



Our Ref: NW/11/010-096
Date: 31st January 2024

Dear Sir / Madam,

NMC CONTRACT FOR MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SCOTTISH TRUNK ROAD NETWORK – NORTH WEST UNIT
TRUNK ROAD MAINTENANCE – A85 NORTHWEST ASH DIEBACK RESPONSE – INFORMATION LETTER

BEAR Scotland will be helping ensure the resilience of Scotland’s native species by felling trees affected by Ash Dieback throughout the North West trunk road network. Works are set to get underway on Monday 12th February 2024 on the A85 through Lochearnhead.

Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) is a disease which will lead to the decline and death of 50–75% of ash trees in Scotland over the next two decades. The disease can spread; evidence from Europe suggests it has the potential to infect more than 75 million ash trees (over 64 million saplings and seedlings and some 10.7 million mature trees) across the country.

BEAR Scotland has assessed the trunk road boundary it is responsible for in line with guidance from the Tree Council and Scottish Forestry. As a result, it has been decided that the tree felling must be undertaken to ensure the safety of road users and the trunk road network.

The works are being carried out by BEAR Scotland, on behalf of Transport Scotland, to remove 1385 effected trees within the northwest of Scotland over three routes including the A85 through Lochearnhead, A9 near Bankfoot and the A83 between Inveraray & Achadunan, thus reducing the chances of further spread of the disease.

The works on the A85 will be undertaken over 3 weeks:

Route Number	Locations	Dates	Working Times
A85	Through Lochearnhead	Monday Night 12 th February to Saturday Morning 2 nd March (3 Weeks)	19:00pm to 06:00am (Monday to Friday Working)

A85 Lochearnhead – Ash Dieback Tree Felling:

To ensure the safety of the road workers and motorists, the works will be carried out under a full road closure with amnesty periods between 19:00pm and 06:00am. The amnesty periods for letting traffic through the closure will be on an hourly basis, the first amnesty period will be at 20:00pm and then at every hour after that.

A diversion route will also be available, for traffic travelling west to Lochearnhead from Crieff the diversion route will be via the A822 from Crieff to the A9 at Greenloaning, then south along the A9 to Dunblane, then using the A820 to Doune, then from Doune using the A84 to Lochearnhead.

It will be the reverse of the diversion route for traffic travelling east towards Crieff from Lochearnhead.

Please note that the above times are the maximum available working window, and we will endeavour to complete works each night as quickly and safely as possible. Throughout the works there will be levels of construction noise emanating from site plant and tools, this will be kept to a minimum whenever possible.

We understand works of this nature can be disruptive and have planned works to minimise disruption as far as possible. We thank you in advance for your patience whilst these works are carried out.

Any significant changes to the programme will be communicated via another letter.

The traffic management arrangements are essential for ensuring the safety of road workers and motorists. We have scheduled the works to take place at a quieter time of year before the busy tourism season begins.

Should you require any further information or have any queries related to the above works, please email us on NWConsultation@bearsotland.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,

James Glancey
Landscaping Design Team Leader
For and on behalf of BEAR Scotland

Please see the attached location plan and diversion plan for further details.