



Wildlife Ways Update - Issue 19

Welcome to the November Wildlife Ways bulletin, giving you all the latest news about this exciting £16.8 million programme.



Improving Langley Hall Park Pond

We have started working on a scheme to open up the pond in Langley Hall Park and improve the stream that runs into it.

Part of the Wildlife Ways small habitats programme, initial work to the trees around the pond have been carried out as well as some work to the pond's central island. This will allow more sunlight to get through to the pond which will encourage more plant species. The stream works will slow down future sediment deposits to the pond.

The main improvements to the area will be carried out in early 2021. This will eventually lead to a more accessible and enjoyable local space for residents and visitors alike.

Photo: works at Langley Hall Park in progress, November 2020

A Winter of Woodland Works

As part of the Wildlife Ways small habitats programme we will also be carrying out important maintenance works to Elmdon Park's woodland. These will be completed by Christmas, weather permitting.



As with the work at Langley Hall Park, the aim is to allow more natural light through on to the woodland floor by thinning the tree canopy and removing overgrown bramble and holly areas. This will encourage healthier and more diverse species development and improved habitats.

We will also be carrying out similar works in the borough over the winter at the following woodlands:

- Babbs Mill Local Nature Reserve woodland
- Chelmsley Wood Local Nature Reserve pocket woodlands
- Cole Bank Park Local Nature Reserve pocket woodlands
- Coleshill Heath Road woodland
- Damson Parkway woodland
- Elmdon Park woodland
- Kingshurst Brook woodland
- Knightsbridge Road woodland
- Malvern Park woodland
- Marston Green Park Local Nature Reserve woodland
- Olton Jubilee Park Local Nature Reserve woodland

All these works are part-funded by the [European Regional Development Fund](#)



Habitats Round-up

Other habitats projects in the borough are progressing well. The [Damsels and Dragons](#) project at Elmdon Park is now mostly complete with the brook re-shaped to create a more natural watercourse (as pictured left) that reduces silting and encourages wildlife.

There will be tree planting going on between now and next March and also at that time there will be wetland planting activities, with Elmdon Park Support Group joining in some of this activity. All works with contractors, volunteers and council staff will be done in line with current Covid-19 guidelines.

If visiting the park do note that there are some areas of soft mud that have been taped off – **please** keep away from these for the time being.

Meanwhile in Dorridge Park the [Bees and Trees](#) grassland improvement works are continuing. Wildflower seeding has been completed with some vegetation such as tree branches and brambles to be cleared. There will be some tree planting as well with the project scheduled to finish in spring 2021.

Ward Updates

Bickenhill & Chelmsley Wood – Route D

Our contractors, Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP), are busy working on the footway along Bickenhill Road from Lyndon Croft up to the junction with Coleshill Heath Road. Meanwhile works along Coleshill Heath Road to widen the footpath and bring in a new crossing point are coming to their conclusion.

More on all the Route D works [here](#)

Kingshurst & Fordbridge - Route H

These works are an upgrade to the existing pathways and the creation of a new pathway through Babbs Mill Park between Cooks Lane and Yorks Wood. A plan of the paths being upgraded can be seen at the [Kingshurst & Fordbridge page](#) on the Wildlife Ways website.

St Alphege – Routes K and N

We have returned to complete the small section of pathway along Streetsbrook Road, allowing [Route K](#) to be finished in full. Meanwhile in Malvern Park a small section of pathway has been re-laid to accommodate [Route N](#)

Landscape Works

Our contractor *idverde* have been busy laying out wildflower turf and seeding areas (including more seeding on existing seed beds) and planting bulbs across which include crocuses, snowdrops and small areas of alliums and native daffodils.

About Wildlife Ways

Wildlife Ways is a £16.8 million programme – part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – to improve the borough for the benefit of people and wildlife alike.

The programme will include tree, bulb and wildflower planting. It will also make it easier for people wanting to walk and cycle across the borough by widening and connecting paths and cycle routes with green spaces.

All contractors brief their operatives on Health and Safety for Covid-19. Solihull Council is monitoring the works to ensure that government and council standards and guidelines are followed.

There's more on our website - wildlifeways.co.uk - and if you've any comments or questions, please email us at wildlifeways@solihull.gov.uk



For more information about Council services, please see our [website](#).