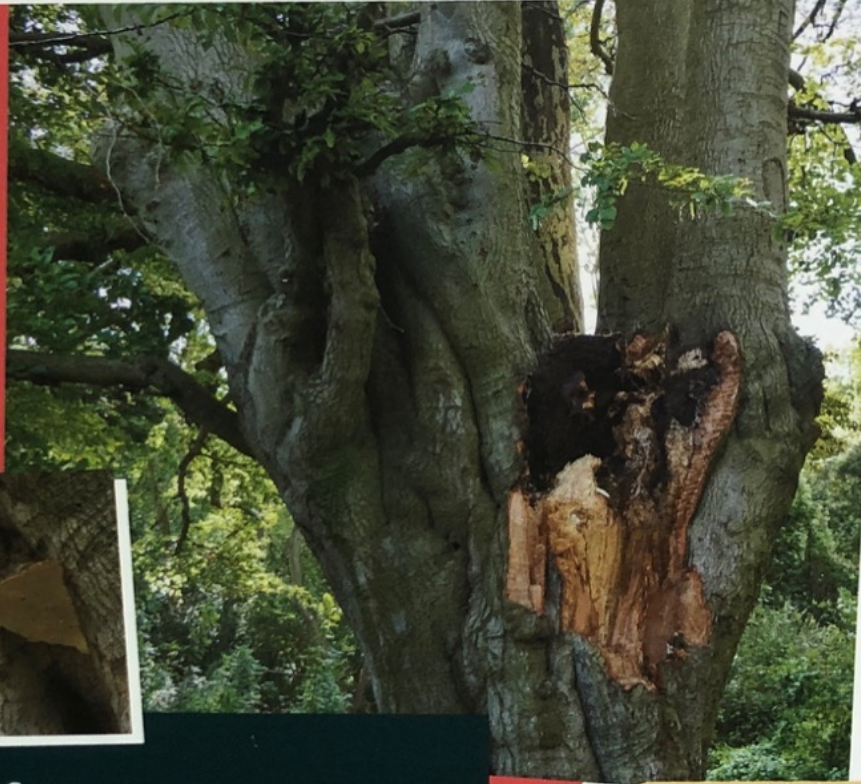




The Cathedral Tree of Fineshade Wood

The Cathedral Tree (as we affectionately know it) is an ancient beech tree nearing the end of its natural lifecycle.

The average lifespan of a beech tree in the UK is 300 years. This tree is believed to be approximately 350-400 years old. This means it has reached the end of its natural lifecycle and the best thing for the tree and for the forest environment is to let the tree naturally decline.



Ganoderma Fungus

Why is the tree fenced off?

This tree is heavily affected by a species of Ganoderma Fungus, which causes white rot in the trunk and weakens it. As the canopy of the tree is now so large it means the base is struggling to support the weight of the top, meaning the branches are at risk of snapping and falling at any point, which is why we have fenced it off. Please stay behind the fence and view from afar.

The importance of deadwood to a forest environment

Deadwood is a crucial component of the forest ecosystem. Not only does it play an essential role in sustaining biodiversity, but it also delivers important ecosystem services.

The Cathedral Tree contains standing deadwood, and will eventually fall, and when it does it will continue to provide an important habitat for species that make the forest their home.

Ancient trees in the forest

As ancient trees are important to the forest, we have identified more trees that are approximately 100 years old. You can find these through the wood marked with a green band. These will be left to mature into our ancient trees of the future.



Due to climate change and future pests and disease it is important to diversify the species planted within our woodlands to ensure a robust and resilient forest environment going into the future. For this reason, future planting within our woodlands will include many different tree species.



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