

Emma Freemantle

From: Emma Freemantle
Sent: 15 July 2025 10:29
To: 'Rebecca Clay'
Subject: RE: Clouts Wood Closure

Thank you Rebecca

I have updated the council and we will share coms on line.

Kind Regards
Emma

From: Rebecca Clay <RebeccaC@wiltshirewildlife.org>
Sent: 14 July 2025 16:58
To: Emma Freemantle <clerk@wroughton.gov.uk>
Subject: Clouts Wood Closure

Dear Wroughton Parish Council,

We are writing to inform you that Clouts Wood will have to be closed to the public from 21 July until further notice while essential ash tree felling work is carried out.

Sadly, a significant number of ash trees in Clouts Wood have been infected with Ash Dieback disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*). This aggressive fungus has spread rapidly throughout the UK, leading to the death and decline of many ash trees. Infected trees can become unstable, posing a risk to public safety due to falling branches or the trees collapsing entirely. Experience and research suggest that it is also likely that ash trees yet to be infected will succumb to the disease.

To ensure the safety of visitors, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust staff, and contractors, we must remove the ash trees that could pose a risk. While we understand this is unfortunate, it also presents an opportunity to enhance the woodland for both wildlife and people.

Alongside safety, protecting the diverse flora and fauna of Clouts Wood remains our top priority. We have been working closely with ecologists to ensure that any protected species, such as bats, and other wildlife are safeguarded during the works. The removal of the trees will create a series of new glades in the woodland which will create a new thriving habitat for wildlife and attract more species to the reserve. We understand that the temporary closure of Clouts Wood may cause inconvenience, and we apologise for any disruption this may cause. The felling work may generate some noise during daylight hours (8 am – 6 pm) on weekdays, and there might be some minor traffic disruptions on nearby roads when machinery is transported to and from the site. We will make every effort to minimise the impact on residents.

We want to thank you for your patience during this necessary work. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at comms@wiltshirewildlife.org. For regular updates on

the project's progress and more information about Ash Dieback disease, please visit our website at www.wiltshirewildlife.org/ash-dieback.

We appreciate your understanding and look forward to reopening Clouts Wood as soon as possible. Once the work is complete, you will once again be able to enjoy the woodland's beauty and improved habitat for the diverse wildlife that calls it home.

Best Regards

Rebecca Clay
Marketing and Communications Manager
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
Email: rebeccac@wiltshirewildlife.org



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