

Managing deadwood at The Knapp and Papermill nature reserve



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

Ash dieback

Ash dieback disease is found throughout the UK and can affect ash trees of any age. It's a fungal disease with its spores travelling long distances on the wind. When it reaches an ash tree, it enters the leaves and blocks the tree's water carrying systems, eventually causing the tree to die. We are unable to stop its spread but we can manage those trees that are showing signs of disease. Trees close to paths or public access areas will be removed due to health and safety concerns but those that are away from these areas are left to provide habitats for many species. Here you can see some of the ways we're making the best of a bad situation.



Natural nest boxes

We've made natural nest boxes within the dead trees by cutting a rectangular piece of tree to act as a door, hollowing out a section of the trunk and then replacing the cut section back in with a small entry hole – ideal for species such as blue tits and great tits.

Coronet cuts

We've left some affected ash trees as standing deadwood to provide wildlife with some fantastic habitat. Look up to the tops of some of these trees to see their spikey tops, known as a coronet cut. This helps to speed up the process of decaying wood creation by allowing rain to work its way down into the tree, helping it to rot more quickly. This soft wood is great for many invertebrates and birds like woodpeckers and nuthatches. We'll do this across the site and other nature reserves.