

# The Julienne Valley

## Restoring open spaces

The Julienne Valley is characterised by its undulating landscapes where forests and open spaces intermingle. In the past, orchards were planted on the slopes, mown meadows at the bottom of the valleys and deciduous forests on the steeper slopes. Steadily, these environments have disappeared and been replaced by intensive or abandoned meadows and coniferous forests.

The plot of land in front of you has also been transformed over time. Originally an orchard, it was converted to larch forest in the middle of the 20th century, resulting in a considerable loss of biodiversity!

Despite this, the Julienne Valley is recognised for its high biological potential and is part of the Natura 2000 site "Basse Meuse et Meuse mitoyenne" (BE33004).



  
Nederlandse versie

  
English version




### Characteristic species of the Julienne Valley

The Julienne Valley is a particularly popular place for discreet and little-known mammals: bats. Bats are particularly fond of landscapes rich in hedgerows, orchards and tree lines, where they can move around, feed and find shelter. As a result of the disappearance of orchards in the region, bat populations are in poor health throughout Wallonia.

The largest beetle in Wallonia, the stag beetle takes its name from the resemblance of its mandibles to stag antlers. This insect likes the same environments as bats. Mainly linked to the presence of deadwood, this species has also become rare and threatened. However, relict populations still exist in the Julienne Valley.



Stag beetle



deadwood

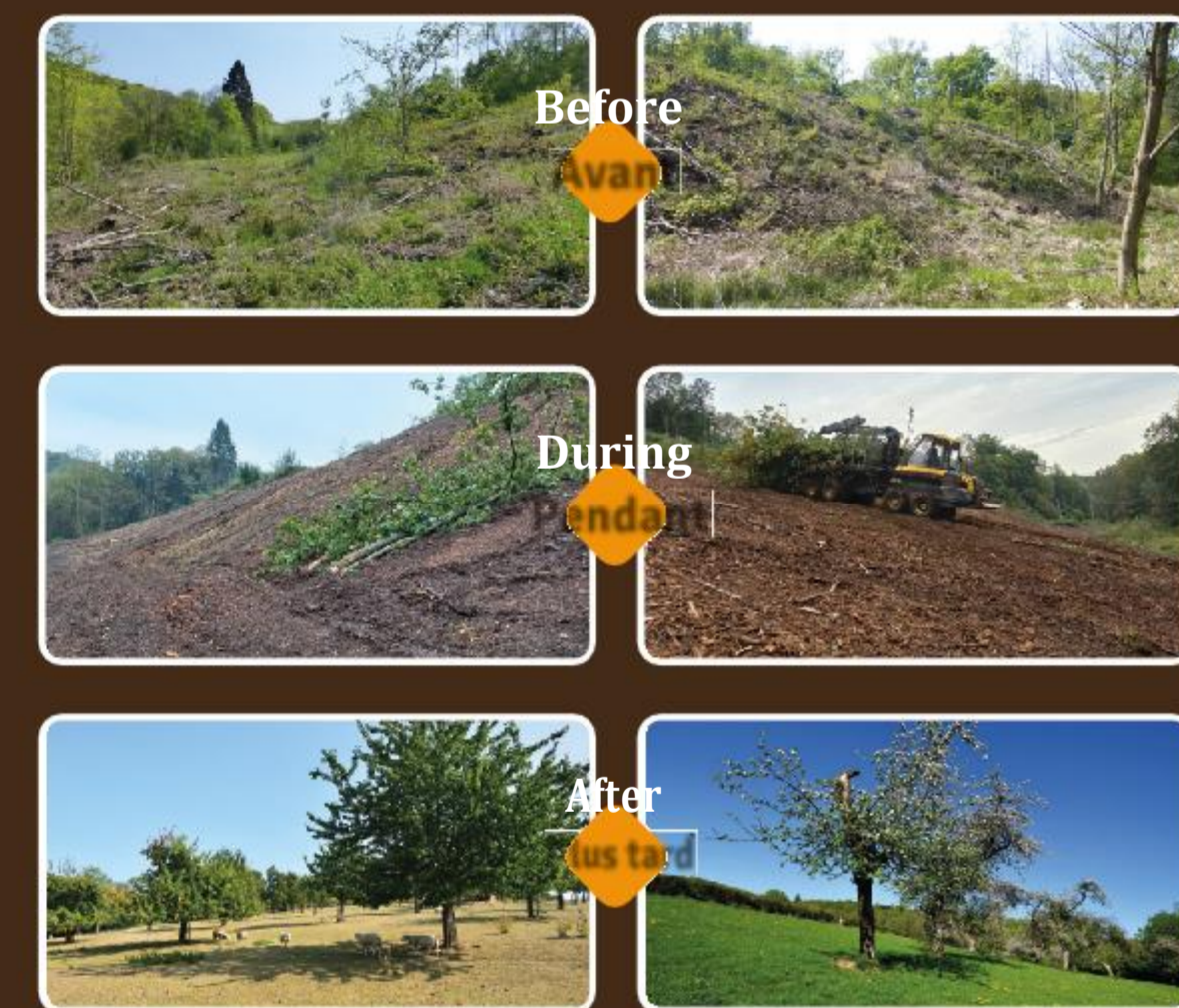


Bechstein's bat

### How can we bring back these species?

To enable these species to return to their original stronghold, their habitats need to be restored. As part of the Walloon Rural Development Programme, the commune of Visé received a grant to convert the larch stand into a natural meadow and an orchard. Deforestation, stump grinding and flower sowing were carried out. Twenty fruit trees were planted on the plateau. For the health of the fruit trees, fencing has been installed to allow grazing by sheep or goats, whose faeces will attract insects that will feed the bats. Finally, the site's tiered edges and piles of branches will provide ideal nesting sites for the stag beetle female.

### Restoration work



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