

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Planning & Environment Committee

Rivermead Update

Neil Pullen – Wiltshire Wildlife Trust 06.04.21

Swindon Forest Meadow Project at Rivermead Flood Storage Area.

The winter work has now been completed. Pockets of Ash trees along the side of the cycle route have been removed and replanted with some 3000 or so, trees of 14 different species. The ground under the trees has been sown with a woodland wildflower mix interspersed with a few plugs plants of species such as wood sedge and yellow archangel. Bird and bat boxes have been erected. A pair of blue tits moved into one of the boxes within an hour of it being erected.

The river side work has now started to bed in. The riffles are being to vegetate as required, and the movement of water caused by these riffles have created some clear gravel beds.

One project remains and that is to sow the area immediately adjacent to the cycle track with a wild flower pollinator mix. This will bring colour and life to the area. I would like to arrange that this area (about 150 metres in length) is not cut as part of the regular routine (other than a strip of one metre immediately adjacent to the cycle track). I will arrange for a cut at the appropriate time through the project. I will erect signs explaining.

Further work to complete the project will be undertaken over the next year. This includes the creation of a wildlife pond and the removal of further pockets of ash trees and replanting.

During the summer months (starting today) we shall be focussing on the removal of Himalayan balsam along the length of the stream

Neil Pullen

Swindon Reserve Manager
Conservation and Land Management