Ash Dieback Disease

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative) Click here to watch Sarah speak

Has the hon. Lady looked at the map showing the distribution of Chalara? Is she suggesting that there are no imports in the south-west or anywhere in the west of the country? How else can she explain the distribution map and the epidemiology of the spread of Chalara? It is quite clear that she is just trying to make cheap political points. She needs to look at the map.

Mary Creagh (Wakefield, Labour)

As a scientist, does the hon. Lady understand epidemiology? The dots are all different colours: the red ones represent mature woodlands, and there are others for trees planted out in newly planted sites and nursery sites. The ones in the south-west are in nursery sites: there are no red dots in the south-west, ergo the disease seems to have spread from—[ Interruption. ] My theory, and it has yet to be disproved—[ Interruption. ] No, I shall come on to that, but I wish to make progress. I shall explain it to the hon. Lady.

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