

I am writing to let you know that we will soon be working in Savernake Forest. We will be working from July - September 2026 to carry out planned forest management.

We will be carrying out several pieces of work:

- **Routine thinning**

We will be thinning trees in several parts of the forest including Great Lodge Bottom, Cheval Bottom, Ashlade Firs, and on the northern side of the A4.

- **Ancient woodland and veteran trees**

We will be looking for opportunities to open up space around some of Savernake's 4000 ancient and veteran trees, including some potential veterans of the future.

- **Tree safety**

In some high footfall areas, we will be removing ash trees that are showing signs of chalara ash dieback. This is for public safety because ash dieback causes trees to become brittle, and they can drop limbs or fall altogether.

We are starting work in the summer to take advantage of the lower rainfall at this time of year. This helps to protect Savernake's irreplaceable soils. Some of this work has been delayed by two years because we do not work when the ground becomes too wet and risks compacting the soil.

There is more detail about this work on our website at

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/article/forestry-operations-savernake-forest>

The forest is still open to visitors. We will try to keep disruption to a minimum but there will be times when we will need to close access around the forest so we can work safely nearby. We are asking forest visitors to follow all signs and instructions at all times. These are for your safety, whether or not you can see or hear us working. This will help us to finish working as quickly as possible.

I would be grateful if you would be able to share this information through your news channels. We understand that residents may not be familiar with sustainable forest management and are keen to explain how this planned work supports the long-term health and resilience of the forest.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or refer queries from local residents to westengland@forestryengland.uk.