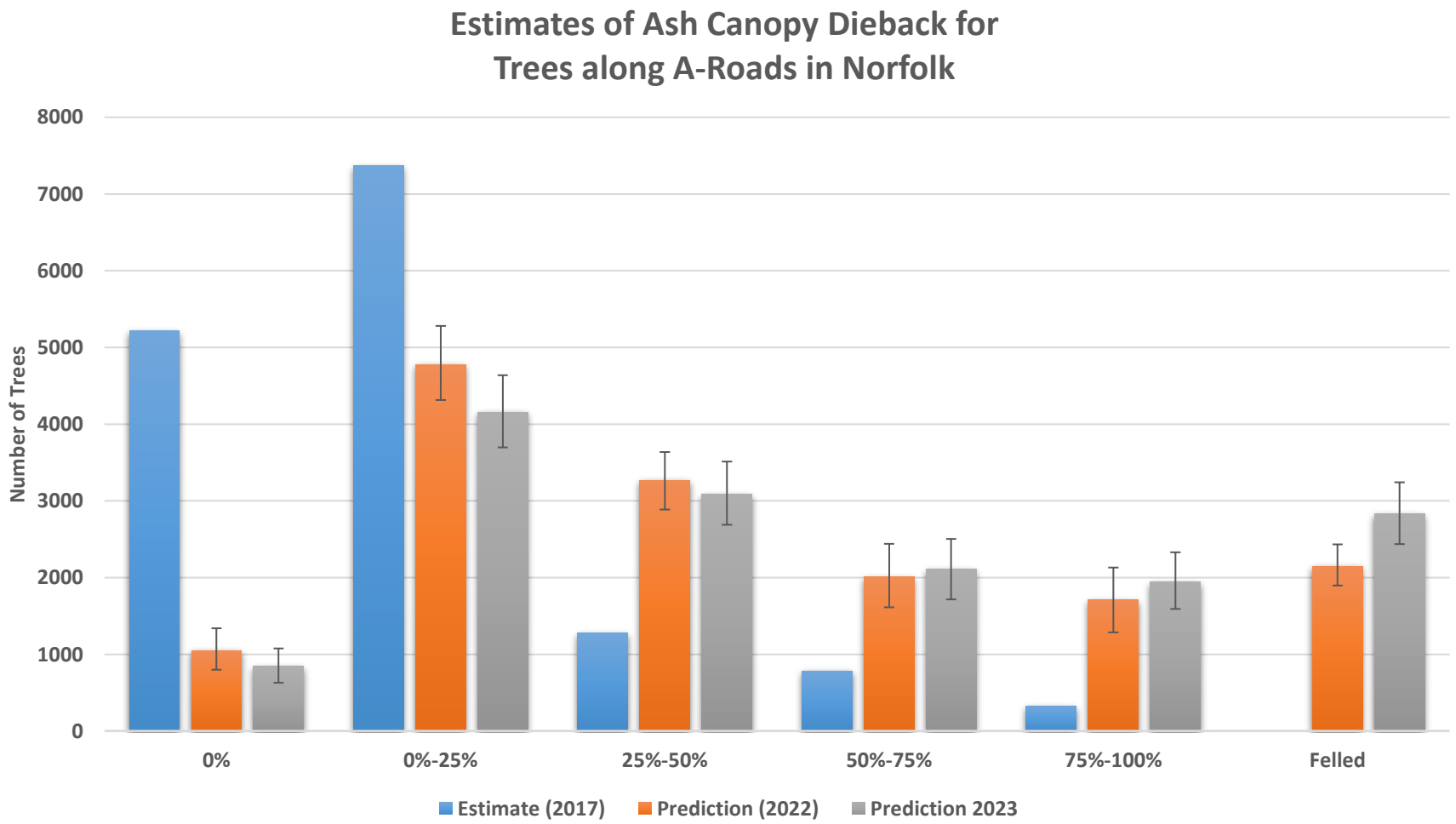
Canopy assessment in 2017



Norfolk County Council Ash Surveys 2016 and 2017

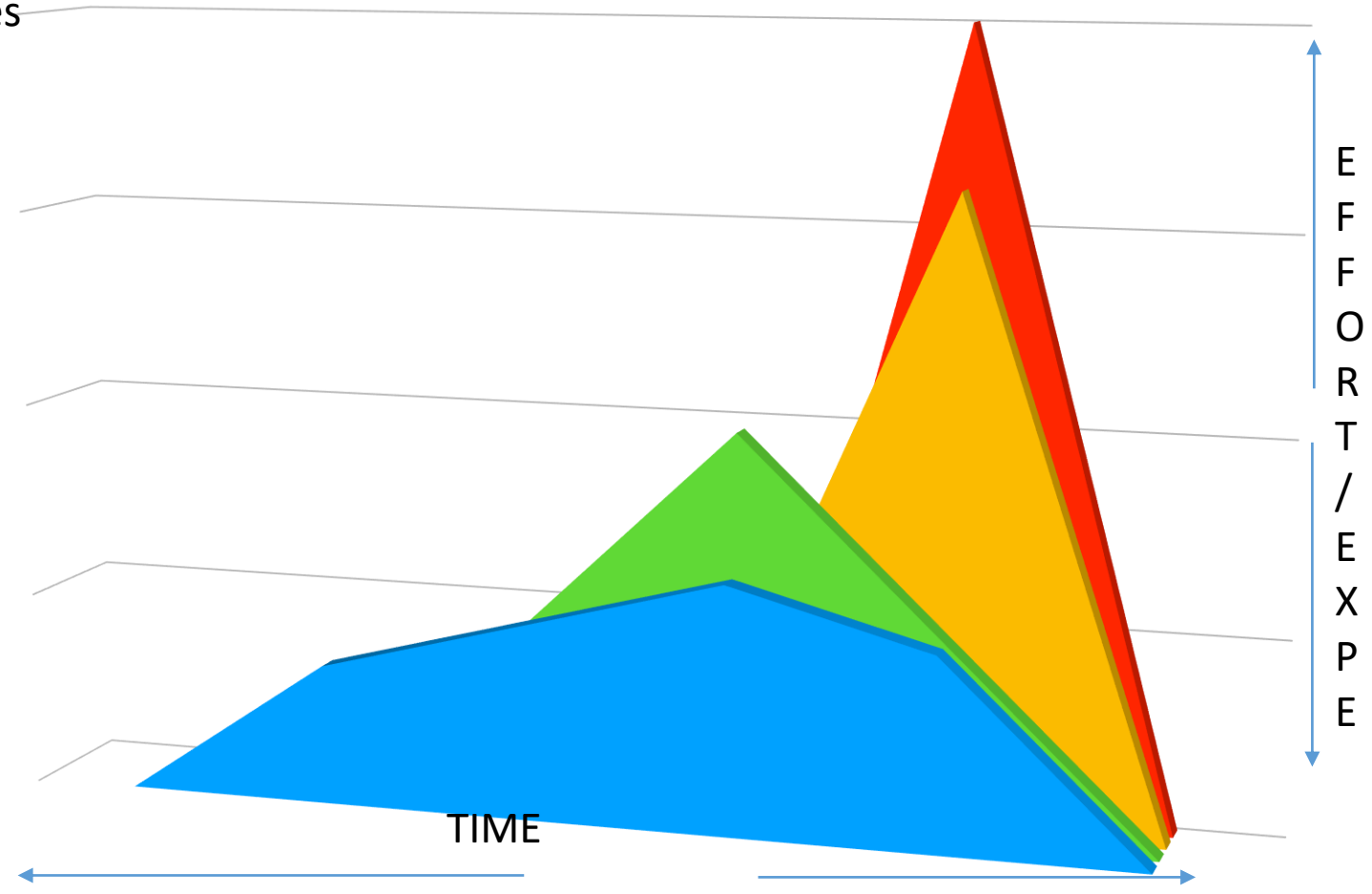


FERA science: A roads ash surveys and forecasts



Effort and expenditure

- The end point of Ash Dieback is fixed – ie the trees die in a finite time period.
- Delaying dealing with Ash Dieback simply increases the severity of the the funding issues



Your Corporate Risk

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPACTS

- Potential for death or injury as a result of ash dieback related accidents, both to professionals working on trees and to the general public
- Risks to statutory functions or service delivery such as retaining safe schools, public open spaces or highways

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- Increased liabilities in cases of death or injury as a result of ash dieback related incidents
- Inadequate staffing levels and the ability (or inability) to undertake the work required resulting in increased costs to recruit and retain the necessary staff

REPUTATIONAL DAMAGE

- Potential for disruption as a result of ash dieback management e.g. widespread road closures to deal with potentially dangerous trees
- Political and reputational risks as a result of negative press over ash dieback management and public outrage and/or anxiety

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Landscape changes with impacts on tourism and recreational opportunities
- Losses of carbon storage and sequestration

Conclusions

- There will be dead/dying ash trees
- There is only a short period for preparation
- The scale of the impact must be assessed
- It will impact corporate risk
- There will need to be changes in management practices
- Working with others for efficient joint responses
- Communication and collaboration is key

It is vital to understand that ash dieback will not be ‘business as usual’.