

Please share the following that was erected to inform locals.

Signage put up 23 April 2026    Signage Removed 24 April 2026



This route (linking bridleway 278 to Footpath 276) has been used as a permissive path, and the estate has now closed it temporarily for safety reasons while essential maintenance and land management work is carried out.

We carry out occasional tree and woodland management across the estate, including during the bird-nesting season (March–August). We want to reassure you that all work is planned carefully to protect wildlife and follows national guidance.

### **Protecting nesting birds**

Before any work begins, surveys and checks are carried out in the area for active nests. If a nest is found, work stops immediately and the tree or hedge is left undisturbed.

It is illegal to disturb an active nest, and we take this responsibility seriously.

### **Why work sometimes happens in spring or summer**

Certain essential tasks — such as removing dangerous trees, managing damage, or protecting woodland health — cannot always wait until autumn or winter. When this happens, we use a risk-based approach to ensure wildlife is protected.

### **Other protected species**

Some trees may also be checked for bat roost potential. If there is any sign of bats, work is paused.

How you can help

- Please follow any temporary signs or diversions
- Keep dogs under close control
- Avoid entering closed areas

Your cooperation helps us keep the estate safe for both people and wildlife.

## **Some answers to questions you may be asking yourself**

### **Why are you doing tree work at this time of year?**

Sometimes essential work can't wait until winter — for example, removing dangerous trees, managing damage, or protecting woodland health. When this happens, we plan the work carefully to minimise disturbance to wildlife.

### **Isn't it illegal to cut trees during nesting season?**

No. It is **not illegal** to carry out tree work between March and August. What *is* illegal is disturbing or damaging an **active bird nest**. That's why we check every tree and surrounding vegetation before work begins.

### **How do you make sure nests aren't harmed?**

A trained person carries out a **nesting-bird check** immediately before work starts. If a nest is found, the tree or hedge is left alone until the young birds have fledged.

### **What about bats?**

Trees are also checked for signs of **bat roosts**, which are protected all year round. If there's any sign of bats, work pauses and specialist advice is taken.

### **Why are parts of the path closed or diverted?**

This is to keep you safe while machinery is operating and to avoid disturbing wildlife.