

LEGACY

• Habitat Management Limited •

Legacy Habitat Times

The Newsletter of Legacy Habitat Management

Issue 2



Post and rail construction, Langsett Reservoir
Photo: Legacy Habitat Management

Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to read our latest newsletter. In this issue we aim to highlight a few of the many wildlife management solutions that we offer.

With over 80km of new fencing expertly installed by our team over the last 12 months it's hardly surprising that a few of our customers see this as our primary focus. We hope, however, that the breadth and diversity of projects described in this newsletter will help to illustrate some of the many reasons for our excellent reputation within the broader field of habitat management; a reputation built on the experience, skill and expertise that Legacy has gathered over two and a half decades.

Legacy Creates New Wildlife Resource for Kirklees

An effective solution for pond creation

Legacy have been working with Kirklees Council to create a new recreational amenity and wildlife resource at Dogley Nr Huddersfield. The naturally fed 'Big Pond' is on the site of a long disused sewage works just off the A629 in Dogley. Legacy excavated an area of approximately 2500m square to provide a natural supply to open water with a soak away adjacent to the river Colne at Thunder Bridge Dyke between Woodsome Hall Lane, Woodsome Lees Lane and Dogley Lane. Because of the nature of the site (which had largely been backfilled with brick rubble from the extant buildings and was not suitable for producing a natural pond) Legacy used Bentomat clay liner to hold the standing water. At the top end of the site a ditch was running into the site but the water was disappearing underground through pipes or rubble backfill. Legacy came up with the solution of lining a ditch channel with the Bentomat in order to create a stream feed. Kirklees Council (in partnership with the Environmental Alliance) are doing a wonderful job in this area creating a 'Green Network' of interlinked green spaces surrounding the river corridor. This work will have a very positive effect on the biodiversity of the area and will also bring the proven social benefits of access to green spaces.



Stream creation near Huddersfield
Photo: Legacy Habitat Management



Badger Sett Construction at Drummond Moor Landfill Site
Photo: Legacy Habitat Management

Building For the Badgers

Badger sett construction at Drummond Moor Landfill Site

Necessary works due to start at Drummond Moor Landfill Site, approx. 10km south of Edinburgh will, sadly, result in the loss of 2 existing badger setts. Legacy Habitat Management were contracted to construct an artificial sett to compensate for this loss. A location for the sett was chosen that was both on the natural foraging path of the current badger population and where ground conditions would be as close as possible to those chosen for a sett location by the badgers themselves.

SLR Consulting provided a specification for the Sett, stating that it must consist of 3 nesting chambers, each with 2 exits, 2 buried, open-ended tunnels to promote further tunnel digging by the badgers, an entrance hole that would also be the lowest point of the sett for drainage purposes, and a raised opening to allow for air circulation. The actual layout of the sett could be flexible as long as it contained these elements.

The sett was planned out on the ground and then digging began so that the network of plastic, twin wall pipe and purpose built nesting chambers, constructed by ourselves, could be installed. Sett construction and back-filling of the excavations were completed in one day whilst maintaining a sensitive approach at all times to other fauna in the vicinity.

“This was a particularly enjoyable job, Badgers are one of my favourite mammals, so it was really nice to be doing something so positive for them. Personal thanks go to the SLR ecologist who, voluntarily, was not without a spade in his hand for most of the day”.

Martyn Werner, Operations Manager, Legacy Habitat Manager



Main Photo: Corus iron ore quarry: a view of the redevelopment site.
Photo: Legacy Habitat Management

Legacy Newt Fencing - the Complete Mitigation Solution

Two more Legacy Newt Fencing Case Studies - further examples of how our Fencing Systems provide The Ideal Wildlife Mitigation Solution

Case Study 1: Legacy have recently installed over 3,000m of permanent exclusion barrier to protect populations of Great Crested Newts on the site of a spectacular old iron ore works belonging to Corus near Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire. Work was undertaken under challenging conditions whilst areas of the quarrying operations were prepared for land fill. Solutions have been provided for ditch and stream crossings whilst our staff had to operate safely on steep and sometimes unconsolidated ground. Pitfall traps and refugia are incorporated into the design in order to safely and effectively translocate the Great Crested Newt population.

Case Study 2: Working for Nissan Sunderland, Legacy have installed 3,000m of Newt Fencing over two phases to accommodate 4 new wind turbines in addition to the existing 4. When completed the turbines will have the potential to provide 10 per cent of the plants electricity. Nissan bought second hand turbines from Germany to keep the capital costs down and they expect that this will allow payback within three years. In collaboration with Durham Wildlife Services Consulting, Legacy have also provided .5 hectare of woodland clearance around turbine 8 to safeguard the resident bat population which might otherwise feed in close proximity to the turbines.

Welcome to Martyn

Welcome to Martyn Werner our new Operations Manager. Martyn (pictured right) has already proven himself a star member of the team and will maintain a healthy balance of physical work on site whilst spending a couple of days a week in the office dealing with our on-line marketing.

A Fresh(?) Use for Unwanted Rhododendron *Coleshill rhododendron removal*

It might be easy to dismiss a corner of land caught between the network of roads that is the junction of the M6, M6 Toll road and the M42 as just another piece of derelict woodland, isolated from the rest of the world by acres of tarmac, but in this case the land we are referring to is the Bannerly Pools SSSI, and home to Warwickshire's only peat bog. The site supports a number of different habitats including alder carr woodland and, perhaps surprisingly given its proximity to all number of potential sources of pollution, sphagnum bog. Until recently, however, when English Nature/Natural England stepped in, the site was also home to a thriving community of rhododendron. Planted as game cover in the early twentieth century, the rhododendron was extremely well established over the vast majority of the 6ha bog wet/woodland component of the site. The trunks of the bushes were, in many cases, over 300mm in diameter; the stands were completely impenetrable and the canopy over 8m high.

To ensure the survival of this site English Nature, as it was then, decided that the rhododendron needed to be removed from the site and Legacy won the contract to undertake this work over three years. The ecologically sensitive nature of the site meant that this could be no ordinary rhododendron control job. All the arisings had to be removed from site rather than remaining *in situ* and causing a possible nutrient flush into the bog. As burning was out of the question, the arisings were sent to local composting facilities.

The final stage of this process was completed this year. In total over 1000tonnes of rhododendron was removed and sent for composting. This final phase of clearance was aided by the SITA who generously allowed free of charge disposal of the arisings at their Packington Lane composting site just half a mile from the SSSI.

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