

MITCHELDEAN WATER TREATMENT WORKS, MORGAN SINDALL



BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

Severn Trent Water's (STW) Mythe to Mitcheldean major pipeline resilience scheme was designed to secure the water supply to 77,000 water customers, across the Forest of Dean, forming part of STW's commitment to OFWAT.

Works within the Mitcheldean WTW compound included the installation of pipelines and a new water mains connection. One section of pipeline had to be replaced and was buried beneath approximately 110m² of planted broadleaved woodland. Dormice were known to occur in the WTWs and within neighbouring woodland, (under the ownership of the Forestry Commission). A license from Natural England was granted, and supervised vegetation clearance and finger-tip searches of the area were done by licensed ecologists, provided by Grontmij. No evidence of dormice were found during this stage.

10 dormice boxes were installed on site (January 2013) as compensation for removing the section of planted woodland, to provide additional nesting opportunities within the WTW compound.

Evidence showing the success of the enhancements:

- After 7 months - (August 2013) a maternity nest containing an adult female dormouse and several blind new-born young was recorded demonstrating success (box 5)
- After 9 months - (Sept 2013) an adult female dormouse (13.5g) was recorded (box 10) and 2 nests were found (boxes 5, and 7)
- After 18 months - (July 2014) an additional nest was found (box 4)
- After 19 months - (August 2014) 2 nests were found (boxes 4 & 7).

Evidence of hazel nuts gnawed by dormice was found during the monitoring visits.

- To date, 40% of the boxes have been used as nests.

Fact box

Company name:

Morgan Sindall

Project name:

Mitcheldean Water Treatment Works (WTW)

Location:

Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire

Biodiversity enhancement:

Dormouse box

Size:

10 dormouse boxes

Cost:

£135 (10 boxes including fixing)

Tips:

- Be patient! Encouraging Dormice can be a slow process. To date 4 of the 10 nest boxes have been used
- Using dormice boxes, instead of bird boxes, is better as they allow easier access, with the entrance being at the rear of the box, closest to the tree trunk
- Erect the boxes within areas of dense scrub or woodland, with good connectivity to surrounding semi-natural habitat
- To help with monitoring, use tell-tales to make locating the boxes easier, as the wooded areas become more established spotting the boxes can be difficult.

Year completed:

2013

Categories:

- Small scale permanent
- Small scale temporary
- Pollinator

Pictures of the enhancements

