

Newts & Shoots Woodland Management – Bosworth's Wood (Lanchester Park)

In Winter 2021-2022 works were undertaken to enhance the ecological condition of around 1 hectare of woodland habitat at Lanchester Park (Bosworth's Wood). The works complement a range of habitat and nature improvements schemes that are part of a project called Newts & Shoots. It is proposed these works will take place during the week commencing Monday 31 January, the work will take approximately four weeks, weather and contractors' schedule permitting.

These works involved temporary closure of the woodland but the remainder of the park remained open. Warning and information notices, temporary barriers and all other appropriate safeguards were positioned in areas where the work took place to ensure people's safety and protect adjacent grassland and green space infrastructure.



Prior to thinning works (Winter 2021)

The work was carried out to significantly enhance the woodland, as part of the planning obligations associated with the adjacent residential housing development in the south western section of Lanchester Park. The benefits of this work are to allow more natural light on to the woodland floor which will encourage healthier and more diverse species development and improved habitats.



Post thinning works (Spring 2022)

Works involved thinning several trees, coppicing of hazel to open up and improve the woodland habitat value and careful removal of brush/bramble to improve visibility. Supplementary tree and native shrub planting carried out in February 2022 buffer the woodland edge whilst adding species diversity to promote biodiversity.



Native tree and shrub
planting

The installation of bat boxes within the woodland provides enhanced roosting opportunities for a range of crevice dwelling bat species.



Installing bat boxes in woodland encourages bats into areas that otherwise have limited roosting space.

The 'Newts & Shoots' group of works is part of the Wildlife Ways Small Habitats Grants Programme – part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). This programme supports a wide range of habitat and nature improvements across the borough and beyond. Solihull Newts & Shoots project will ensure better conservation for over 3.8 hectares of woodland, grassland and wetland habitat – an area equivalent to six football pitches.
