

Bristol water – hedgehog box **Bristol Water Depot, Lower New Road, Cheddar, Somerset**

Kier (Utilities)

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Small Scale Permanent

Project overview

The aim of the project was to provide a hedgehog box within the depot boundary to encourage a breeding pair of hogs to rear 1 or 2 litters during 2016.

Nigel Beaver was asked to make a hedgehog box using any available materials.

What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?

There was no signs of hedgehog activity in the depot prior to introducing the nest box but there was an ample supply of food such as insects and invertebrates.

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?

Hedgehogs are in decline in the UK as reports come in that fewer hedgehogs are seen every year. Recent surveys show that hedgehog numbers fallen by approximately a third between 2002 and 2012 and sightings dropped by 4 percent in 2014.

The staff who work in the depot are enthusiastic about the environment and are always looking for opportunities to help wildlife.



Homemade hedgehog box

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Nigel Beaver made a hedgehog box from a damaged foodwaste recycling container and some off-cuts of wood. The foodwaste container formed the nesting chamber and the wood was used to make a tunnel into the box to prevent foxes, dogs or cats reaching into the nest chamber to access the hoglets.

The box was installed during the early spring of 2016 as hedgehog were about to emerge from hibernation.



Hedgehog

How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

Further information

The depot was deemed to be a suitable location for a hedgehog box because of the available food in the area and there is also a footpath next to the depot giving access to gardens and other green spaces allowing hedgehogs to roam the locality.

The depot staff are monitoring the box from a distance for signs of hedgehog activity and are hopeful hedgehogs will breed in their depot.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

My motivation was that I had the opportunity to use some of the skills I have learnt to benefit wildlife in the area in which I live.



Hedgehog Box