**ST IVES ESTATE: Countryside Stewardship:**

**Tree Health Improvement - Rhododendron Control**

Rhododendron is an introduced, non-native plant, host to diseases harmful to native trees. Removing rhododendron reduces the chances of infection in local tree populations and provides space for returning native species.

European Union funding through the UK Government Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is helping Bradford Council undertake rhododendron removal across the St Ives Estate.

Work will involve mechanical flailing, cutting with chainsaws, chemical treatment of stumps, regrowth treated with herbicide. Material will be chipped or stacked to provide habitat piles, excess debris may be burned on site.

Although the plant provides some cover for wildlife, it is little chosen for nesting birds. However, to limit disturbance to birds and other wildlife, areas will be checked ahead of being worked and any active sites will be retained and cleared out of season.

Plant disease is often spread by damp vegetation, or soil being carried on footwear and vehicles. You can help limit transmission through the *Check*; *Clean*; *Dry* method. Cleaning footwear and tyres between visits to woods, allowing time to dry, keeps disease down and your footwear in good order.

**SAFETY** – **Do not approach our workers, contractors & machinery.**

* **Keep to main paths, Keeping dogs under close control.**
* **Follow all signs and diversions.**

If you have any questions please contact the Trees and Woodlands Manager tel: 01274 431000 email: woodlands@bradford.gov.uk

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