



Wildlife Ways Update - Issue 21



Nine more reasons to walk and cycle across the borough

Solihull Council is improving nine routes in the borough to strengthen links between open spaces, encourage wildlife to flourish and help people to walk, cycle and connect with nature across the borough.

The new shared routes will not be segregated but have been designed to safely accommodate walkers and cyclists. Signage will be installed at regular intervals over the next few months to clearly indicate shared use status and ensure walkers and cyclists use them safely with consideration for and awareness of each other.

The proposed routes for shared use are in Bickenhill, Castle Bromwich, Chelmsley Wood, Elmdon, Kingshurst & Fordbridge, Silhill and St Alphege.

All the plans can be viewed at <https://wildlifeways.co.uk/resources/shareduse>

Read more about this story at the Wildlife Ways website [here](#)

Shining more light on our woodland works

We have been busy carrying out important maintenance works to woodlands across the borough.

The aim of our works is to allow more natural light through to woodland floors by thinning the tree canopy and in selected areas removing overgrown bramble and holly areas. This will encourage healthier and more diverse species development and improved habitats.



We have started works at Knightsbridge Road in Olton and have recently completed improvements at Babbs Mill Park, Chelmsley Wood, Cole Bank Park, Damson Parkway, Elmdon Park, Malvern Park and Marston Green Park. Works will follow in the next few weeks at Olton Jubilee Park followed by Coleshill Heath Road and Kingshurst Brook.

All these works are part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.



New year, new-look Langley Hall

We have started work on a scheme to open up the pond area and improve the stream in Langley Hall Park, as part of the Wildlife Ways small habitats programme. The project will enhance the stream feeding the pond, through re-profiling and re-naturalising its straightened channel and creating a small wetland to improve water quality,

reducing the sediment in the pond.

Initial work to the trees around the pond and the central island has already been carried out. This will allow more sunlight in to encourage more plant species and provide a healthier wetland shore. For the next part of the project a low 'fence' will be created in the pond and silt removed will be put behind it to create new banks for aquatic planting to establish. Grass seeding and planting will take place in spring, and over time this will attract wildlife and improve water quality.

It is anticipated that part of the footpath by the pond will need to be closed during the works to allow safe movement of machinery. Other work areas will also need to be fenced off, with warning notices and temporary barriers in place. After the works there will be signage to tell visitors how we maintain good pond health whilst highlighting biodiversity benefits.

Ward updates

Bickenhill & Chelmsley Wood – Route D

Our contractors, Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP), are returning to work on the section of the route along Coleshill Heath Road.

Following a recent consultation, it is planned this spring to install speed cushions on the highway from the junction of Bickenhill Road to the junction with Chester Road. There will also be completion of the new pedestrian crossing and finishing off of the footway resurfacing. Dates for the work will be announced shortly.

Kingshurst & Fordbridge - Route H

These works are an upgrade to the existing pathways and 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.

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](#).
