

Forestry Operations in Russell's Inclosure

We started harvesting in Russell's Inclosure near Speech House this September 2025.

The works will impact some of our trails and access points, this page provides more information about the work we are doing and why.

What is happening?

This is a thinning contract, following on from the PHN (Plant Health Notice) contract which began winter 2024, to remove the infected larch. The primary aim is to improve timber quality and stimulate natural regeneration of the trees by increasing space and light levels.

Can I still visit this woodland?

At certain times throughout the operation some paths may be closed, the most important thing for us is to keep the public, our staff, and contractors safe. We will have safety and operational signage displayed, diversions, closures, and banks persons in position where needed. This is for your safety, whether you can see or hear us working, it is important you read and listen to all instructions very carefully and obey all instruction.

Forestry work is very hazardous. A falling tree can weigh several tonnes and hit the ground at nearly 60mph. If a harvesting machine chainsaw snaps, it can fly through the forest like a bullet.

What about the wildlife?

Well managed forests can support more wildlife, and harvesting trees is an important part of a sustainable forest lifecycle. **Specific to this contract**, the opportunity will be taken to open up ride edges to improve habitat connectivity.

Before we start any forestry work, we carry out ecological surveys to check for species such as birds, mammals, rodents, invertebrates, native plants such as bluebells and fungi. We also consider these against complex factors including tree health, how the ground slopes, soil condition, and likely rainfall when planning work that will support our long-term management plan.

While working, we continue to check for wildlife and will adapt, pause, or suspend work if we find any animal that must be protected.

What about the heritage features?

Advice has been taken from the County Archaeologist to plan works around protecting the mining heritage.

Sustainable Forestry

Wood is a beautiful, strong, and renewable natural material with endless uses. Forestry England is the country's largest supplier of sustainable timber grown in England.

At the sawmill, the timber is cut into different pieces and used in furniture, fences and building materials. Even the bark, wood shavings and sawdust are used. Nothing is wasted.

In fact, wood is one of our most sustainable materials. Wood is a low-carbon alternative to materials such as plastic, concrete and steel, and is often reused or recycled. When you shop for wood and paper products, always make sure to look for the FSC® or PEFC logos. This means they come from forests, like ours, that are managed sustainably for the future.

If you would like any further information, please get in touch via westengland@forestryengland.uk

