

Important information for visitors to Coronation Walk and Vine Walk woodlands

Ash dieback is here

What is ash dieback?

Ash dieback is a serious fungal disease, spread by the wind, which is expected to kill the majority of the ash trees in Britain. Young trees can die quickly once infected. Older trees can be killed by a yearly cycle of infection. Examples of both can be seen in Coronation Walk and Vine Walk woodlands.

What happens to the tree?

All ash trees will eventually succumb to the disease: losing their leaves, declining in health, and dying over a short period (some reports suggests 3-5 years). They are also more vulnerable to other diseases such as honey fungus which can cause trees to become unstable over a relatively short period of time.

Can the trees be cured?

Sadly, no. Currently there are no known prevention or cure treatments.

What does this mean?

Diseased ash trees can become very unstable, becoming brittle as they decline, losing branches and succumbing more readily to attacks by other pests or pathogens. Where they pose a risk to the public they need to be made safe.

How will the trees be made safe?

Because there is no prospect of trees recovering, we will use contractors to safely fell and remove the ash in the winter of 2021/22.

Overall, about 150 ash trees will be removed. This is about one quarter of all the trees in the woodland.

When will the work take place?

At the moment we expect work to take about 4 weeks and be carried out between October 2021 and February 2022. We will update this information once the ecologist and the electricity network provider have completed their surveys, and contractors have been chosen to carry out the tree felling.

Has the work been approved?

The work has been approved and licenced by the Forestry Commission. Because the trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order, East Lindsey District Council's planning committee has also approved the work.

How will this affect the public living nearby, or using the woodland walks?

We may need to temporarily close paths or the woodland while we work. To minimise disruption, we'll let you know in advance when this will be, and we will ensure signs are put out to help you. Please take care and respect closures - even if you cannot see work taking place. Be aware of increased vehicle movements and keep pets and children close by. Please keep away from areas where work is taking place.

What about nearby power lines?

Discussions are taking place with Western Power. There may be some disruption to residents to ensure contractors can work safely, but we aim to ensure this is kept to a minimum.

How will wildlife be protected?

Ecologists will survey the woodland for bats and their roosts, and we will take their advice to ensure they are appropriately protected. The work will take place outside the main bird breeding season so we don't envisage harm to birds or their nests.

Will the trees be replaced?

Yes. New trees will be planted next winter with a wide variety of broadleaved trees which are not affected by this particular disease. This will ensure the woodland retains its woodland feel, is less likely to be damaged by tree pests and diseases in the future, and remains an important habitat for wildlife.

What will you do with the timber?

Some of the timber will be left on site to create deadwood habitats for insects, fungi, moss and lichen. Wood chip will be used to surface some woodland paths, and the rest will be removed for safety. We will stack the timber on Beresford Field, adjacent Beresford Walk, ready for collection by a timber haulier. The grassed surface of Beresford Field will be protected with a temporary metal trackway to minimise damage caused by the extraction of timber.

What can I do to help?

Join the fight against tree disease – find out more at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/tree-pests-and-diseases/>

<https://forestrycommission.blog.gov.uk/2020/09/25/national-plant-health-week-biosecurity-the-first-line-of-defence/>

If you need more information please contact our Customer Services team on 01507 601111.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.