

Bentsley Spinney Welcoming Woodland Wildlife Project

The Countryside Management Service working in partnership with St. Albans City and District Council (SADC) has secured grant funding for an exciting project to deliver a programme of improvements at Bentsley Spinney

The 12 month project to secure a place for people and wildlife will run from June 2015 through to June 2016, delivering the action plan items identified in Year 1 and 2 of the Bentsley Spinney Greenspace Action Plan 2014 – 2019.

It will give the woodland a much needed conservation boost, enabling work to bring back into favourable conservation condition the woodland and set woodland management on the “right track” for the future. Woodland management work within the project will include:

- Thinning the area of the woodland dominated by Sycamore trees
- Replanting with a mix of native trees and shrubs including Oak, Field Maple, Hornbeam and Hazel. Old Hornbeam trees will be maintained by selective pollarding, which involves reducing the length of the branches and allowing them to regrow.
- Some piles of brash and logs from recent emergency tree works will be removed, whilst retaining some as wildlife habitat.
- Bird and Bat boxes will also be installed

Improvements to access points will help provide an attractive, accessible and welcoming green space for the local community. Local people will be able to come and learn about their local heritage through interpretation and engage in their local green space through volunteering opportunities.

£15,637 has been secured from the Lafarge Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund, £1100 from Sandridge Parish Council and £500 from Hertfordshire County Council through County Councillor Geoff Churchard’s Members Locality Budget to fund the project.