



## Re-planting & looking to the future

The Parish Council and Wapley Bushes Conservation Group are looking for volunteers and community groups to help with their replanting programme – they aim to plant 250 or more trees during future winter planting seasons. Over the five years to the end of that winter they will have planted as many trees as are being cut down, so the woodland and its flora and fauna will be preserved for the future. If you or your group would be interested in helping with the replanting, or if you have questions about ash dieback, please contact Dodington Parish Council.



**Dodington Parish** lies around 12 miles north east of Bristol and 16 miles north west of Bath, and it is within the unitary authority of South Gloucestershire.

With a population of around 8,700, the parish is made up of three wards. The North East Ward covers the 'Birds' estate in the Chipping Sodbury postal area, the North West Ward covers the Shire Way estate in the Yate postal area and the South Ward covers a large rural area including the villages of Dodington, Codrington and Wapley.

**Wapley Bushes** is a popular nature reserve on the outskirts of Yate and Dodington. The site is looked after by Wapley Bushes Conservation Group, with members from the Southwold branch of Avon Wildlife Trust.

**Site owner:** **Dodington Parish Council**, managed in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council and Wapley Bushes Conservation Group. **Site status:** Local nature reserve, site of nature conservation interest. **Area:** 11.65 hectares. Grid reference: ST711805

### Contact Us

The Parish Council will update its website as the project progresses: [www.dodingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.dodingtonpc.org.uk)

If you have any questions about the work we are doing at Wapley, please contact us:

Tel: 01454 866546

Email: [clerk@dodingtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@dodingtonpc.org.uk)

Dodington Parish Council, Dodington Parish Hall, Finch Road, Chipping Sodbury, BS37 6JZ



# Wapley Bushes Ash Dieback - Information Leaflet



Dodington Parish Council



## Ash dieback disease at Wapley

Ash dieback is a fungus that came from Asia, crossed Europe and is now sweeping the UK. It kills around 95% of affected ash trees. There is no cure – the best remedy is replanting with other native species to keep the right habitat for birds, woodland creatures, insects, fungi and other plants. Ash dieback particularly affects Wapley Bushes because most of the tallest trees in the woods are ash.

Major tree works will be needed at Wapley, followed by a replanting programme. Dodington Parish Council, which owns Wapley Bushes, has had professional surveys done to identify affected trees. There is no imminent danger, but the priority is to make safe the infected trees that are near the main paths. In Autumn 2020 around 24 major ash trees will be reduced to about 6 metres in height, so that they can still provide habitat for insects, birds etc while they decay.

If you explore the Ancient Woodland you will find that Wapley Bushes Conservation Group has already planted hundreds of young replacement trees of other species over the last three years because they knew that ash dieback was coming.

Most of the Centenary Wood – the part-grown plantation next to the Upper Meadow – is also smaller ash trees. These will all be felled and replaced by different native species, leaving some clearings and paths.

## Tree work at Wapley



Following a thorough tender process, the Parish Council has appointed Teign Trees and Landscapes to carry out the initial work to fell the trees in the Centenary Wood and reduce the height of the 24 major ash trees. They will be on-site from the end of October and during November. They will aim to keep disruption to a minimum, however it may be necessary to close off some of the footpaths whilst work is being done. These will be clearly signposted.



Teign Trees will be accessing the site with their machinery from the Besom Lane entrance to the reserve – please avoid parking your car by the gate during the works, and please be careful of vehicles approaching the site. Teign Trees will be on-site during the hours of 8:30am – 4:30pm, Monday to Friday (weather dependent). For your safety and the safety of our contractor, please keep dogs on leads and children under supervision for the duration of the works. If you have any concerns about the works, please contact the Parish Council.



This map shows the layout of Wapley Bushes. The most commonly used footpaths are marked with red dots.



You may have seen some of the ash trees in Wapley marked up with yellow spots - these are infected trees that need to be reduced in height.