

Woodlands

Northumbrian Water and Essex & Suffolk Water own and manage a number of important woodland sites. These range from ancient broadleaved woodland to coniferous plantations; each providing a habitat for a variety of different species of conservation interest.

Over the year much activity has taken place to enhance the biodiversity of our woodlands and to raise awareness of the importance of woodland habitats.

Here are some highlights:

**Interpretation Panels**

Woodland interpretation panels were installed at Fontburn Reservoir along the south shore walkway providing information on two of the key tree species - Silver Birch and Common Alder.



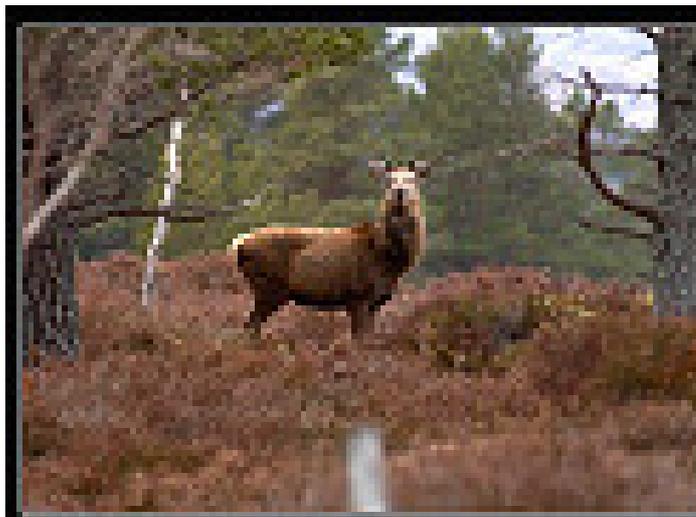
**Tree Planting**

Tree planting was carried out by staff members at Waskerley Reservoir in Durham and Scaling Dam Nature Reserve in North Yorkshire to improve biodiversity. This was in addition to our annual planting programme which involved tree planting at 10 of our operational sites.

A group of willing staff also braved the cold to plant trees at Abberton reservoir. These will form woodland around the new Essex Wildlife Trust visitors centre to be built at the site.

### **‘Wood You Picture It’ Photographic Competition**

Throughout the year a staff photograph competition, ‘Wood you picture it’, was run to raise awareness of the woodland habitats we manage. Everyone was encouraged to go out and take a photograph with a woodland theme. This was very popular and many staff members got out to enjoy woodlands and produced some fantastic images. The winning photograph was of a wild deer taken in Scotland.



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### **Woodland Walks**

A Fungal foray around Derwent Reservoir nature reserve with a local fungal expert was held for staff members. The walk was well attended with many different species of fungus identified on the woodland floor.

In May, bluebell walks for staff were held through at a Local Wildlife Site woodland at our Hanningfield Water Treatment Works.



## **Nest Boxes**

Nest boxes at Hanningfield reservoir are monitored monthly as part of the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme with volunteer staff and Essex Wildlife Trust wardens.



Breeding bird surveys have been carried out at our Langford and Langham treatment works which have a large amount of woodland. As a result of the surveys, specialist nest boxes for Owls and Kestrels have been put in place.

Staff built and put up nest boxes during National Nest Box Week, at a number of sites including Chigwell and Hanningfield treatment works and at our Durham Head Office and also at Scaling Dam nature reserve.