

Llanwern Tree Planting

We've planted more than 37,000 trees and introduced 1,000 dormice boxes at Llanwern to enhance biodiversity in the area.

We've been commissioned by Welsh Government to deliver a Main Events Stabling Line (MESL) near the Tata Steelworks service lines in Newport, Wales. The project forms part of a wider package of transport improvements and investment. To reduce the impact and effect on local biodiversity that will occur as a result of these works, we've planted over 8 hectares of woodland in Phase 1.

The works associated with Project MESL will result in the loss of secondary broadleaved woodland (wet woodland), over approximately 2.9 hectares. The woodland is in relatively poor condition in terms of structure and species diversity owing to a lack of management and encroachment by non-native and invasive species. We have agreed with Natural Resources Wales on mitigation measures to replace all trees removed at a ratio of 2:1. An area of 20 hectares has been purchased by Welsh Government to accommodate the agreed mitigation measures for the scheme.



As part of Phase 1, planting has been undertaken by BAM Nuttall at a ratio of 2 trees planted to each tree removed to ensure we maximise biodiversity in the area.

Since January 2020, more than 37,000 trees have been planted and over 100 bat roost and dormice boxes installed in adjacent mature woodland. A further 20,000 trees and shrubs are due to be planted in the 2020-21 season to complete Phase 1 of the project. We anticipate an increase in biodiversity to the local area as the trees mature into a forest.

Areas for planting have been kept aside for future phases of the project and an operational maintenance and replacement budget has been set aside to use over the next 30 years. All TfW planting schemes are developed from consultation with NRW and Newport City Council.

It's the first of many future projects to ensure we are maintaining and enhancing biodiversity despite our activities and in support of Welsh Government goals to increase woodland cover in Wales.

“Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 developments we had to stop planting in early March. However, we did achieve 37,000 plants in the ground and a further 11,000 are being kept in temporary storage, ready to progress completion in the 2020-21 season. A further 9,000 plants will be ordered then to complete the Phase 1 scheme.”

Lee Budenis
Llanwern Programme Manager