



Wildlife Ways Update - Issue 18

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



Diversion for D's next phase

With two sections of Route D complete, pathway works will next move back to Bickenhill Road between Lyndon Croft/Low Brook Culvert and Coleshill Heath Road, starting week commencing 26 October for approximately 12

weeks. This work was originally scheduled for June.

During these works this section of road will be closed between 9:00am and 3:30pm Monday to Friday with traffic diverted. Access to properties for vehicles and pedestrians will be maintained and managed during these hours. Please speak to a member of the team on site if any help is required.

You can see the planned diversion on the Wildlife Ways website [here](#).

Meanwhile our works elsewhere on Route D, along Coleshill Heath Road to widen the footpath and bring in a new crossing point, are coming to their conclusion. Take a look [here](#) at the plans for this section between Bickenhill Road and Chester Road.

Habitats helped by two new projects

Projects to improve two of the borough's watercourses are now underway, at [Kingshurst Brook](#) and in [Elmdon Park](#).

We are re-naturalising 650 metres of Kingshurst Brook (pictured) to improve its shape and water quality to increase biodiversity.



This section of watercourse has previously been heavily modified, which has resulted in a straight channel with steep concrete banks and straight sides. There has been an absence of natural river processes, and a reduced ability to accommodate large populations of wildlife.

The brook will be restored to a more natural look including meanders and the introduction of gravels, streamside wildflowers and grasses. Sections of the banks are being excavated to allow natural erosion and deposition processes to operate.

At Elmdon Park a similar project called 'Damsels & Dragons' aims to correct the course of the park's concrete-sided stream, which has caused an absence of natural river processes, and reduced its ability to accommodate large populations of wildlife.

Sections of the banks are being excavated to allow natural erosion and deposition processes to operate, and some wider shallow 'scrapes' will create other wildlife habitat opportunities.

Both projects are funded by the [Environment Agency](#) and the European Regional Development Fund, and are being delivered by [Solihull Council](#).

The main works are expected to be completed in the autumn of 2020. The establishment of grass and planting should make for better, greener areas in spring 2021.

Ward updates

Elmdon – Route C

Work on widening the footpath along Damson Parkway is now complete with just some minor works to be done. Plans for this route can be viewed [here](#)

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.

Landscape Works

We are laying out wildflower turf and seeding areas (including more seeding on existing seed beds) and planting bulbs, trees and primroses across the borough.

Many of the new wildflower areas have now been treated in preparation for laying and seeding. Please bear with us as the ground has turned brown for a little while.

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.

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](#).

