

Cole Bank Park Local Nature Reserve habitat improvement project

In September 2016, Cole Bank Park LNR in Chelmsley Wood benefitted from a significant habitat improvement project. The works were managed by the team and designed in partnership with the Environment Agency. The project included de-silting ponds and re-profiling a 250 metre section of river bank on the River Cole to facilitate an increase in the natural river processes of erosion and deposition. This will encourage the development of river features such as gravel beaches, riffles and pools which will themselves support a greater diversity of wildlife.

The re-profiled banks have created much better access to the river for both people and wildlife. In addition the work has the advantage of reconnecting the river to its floodplain, slowing flow and reducing flood risk downstream. The project was jointly funded by Solihull Council and Bellway Homes, helping to deliver the key Council priority of working in partnership to enable cleaner, greener, safer and healthier neighbourhoods.

