

THE USES OF ASH WOOD

Ash wood is prized for its strength and flexibility. It is claimed that ash timber is so elastic that a joist of it will bear more before it breaks than any other native tree.

Ash was coppiced to produce ash poles, useful for gates and fencing, axe and spade handles, ladders, carts, hurdles, hoops and crates.

The excess ash timber harvested on the Thornton estate was sold for profit. The purchasers might have used its timber for farm equipment, oars, carriage shafts, railway carriage building and hop poles.

Roughmoor Spinney today still has the descendants of ash trees coppiced here for the Thornton estate. Please help us to preserve this heritage by reading the information here.

SPINNEY ASHES

This area of wet woodland was once part of the Thornton estate in Brockhall.

During the late 18th and 19th centuries the Thorntons planted a number of spinneys. In some cases they were used to screen views of the new canal and railway, and also as cover for game.

Sometimes the spinneys made use of land which was too wet to be useful as pasture or arable, and this is probably the case in this little wood.

There was also a very practical need for spinneys, as they provided wood which was essential in the farming of the period. The Thornton woodyard, which processed their timber, has now become the Heart of the Shires Shopping Village beside the A5.