

**Survey of roadside ash trees**

Roadside ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in the Parish of Carlton were surveyed for ash die-back disease on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (see Reports 2019-17, 2020-15, 2021-16, 2022-16 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 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, 71 trees or groups of trees were observed, of which 42 (59%) were judged healthy. In 2022, 76 trees and groups of trees were evaluated, of which 24 (32%) were judged healthy. In 2023, 76 trees and groups of trees were surveyed, of which 32 (42%) were judged healthy.

The disease is not progressing as fast as it was in our area, and a significant number of trees considered infected in 2022 were found to be healthy in 2023. Other Leicestershire tree wardens have noticed the same thing, and it is thought that the hot and dry conditions over the past two summers are less favourable to the fungus which prefers a cool and wet environment.

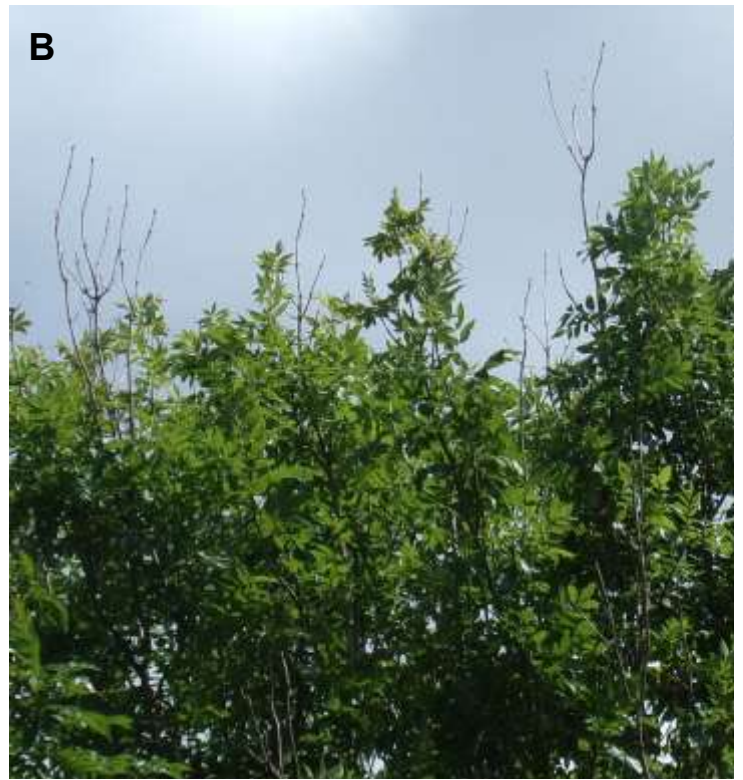
There are marked differences in susceptibility to the disease, and in the progress of the disease in different trees. Some trees very close to badly affected trees still show no signs of infection. Other trees have shown signs of infection for three or four years but with no increase in severity and some even 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.

C J Peat Tree Warden 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023



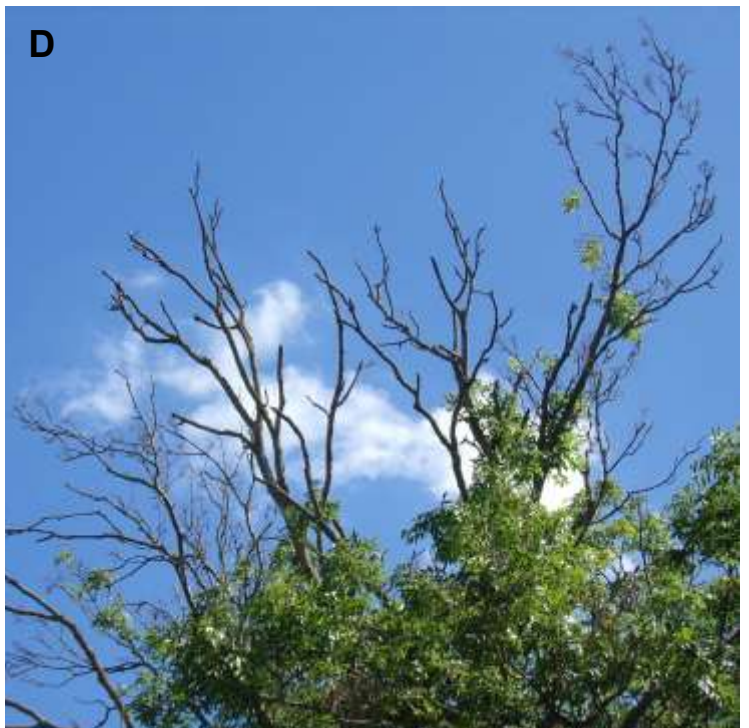
A. Healthy ash tree



B. Infection suspected

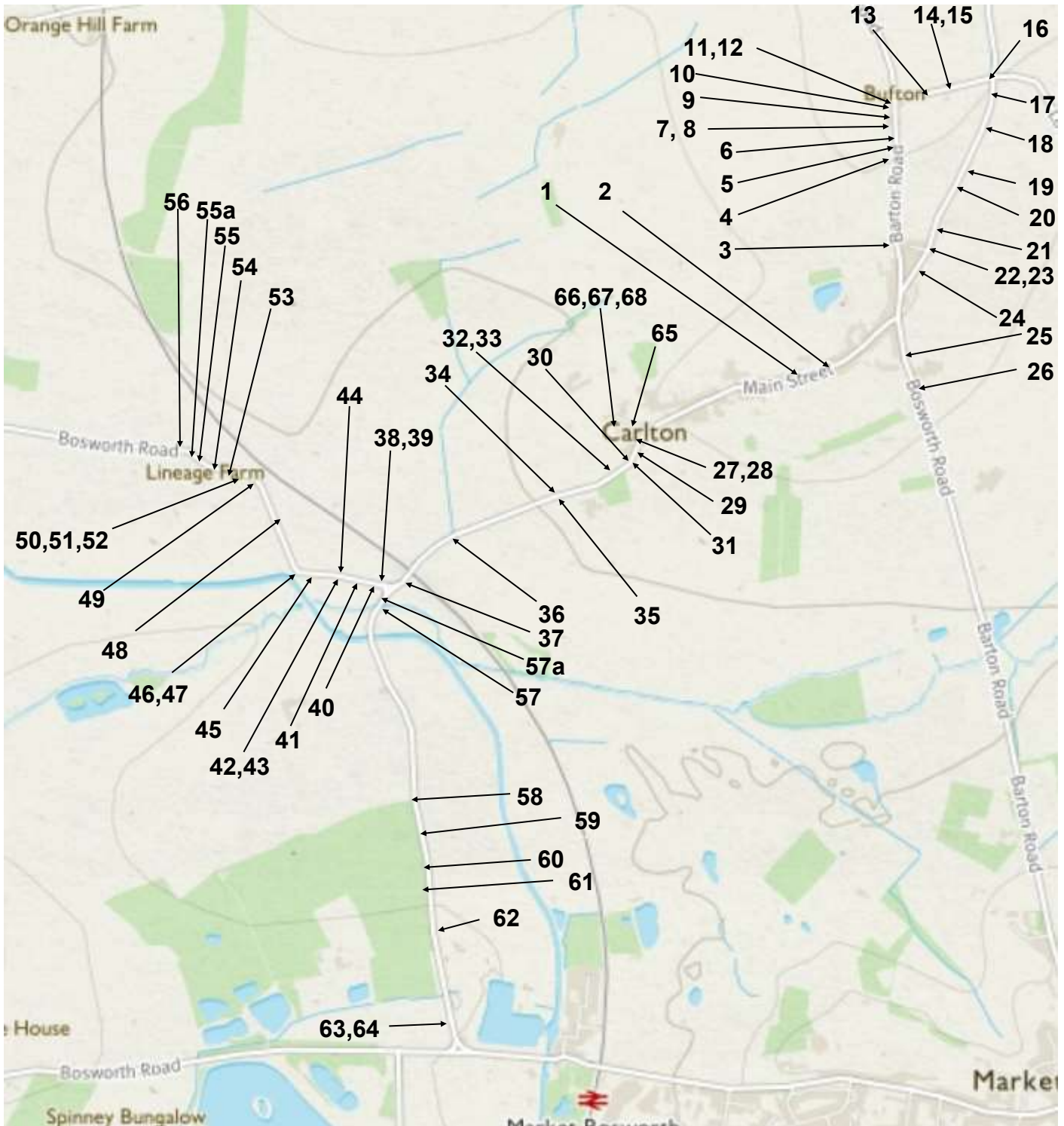


C. Infected tree



D. Severely infected tree

# Location of surveyed trees



## Survey of roadside ash trees

n/c = 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.
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.

### 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.
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.
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.
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.

Two partly dead sycamore, E side of road - ? squirrel damage. 21-Vigorous growth from trunk and lower branches. 22-leaves all dead—drought.

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

### 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.
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.
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.

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.

### **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.

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.

18a. Young ash, E side of road, 20m before 30mph sign. 21-Healthy. 22-n/c. 23-n/c.

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.

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

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.

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.

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. 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.

### **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.

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.

### **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.

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.

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

30. Twin stemmed ash, N side of road W of front garden to Woodmill. 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.

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.

31a Leggy ash sapling between 31 and road, adj electric pole. 21-Badly infected. 22-badly infected. 23-n/c.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

#### 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.

#### **Congerstone Road**

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

49. Semi-mature ash on W side of road at corner. 19-Healthy. 20-n/c. 21-n/c. 22-n/c. 23-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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

### **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.

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.

Canal bridge; drive to Westfields Farm

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

### **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.

### **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.

67. 3 young 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.

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.

### **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.



