

Good morning

**I am writing to give some notice of work being conducted in Kingswood wood alongside public footpaths KH302 & KH259.** The work will be conducted by the Woodland and Wildlife team, from Leeds Castle, on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Some trees need to be felled, or cutback, because they are a potential hazard to footpath users. The team will also reduce some of the undergrowth, particularly brambles.

It is, of course, nesting and bluebell seasons and the team will be respectful of both. If the undergrowth is not cut back however it will eventually choke the bluebells and deprive them of light, so a little bit of pain now will pay dividends in the future and keep the wood healthy.

A reasonable question would be “why do you have to do it now?”. On an estate which covers several hundred acres the team can’t complete all the required tasks in just the winter months. This wood has not been touched for 6 years and is overdue for some remedial work.

The work will involve the use of chainsaws and brush-cutters and so we ask dog walkers to keep their dogs on the lead whilst in the area. The team want to keep your dogs safe as well as themselves. When using this machinery, the operator will be wearing safety equipment which limits their vision & hearing, so a loose dog can be a hazard for both the operator and the animal.

The team would be happy to chat with any passers by and will ensure your safe passage through the area of operation. Warning signs will be positioned to inform people of where we are working.

Peter Sullivan

Leeds Castle