

Tree Survey & Management Plan (V2)

Ash Dieback Management: Selective Limb Removal via Rope & Harness

1. Site & Tree Identification

Tree ID: T1 - Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)

Location: [Insert Address/GPS Coordinates]

Target Area: Overhanging limbs extending over [Insert Structure/Property]

2. Climbing & Access Specifications

Access Method: Rope and Harness

Safety System: Mandatory **Two-Rope System** (Work Positioning + Independent Backup)

Due to the presence of Ash Dieback, the climber must constantly assess anchor points. The two-rope system ensures that in the event of a localized wood failure at the primary anchor, a secondary, independent backup line is in place to prevent a fall.

3. Visual Inspection Checklist

Feature	Observation/Sign	Risk Level
Diamond Lesions	Dark, sunken bark on branches; indicator of weak points.	High (Avoid anchoring here)
Epicormic Growth	"Emergency" shoots on the trunk; signals tree stress.	Moderate
Deadwood Tips	Brittle, snapping wood at the canopy periphery.	High (Risk of shattering)
Bark Necrosis	Peeling or blackened bark on limbs.	High (Compromised grip/strength)

4. Work Methodology

Cutting Technique

The Three-Cut Method: Mandatory to prevent brittle Ash wood from tearing or "barber-chairing."

1. **Undercut:** 1/4 depth cut on the underside to prevent bark stripping.
2. **Relief Cut:** Top cut further out on the limb to drop the bulk weight.
3. **Finishing Cut:** Precise cut at the branch collar to allow for healing.

Site Safety

- **Sterile Zone:** A drop zone of $1.5 \times \text{limb height}$ must be cordoned off.
- **Climber Assessment:** The climber must perform a "bounce test" on all anchors from a safe position before committing full weight.

5. Compliance & Aftercare

- **Wildlife:** Check for nesting birds or bat roosting features prior to ascent.
- **Biosecurity:** All climbing gear and cutting tools must be sterilized after the job to prevent spreading spores.
- **Monitoring:** Re-inspect the tree within 6–12 months as the disease is progressive.