

The Wildlife Trust / Beds, Cambs, Northants

January 2025

Our Conservation Team will be working on tree planting in Waresley and Gransden Woods and Gamlingay Wood nature reserves over the winter months.

They have hundreds of saplings to plant, made up of a large proportion of hazel, but also including crab apple, dogwood, field maple, grey willow, guelder rose, hawthorn, English oak and spindle.

You might come across a mix of tree guards (and none) as we experiment with different sustainable materials.

This year we will be planting double density in Gamlingay Wood, but not using any tree guards (which are the expensive bit), and in Waresley and Gransden Woods we'll be trialling some new guards made from wood pulp and others made of potato and corn, alongside the cotton and pine resin ones we have used previously.

In recent years, we had tried moving away from tree planting, preferring instead to allow natural regeneration, but ash die-back disease has severely affected our ancient woodlands and has necessitated the clearing of large areas to make them safe for visitors.

We hope that the saplings we are planting will become part of our coppice cycle and create botanically and structurally diverse edge habitat.

If you are interested in helping out, the regular volunteer work party in Gamlingay Wood will be doing some tree planting alongside their usual coppicing tasks. Please get in touch to find out more.

Coming up in our events programme:

- An online Youth Rangers social for any young person aged 11-17 interested in local wildlife and global environmental issues, on the evening of Friday, 10th January.
- A social 'Nature and Natter' walk around Cambourne Nature Reserve, followed by a cuppa on Saturday, 11th January.
- A social 'Nature and Natter' willow-weaving session at our head-office in Cambourne on the evening of Wednesday, 12th February.

Further information

- Events: www.wildlifebcn.org/events
- Volunteering: www.wildlifebcn.org/get-involved
- Path and site closures: www.wildlifebcn.org/explore/reserve-updates
- cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org
- @wildlifebcn
- www.wildlifebcn.org

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs, and Northants is a local wildlife conservation charity aiming to achieve bigger, better, and more joined up habitats for wildlife and people.

We do this by working in partnership to conserve and enhance habitats and biodiversity, and through community work, helping people enjoy, understand, and take action for wildlife.

The [West Cambridgeshire Hundreds](#) are a group of nature reserves owned and/or managed by the Wildlife Trust for Beds Cambs and Northants: Hardwick, Gamlingay, Hayley, and Waresley and Gransden Woods, and Cambourne Nature Reserve.