

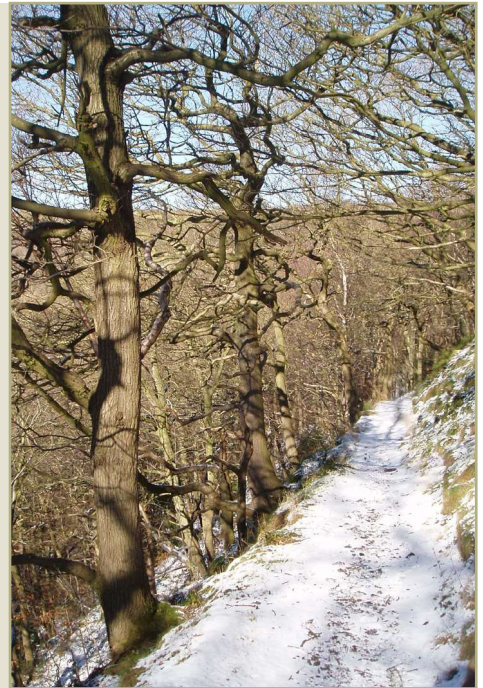
# LEGACY

• Habitat Management Limited •

## Legacy Habitat Times

*The Newsletter of Legacy Habitat Management*

Issue 3



Winter woodland, Bradfield, South Yorkshire  
Photo: Legacy Habitat Management

### Welcome

*Welcome once again to Legacy Habitat Times, the newsletter of Legacy Habitat Management. Much has happened since the last issue and, despite talk of economic downturns and credit crises, we have had our busiest summer ever.*

As one would expect we have seen a slight drop in work coming from the housing sector but larger infrastructure projects and demand for wildlife fencing products do not seem to have been affected in the same way. This applies to both our contracting work and to activity on our retail website which have both seen very healthy activity. As a result of this success, we have been able to further invest in our future, both in staff training and new equipment (see below for more details). So, some good news for a change: Legacy is going from strength to strength and we are in an excellent position to pursue our goal of continually improving the quality of service (and value for money) that we offer our clients.



Dogley Pond, before and after  
Photo: Legacy Habitat Management

### Dogley Pond

#### *Rapid establishment of habitat*

In our last newsletter (Legacy Habitat Times Issue 2) we featured our recent pond creation work at Dogley Pond Local Nature Reserve. Legacy have been working with Kirklees Council to create a new recreational amenity and wildlife resource on the site of a long disused sewage works Nr Huddersfield, just off the A629.

We recently revisited the site as a routine follow up and we were delighted to see how well the pond had settled in. As can be seen from the before and after pictures, the vegetation along the banks has restored itself very nicely. What is perhaps most encouraging, however, is the rapid appearance of marginal and submerged species such as Flag and Potamogeton; especially because there was no standing water before the works were undertaken



## Badger Fencing

*Cottam Power Station, Retford,  
Nottinghamshire*

Cottam Power station is one of the many power stations on the river Trent in Nottinghamshire. Like most coal fired power stations Cottam uses an on-site landfill for disposal of the ash from the boilers. The owners, EDF energy, have been granted planning permission to raise the maximum height of the landfill. This involves further tipping on previously closed sections of the landfill site. A number of badger setts were identified within the boundaries of this reopened tipping area. EDF were granted a licence to close the setts.

Given that the setts had numerous active and abandoned entrances and due to the fact that the ash substrate provided good digging conditions, it was thought that gating each entrance was not a viable solution. Instead whole setts were enclosed by badger fencing. Badger gates were installed along obvious access lines. This ensured that the closure programme could progress without delay and overall costs, when time was factored, in were minimised.

To reduce costs and given that the fence only needed to be temporary in nature, the fence was installed in the manner of a post and wire stock fence, with of course the addition of a buried underground return, rather than the standard post and rail specification favoured on sites where longevity is a key.

## New Equipment

*Further investments in equipment*

In Early August we took the decision to invest in an MH100 trencher. Mounted on a 20, tonne excavator, this machine has the capacity to cut slot trenches up to 1m in depth at rates of over 1500m per day. The trencher was purchased with the installation of Water Vole fencing in mind where depths of trench of up to 1m are required. Advantages over the traditional methods of excavation of trenches using standard excavation equipment include the creation of a loose backfill, even in the heaviest of clays. This ensures an even and clean backfilling process with no voids or lines of weakness that might be exploited by rabbits or water voles to undermine the fence. There is also a significant reduction in overall site disturbance, whilst the line of the fence is much straighter, resulting in a tighter fit between the fencing panels, making it both stronger and more resistant to water voles as well as having a more aesthetically pleasing finish. Another significant advantage of the trencher is that it can be run perpendicular to the excavator. This allows it to reach over barriers or into the base of a ditch, allowing the fence to be placed where the ecologist requires it rather than where the contractor finds it most convenient.

***Now available for hire through our NEW  
Trencher Hire Service***



MH100 Trencher  
Photo courtesy of AFT Trenchers

## New Qualifications

*Further investments in people*

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve the skills of our staff, all Legacy operatives are now accredited under the Construction Skills Certification Scheme.



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## Case Study: Winter 08

### Rhododendron Control

*Shorne Wood Country Park, Gravesend, Kent*

*Client: Kent County Council*

*Scope of work:* To clear mature tracts of *Rhododendron ponticum* from SSSI woodlands totalling 17 hectares in Shorne Wood Country Park.

*Background:* A Green Flag Award winner, Shorne Wood Country Park covers some 174 acres and is located within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The area has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its wildlife value.

A number of archaeological discoveries have been made in the park including: shaped flints from the Mesolithic period; a 'round barrow' that may have been a Bronze Age burial site; the medieval foundations of Randall Manor which served as home to Sir Henry Cobham Sheriff of Kent in 1314 and the remains of various roadways that date back beyond the 1600s.

Rhododendron was originally planted by the Victorians along the carriage rides that ran through Cobham Hall Estate. Over the years the Rhododendron spread and by 2003 had completely suffocated over one fifth of the woodland areas. Heritage Lottery Funding has allowed Kent County Council to plan the extraction and eradication of large areas of the rhododendron from Shorne, Brewers and Randall Woods.

*Works:* Various constraints exist in the Park which influenced the methods of work that could be employed. These included public access, proximity to main roads and motorways, SSSI status and archaeological features.

Year 1 clearance work started in Winter 2003 with the area known as Brewers Wood. Access to Brewers was complicated both by close planted mature coppice stools and proximity to the A2. Years 2, 3 4 and 5 tackled substantial blocks in Shorne Wood up to 6 hectares each. Burning methods have improved year by year with the refinement of technique - rhododendron is notoriously hard to burn. Initial trials using static burners led to the idea of using leaf blowers. These accelerate the combustion process and keep the fires hot so that maximum flow can be achieved.

*Follow Up:* Follow up work over the next 2 summers should account for 99.9% of the mass. Follow up spraying in the summer using glyphosate solution will continue into years 6 and 7. The organic area will not be sprayed but will continue to be hand pulled with some 5T excavator work. Further control of the seed bank may be necessary but only time will tell.

*Regeneration:* Contrary to popular belief, regeneration of ground flora in the cleared areas has been excellent: Fox Glove, Dogs Mercury and Silver Birch regeneration are all prominent.



Rhododendron clearance, November 2008  
Photo: Legacy Habitat Management

## IEEM Autumn Conference 2008

Legacy Habitat Management directors Matt Dixon and Ian Henderson attended the IEEM (Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management) Autumn Conference in Glasgow on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. It was great to meet up with our existing customers, put names to faces and meet lots of interesting new people. The content of the conference was excellent and the presentations very engaging, especially so for feedback on previous large-scale mitigation projects such as Manchester Airport's second runway and the Eurotunnel link. Feedback and monitoring were central themes of the conference and, as contractors; it is something that we always welcome as a means of improving our service and products.

## Newt Round Up

*Legacy Newt Fencing Nationwide!*

Thousands of metres of Newt Fencing are currently under construction by Legacy teams throughout the UK - from the Humber Bridge, to Preston, Lancashire and from Somerset to Northumberland via Worcestershire ...



## Welcome to Martha Brown

Legacy would like to introduce you to the newest member of our team, Martha Brown. Martha will take over from Rob, heading up sales at our e-commerce outlet [wildlifefencing.co.uk](http://wildlifefencing.co.uk). Martha brings a wealth of experience in e-commerce having worked for Go Outdoors - one of Sheffield's leading outdoor retailers.

## The Legacy Habitat Management e-commerce outlet

*NEW Exclusive Imm Heavy Duty Fencing System*

With the following important added features that enhance ease and speed of installation:

- Preformed underlap and topfold creases
- Specially designed clips that form the topfold and attach to the wooden stake

*These come as standard when installed by Legacy Habitat Management*

NEW Customised fixing washer for Temporary Amphibian Fencing System

**10% OFF WEB PRICES DURING DECEMBER & JANUARY!**  
**PHONE NOW 0114 273 1751 AND QUOTE HNWF\***

\*Subject to availability. Offer valid until 31st January 2009. Does not apply to delivery.

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Badger Fencing  
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