

## Crane hire company fined £850,000 following fatal accident

A national crane hire company has been sentenced for failings that led to the death of two men as a crane collapsed in London.

Southwark Crown Court heard crane operator Jonathan Cloke, 37, died after falling from the crane as it collapsed. It fell onto Michael Alexa, 23, a member of the public, and also killed him. The court heard how sections of the tower crane, which was on a housing development in Thessaly Road, Battersea, separated when 24 bolts failed due to metal fatigue.



The 24 bolts were a significant safety feature on the crane's slew ring, which connected the mast (tower) to the slew turret. This allows the arms of the crane (jib) to rotate through 360 degrees. When the bolts failed the slew turret and jib separated from the mast and fell to the ground.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation into the incident, in September 2006, found Falcon Crane Hire Ltd did not investigate a similar incident which happened nine weeks before, when the bolts failed on the same crane and had to be replaced. The HSE found the company had an inadequate system to manage the inspection and maintenance of their fleet of cranes. Their process to investigate the underlying cause of components' failings was also inadequate. It told the court the particular bolts were a safety critical part of the crane. The court also heard the bolts failing previously was an exceptional and significant occurrence, which should have been recognised by Falcon Crane Hire.

Falcon Crane Hire Ltd were fined £750,000 and ordered to pay costs of £100,000 for breaching Sections 2 and 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Etc Act.



## Gas engineer fined for asbestos failings

A gas engineer removed potentially dangerous asbestos material during a gas boiler replacement putting himself and others at risk from exposure to asbestos fibres.

Brian Hockin, aged 58, was removing an old warm air heating system at a residential property on Williams Close, Wrafton when he disturbed a quantity of asbestos insulation board that surrounded the warm air boiler.

The tenants of the property raised their concerns with Brian Hockin that he had disturbed asbestos but he continued to remove the material bagging it and removing it from the property and storing it at his yard.

The tenants were so concerned that they contacted HSE which prosecuted Brian Hockin at Barnstaple Magistrates' court.

During the hearing the court heard that Brian Hockin used no safety measures to prevent the spread of asbestos and that he used no protective clothing or protective breathing apparatus when he was removing the asbestos.

Brian Hockin of Bickington, near Barnstaple, pleaded guilty of breaching Section 3(2) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, and was fined £450 and ordered to pay £921.40 in costs.

## Automotive company fined after worker loses finger

A Birmingham-based automotive company has been fined after a worker lost his finger.



Birmingham Magistrates' Court heard how a welder at Lander Automotives Limited was expected to work on a variety of jobs as required by production.

While he was working on a machine the employee's glove became entangled in the drill bit. He suffered partial amputation to the third finger on his right hand.

An investigation by the HSE into the incident which occurred on 17 June 2015 found that the company failed to provide adequate training, a safe system of work, a risk assessment or method statement.

Lander Automotive Limited, of Clappgate Lane, Birmingham, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and was fined £27,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,574 and a £120 victim surcharge.

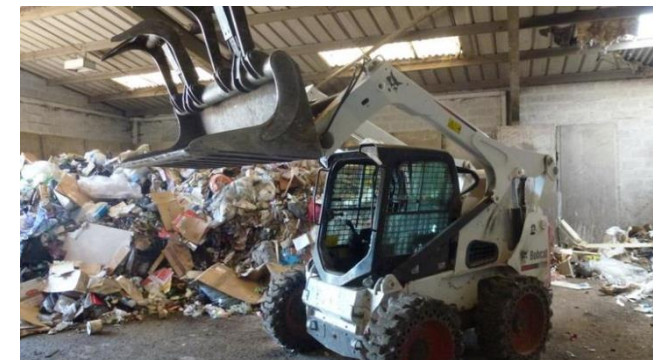
## Waste Management firm fined after young man crushed

Derbyshire waste firm Rainbow Waste Management Limited has been prosecuted by the HSE after a worker was crushed by the bucket of a motorised loading shovel.

On the 7 June 2013, twenty-four year old Ashley Morris was working at a site in Swadlincote. Mr Morris sustained fatal injuries to his head and spine when the bucket of the loading shovel that he was operating crushed him.

Derby Crown Court heard that in the 10 days leading up to the incident, CCTV cameras at site captured over 200 examples of unsafe working practices.

Rainbow Waste Management Limited of Robian Way, Swadlincote, Derbyshire pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £136,000 and ordered to pay £64,770 in costs.



## Chemical company fined £200,000 following toxic chemical release

A chemical company has been sentenced in Leeds Crown Court for safety breaches when a very toxic chemical was ejected under pressure.



The incident occurred when a company maintenance technician unintentionally opened a valve on top of an isotanker resulting in the release of between 3.5 and 3.8 tonnes of paraquat dichloride solution. Syngenta Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4 of the Control Of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 and Regulation 5(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and was fined £200 000 with £13,041 costs. After the hearing, HSE inspector Angus Robbins commented: "This incident could have been prevented if Syngenta had properly assessed the real risk of the valve being opened while the tank was under pressure".

## Man fined for potentially exposing members of the public to asbestos

A man from County Durham has been fined for potentially exposing members of the public to asbestos fibres during the refurbishment of a residential property on South Parade, Croft on Tees, County Durham.



Darlington Magistrates' Court heard how Peter Wade of Staindrop, was converting an integrated garage into a bedroom at the property. While he was visiting the property for a quote, the home owners mentioned the possibility of asbestos in the garage.

While working in the loft space of the garage, the garage ceiling collapsed and Peter Wade proceeded to pull the remainder of the ceiling down, break it up and place in waste bags. It was not until he removed the material that he discovered it contained asbestos.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident which occurred on 14 March 2015, found that Peter Wade failed to ensure an asbestos survey was carried out prior to any work taking place.

Peter Nigel Wade (trading as P.N. Wade Building and Civil Engineering contractor), of Winston Road, Staindrop, County Durham, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 5(1) of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, and was fined £267 and ordered to pay costs of £1,765.

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## Solar panel specialists in court for roof light fall failings

A solar panel firm has been £153,000 after a worker was seriously injured in a fall through a fragile roof light at a private home in Kent. The worker, from Ashford, fractured his shin and a vertebra in the incident at Elvington Lane in Hawkinge on 30 April 2013.

The roof light the 32-year-old man crashed through was on an outbuilding housing a swimming pool.

Although the water partially cushioned his fall, he made a heavy impact with the side and flooring around the pool, and was unable to return to work until January this year and only then on a part-time basis.

Glasgow-based P V Solar UK Limited was sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court after an investigation by the HSE found that more could and should have been done to prevent the fall.

The court had heard in a hearing in January 2016, when the company pleaded guilty to three health and safety offences, that the injured worker was part of a three man team working on the pool building to replace faulty solar panels that were initially installed by the same company in April 2011. The fragile roof also contained eight roof lights and he fell through one of these as he walked on the roof while carrying a panel.

HSE established that a scaffold tower, ladder and safety harness had been provided for the panel replacement work. However, none of the installation team had received any formal training or instruction on how to use them. This effectively rendered the equipment useless. Other measures could also have

been taken, such as providing full scaffolding or hard covers for the rooflights. The HSE established that although the initial installation work in 2011 was completed without incident, the safety equipment provided on that occasion was also lacking, which again placed workers at risk.

The court had also been told that P V Solar was served with a Prohibition Notice by HSE to stop unsafe work on a fragile roof in Bristol in May 2011. The company was therefore well aware of the need to ensure that adequate provisions were in place to prevent or mitigate falls during work at height.

P V Solar UK Limited, of Cambuslang Road, Glasgow, was fined a total of £153,000 and ordered to pay a further £29,480 in costs after pleading guilty to three separate breaches of the Work at Height Regulations 2005.



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## Crossrail share best practice

A knowledge sharing website has been launched by Crossrail in an aim to raise the bar in the construction industry and share knowledge and insight.



Crossrail Learning Legacy encourages other projects to 'pinch with pride', downloading documents, templates and datasets that have been used successfully on the Crossrail programme. The policy of good practice sharing includes a wide variety of topics, including health and safety, project management, engineering and the environment.

The most popular documents feature include a paper on managing innovation on Crossrail as well as an integration project used to help design the spaces outside Crossrail stations.

Further material will be published every six months during the rest of the project. The site can be accessed at: <http://learninglegacy.crossrail.co.uk/>

## ISO 14004: 2016 published

ISO have published an updated version of ISO 14004 following the updated version of ISO 14001 being published last year.

*Environmental management systems – General guidelines on implementation*, provides organisations with support to help with the implementation of an environmental management system. It is designed to complement, but is not limited to, ISO 14001, ISO's standard for environmental management systems.



Dr Anne-Marie Warris, Chair of ISO/TC 207/SC 1, the technical committee that developed the standard and undertook the revision, said: "The new version of ISO 14004 provides organizations with further details and information in relation to the new ISO 14001:2015. Some of the changes include a focus on protecting the environment, environmental performance, life-cycle perspective, leadership and strategic environmental management."

## ISO 45001 update

ISO 45001, one of the world's much anticipated standards for occupational health and safety (OHS), has been approved as a Draft International Standard (DIS).

ISO 45001 is based on the common elements found in all of ISO's management system standards, assuring a high level of compatibility with the new versions of ISO 9001, Quality management systems, and ISO 14001, Environmental management systems.

The standard uses a simple Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) model, which provides a framework for organisations to plan what they need to put in place in order to minimise the risk of harm. The measures should address concerns that can lead to long-term health issues and absence from work, as well as those that give rise to accidents.

Now that ISO 45001 has advanced to the DIS stage, national member bodies of ISO have been invited to vote and comment on the text of the standard during the three-month balloting period.

If the outcome is positive, the modified document may then be circulated to ISO members as a Final Draft International Standard (FDIS).

In the event of a positive vote, ISO 45001 is expected to be published as an International Standard by late 2016 / early 2017.

## Rise in scarlet fever cases shows 49-year high, health experts say

Cases of scarlet fever in England and Wales have risen to the highest level since the 1960s, Public Health England (PHE) says.

In 2015 there were 17,586 cases of scarlet fever. Analysts have to go as far back as the year 1967 - when 19,305 cases were reported - to find a year when the numbers were higher.



PHE is alerting all health practitioners to be mindful of the disease when assessing patients.

PHE said about 600 cases are being flagged up each week in England, and further increases are expected as the infection comes into its peak season - which typically occurs between late March and mid April.

The number of cases of scarlet fever has soared in the last three years, PHE said.

In 2013 there were just 4,642 cases reported in

England and Wales, but this then jumped - by 236% - to 15,625 cases in 2014.

A PHE spokesman said the reason behind the increase in cases was "unclear" but added that it "may reflect the long-term natural cycles in disease incidence seen in many types of infection".

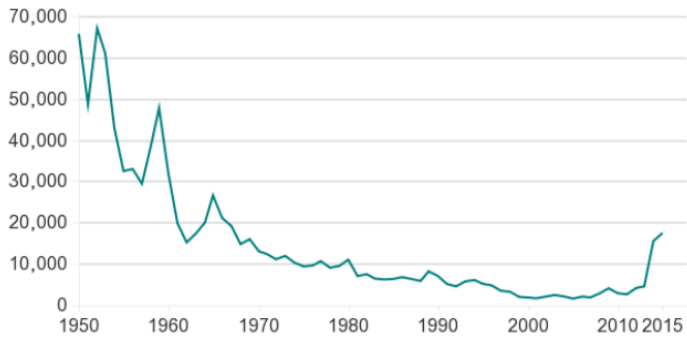
Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria known as group A streptococcus, and it is spread through close contact with people carrying the organism - often in the throat - or through contact with objects and surfaces contaminated with the bacterium.

In the early 1900s through to the 1930s the number of cases of scarlet fever in England and Wales regularly topped 100,000.

Since then the numbers have, broadly speaking, been steadily declining - a trend spurred on by the introduction of antibiotics.

- Scarlet fever was once a very dangerous infection in the Victorian era, but has now become much less serious thanks to better medicine
- Antibiotic treatment should be given to minimise the risk of complications, but there is currently no specific vaccine for scarlet fever.
- Early signs to look out for include a sore throat, headache and fever with the characteristic pinkish sandpapery rash typically on the chest and stomach but then spreading to other parts of the body.
- Parents who think they or their child may have scarlet fever should seek advice from their GP without delay as prompt antibiotic treatment is needed.

Cases of scarlet fever in England and Wales



Public Health England



## Europe's largest floating solar farm to open

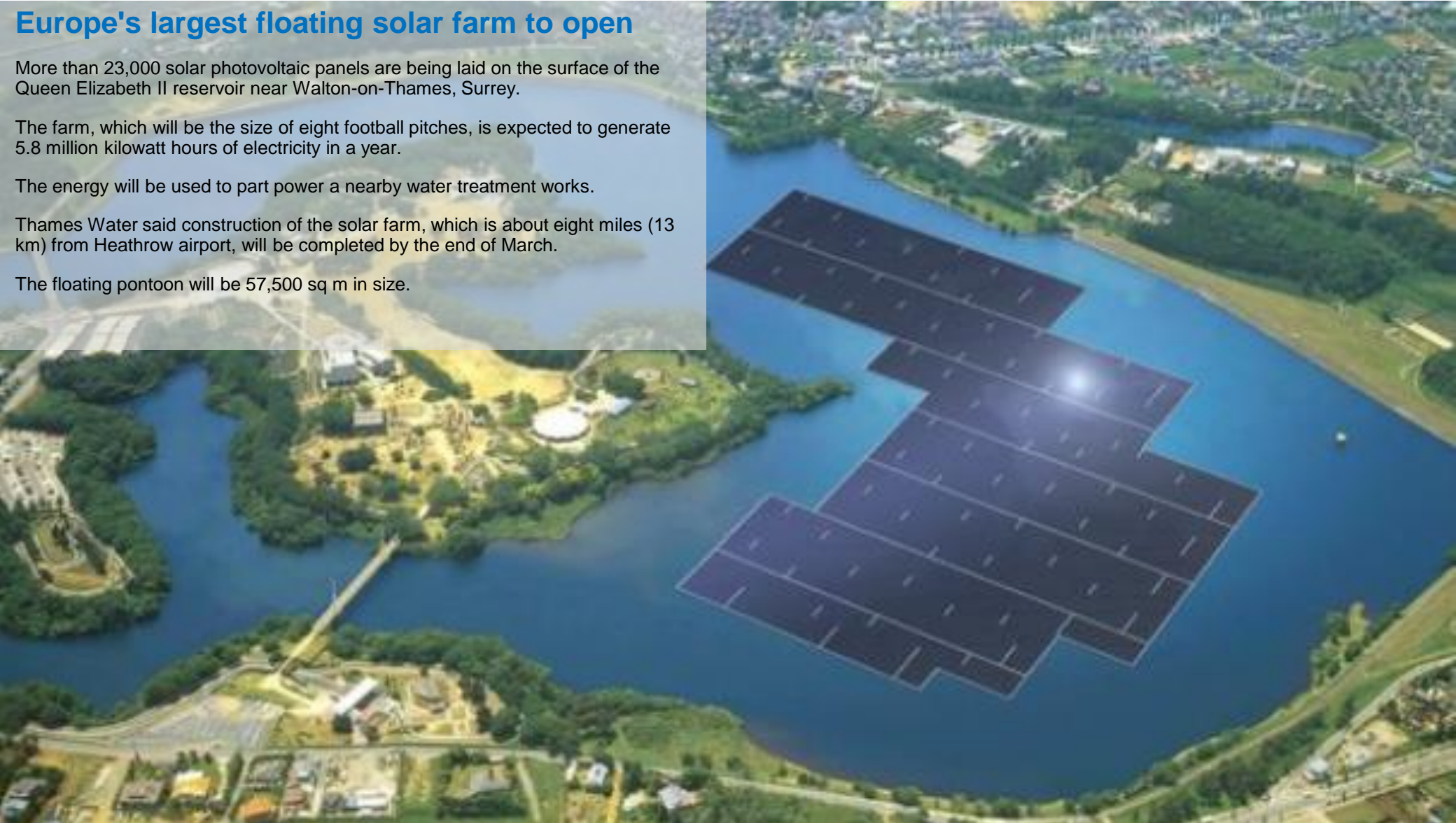
More than 23,000 solar photovoltaic panels are being laid on the surface of the Queen Elizabeth II reservoir near Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

The farm, which will be the size of eight football pitches, is expected to generate 5.8 million kilowatt hours of electricity in a year.

The energy will be used to part power a nearby water treatment works.

Thames Water said construction of the solar farm, which is about eight miles (13 km) from Heathrow airport, will be completed by the end of March.

The floating pontoon will be 57,500 sq m in size.





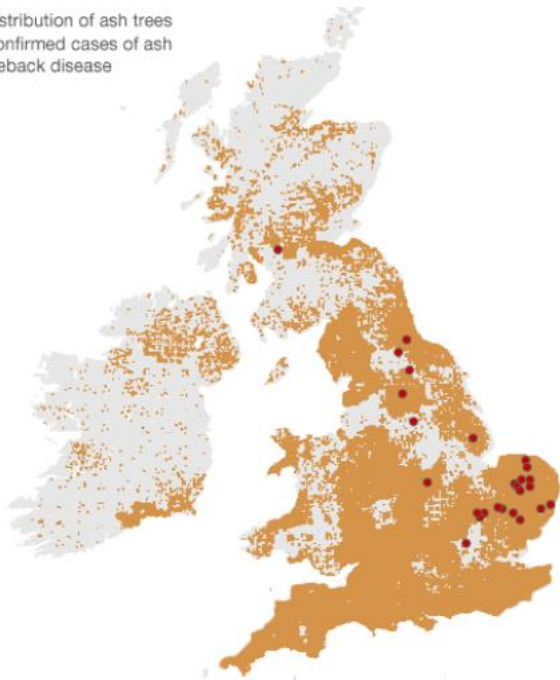
## Ash tree set for extinction in Europe

The ash tree is likely to be wiped out in Europe, according to a review of the evidence. The trees are being killed off by the fungal disease ash-dieback along with an invasive beetle called the emerald ash borer.

According to the research, published in the *Journal of Ecology*, the British countryside will never look the same again. The paper says that the ash will most likely be "eliminated" in Europe.

This could mirror the way Dutch elm disease largely wiped out the elm in the 1980s.

■ Distribution of ash trees  
● Confirmed cases of ash dieback disease



Ash trees are a key part of the treescape of Britain. You do not have to go to the countryside to see them. In and around towns and cities there are 2.2 million. In woodland, only the oak is more common.

However, according to a review led by Dr Peter Thomas of Keele University and published in the *Journal of Ecology*, "between the fungal disease ash dieback and a bright green beetle called the emerald ash borer, it is likely that almost all ash trees in Europe will be wiped out - just as the elm was largely eliminated by Dutch elm disease".

Ash dieback, also known as Chalara, is a disease that was first seen in Eastern Europe in 1992. It now affects more than 2 million sq km, from Scandinavia to Italy. It was identified in England in 2012 in a consignment of imported infected trees. It has since spread from Norfolk and Suffolk to South Wales. Caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, it kills the leaves, then the branches, trunk and eventually the whole tree. It has the potential to destroy 95% of ash trees in the UK.

The emerald ash borer is a bright green beetle that, like ash dieback, is native to Asia. It's not yet in the UK but is spreading west from Moscow at a rate of 25 miles (41 km) a year and is thought to have reached Sweden. The adult beetles feed on ash trees and cause little damage. However the larvae bore under the bark and in to the wood, killing the tree.

According to Dr Thomas: "Our European ash is very susceptible to the beetle. It is only a matter of time before it spreads across the rest of Europe - including Britain - and the beetle is set to become the biggest threat faced by ash in Europe, potentially far more serious than ash dieback."

This will not just change our landscape - it will have a

severe impact on biodiversity. 1,000 species are associated with ash or ash woodland, including 12 types of bird, 55 mammals and 239 invertebrates.

Mr Thomas said, "Of these, over 100 species of lichens, fungi and insects are dependent upon the ash tree and are likely to decline or become extinct if the ash was gone... Some other trees such as alder, small-leaved lime and rowan can provide homes for some of these species... but if the ash went, the British countryside would never look the same again."

One small hope is that some cloned ash trees have shown resistance against the fungus. But that won't protect them against the beetle.

