

Tree warden Report 09 March 2026

A few things that might entertain or perturb tree lovers.

First, a process known as Veteranisation is being practiced across the region and elsewhere. It's a technique involving chainsaws and other wood working tools to create premature decay in non-veteran trees. The idea is to mimic the damage that would occur to an old wood to create mature habitat.

Secondly, A strategy that involves planting dead wood trees upright with additional bolted on branches, in some cases from different dead trees, secured by screws and poles to create a standing dead tree (a ghost tree). Again, to create a quasi-established habitat for the young saplings planted around it.

Third and in my view a better idea is replanting what is left after cutting conifer plantation woodland with native broadleaf trees. Assuming some of the old ancient wood flora etcetera on which the plantation conifer was initially planted is still in the ground ready to go.

Sounds like a good idea.

Obviously, there is government funding for all this. I will not be recommending the Veteranisation or practising it.

Rendham Tree Warden