

Solihull Habitat and Nature Improvements

A programme of woodland, grassland, wetland and water quality improvements

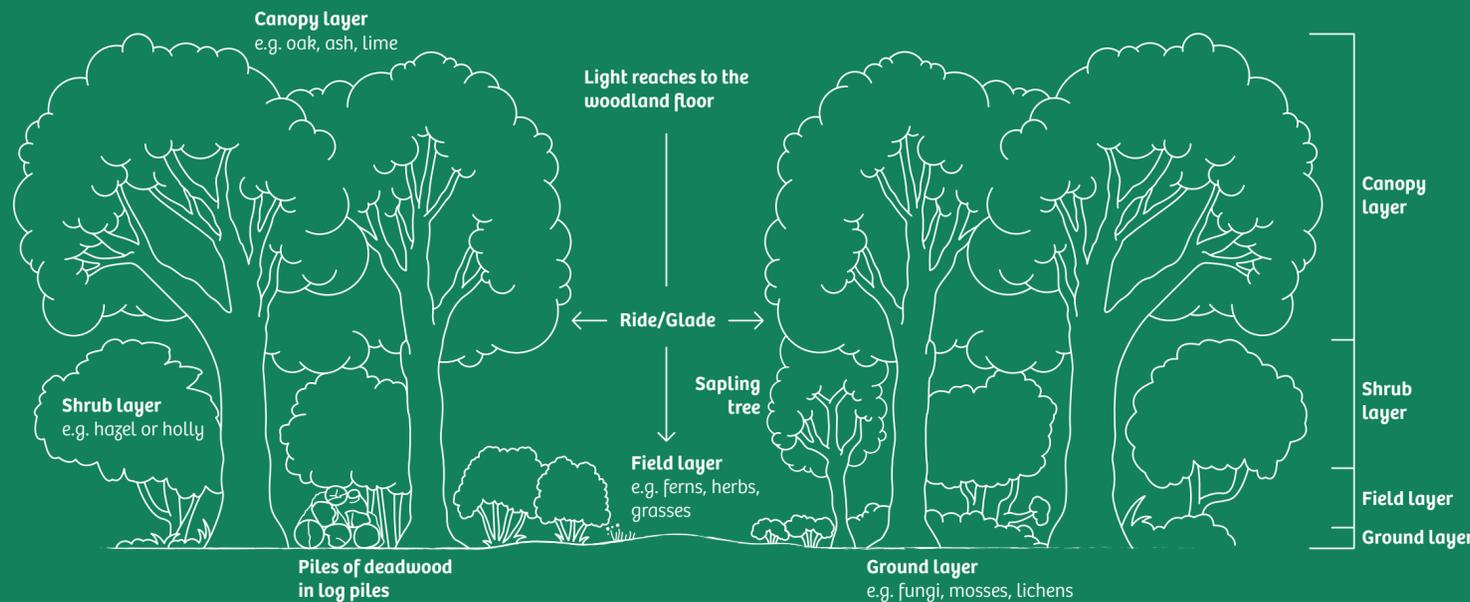
This project has enabled habitat enhancements in twelve of Solihull's woodlands

Solihull Council's woodlands are a key component of the landscape and are important for people and wildlife.

Managing our woodlands ensures that they have more variation in structure, age and species of trees which will increase their biodiversity – attracting and supporting a greater range of wildlife and plants.

Woodlands are composed of a variety of plants of differing heights and shapes. This gives a distinct vertical structure – canopy, shrub, field and ground layers.

Thinning the canopy creates the necessary space and light to enable trees to prosper and allow the next generation of saplings to establish. It also opens glades and rides, creating open areas that attract completely different flowers and wildlife from the rest of the wood.



The woodland structure diagram shows the layers and how rides /glades allow light into the woodland.

Most woodland butterflies are sun-loving insects and the majority only breed in open rides and glades which provide warm and sunny micro-climates. Bats also use rides for hunting attracted by the rich insect life.

Elmdon Park Woodland

Elmdon Park Woodland sits within an area of the park that used to be the farmland to the north of Elmdon Hall. There are three main blocks which have been planted with mixed native broadleaves, linking in with existing mature woodland, neighbouring scrub and meadow pasture.

The woodland canopy here includes oak, small-leaved lime and ash, with hawthorn and hazel as the shrub layer. The woodland provides good habitat for breeding birds including song thrush, chiffchaff and blackcap.

Some species of animals and plants found in the wood



Meadow crane's-bill (*Geranium pratense*) grows in hay meadows, roadside verges and grasslands. It's also a popular garden plant with attractive blue-violet flowers throughout the summer, attracting a variety of bees, such as buff-tailed bumblebees and honeybees. The plant forms clumps and can be identified by its distinctive leaves which are deeply divided and turn deep red in autumn.



The **blackcap** (*Sylvia atricapilla*) is a grey warbler, and as common with other warblers has a beautiful song, which has earned it the nickname of 'nightingale of the north'. The male has a distinctive black cap and the female a ginger-brown one. They inhabit woodland and scrub mainly but also visit gardens, particularly in winter. They eat insects, berries and fruit.



Red campion (*Silene dioica*) grow in woodland, grassland, hedgerows and roadsides. They have bright pink-red flowers with five petals from May to September. Its stems and leaves are hairy. They can often be seen flowering at the same time as bluebells, providing an attractive mix of pink and blue. They provide food for a variety of insects such as bees, butterflies and hoverflies.



European Union

European Regional Development Fund

This project is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL