

Here at Carsington Water you can find many different kinds of plants, animals, birds and insects. In order to ensure that this variety of life or 'biodiversity' continues Severn Trent Water has taken positive action to care and protect native wildlife here.



Carsington Water

caring comes naturally



conservation at Carsington Water

Severn Trent Water

Since 1900 over 150 UK native species have disappeared while the threats to living conditions (habitats) for the UK's remaining native species have increased. This is due to the combination of many external causes – the effects of climate change, pollution, encroachment of urban development, changes in agricultural practices and the introduction of non-native species such as grey squirrels, mink and signal crayfish.

threats to native species



Without active conservation programmes many more native wildlife species will be lost.



biodiversity – biological diversity

The natural diversity of life on earth has taken millions of years to develop and the interdependence of species is one of the most critical factors in continuing the natural cycle of life.

Yet since 1900 over 150 native species have become extinct in the British Isles. It is imperative that we stabilise those species currently under threat and encourage as wide a variety of natural wildlife.

Our rangers and volunteer staff work tirelessly to ensure a balanced natural environment and our other Midlands sites are maintained for all to enjoy.



want to know more?

wildlife and conservation centre

For up to date information on our conservation work at Carsington Water why not visit our Wildlife and Conservation Centre? There you will be able to learn more about our wildlife protection programmes and observe close up some of the hundreds of bird species that visit each year!

Further information on wildlife conservation is available from

www.stwater.co.uk/corporateresponsibility

Broaden your experience and discover what our other sites have to offer

**Carsington Water**  
Carsington Water is off the B5035 between Ashbourne and Wirksworth.  
For enquiries call: 01629 540696

The site is open every day except Christmas Day.  
Car parking charge applies.

We have a variety of recreation sites stretching across the heart of the UK for you to enjoy. They are all unique but have the same goal - 'caring for the environment, education, health and well-being of our communities'. To find out more, go to [www.moretoexperience.co.uk](http://www.moretoexperience.co.uk)

For information on events and activities at all sites call: 0870 179 1111 or visit [www.moretoexperience.co.uk](http://www.moretoexperience.co.uk)

This publication is available in alternative formats, including large print and Braille. For further information please: call 08457 500 500 textphone 0800 328 1155 [customer.relations@severntrent.co.uk](mailto:customer.relations@severntrent.co.uk)

we work safe, so that you can play safe.

Severn Trent Water

Severn Trent Water Ltd  
2297 Coventry Road  
Birmingham B26 3PU

[www.stwater.co.uk](http://www.stwater.co.uk)

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what we are doing to help?

Severn Trent Water has developed conservation programmes for all its sites throughout the Midlands. Here at Carsington Water specific programmes are being implemented for a number of nationally important species and habitats.

how can I help?

If you would like to be more involved with helping our site rangers care and protect Carsington Water, please contact the main Visitor Centre reception on 01629 540696 for details of our volunteer programme.



# caring for this special place



## Brown hare

The estimated population of brown hares has fallen recently from 4 million to under 1 million.

**how we are helping** – We are managing our grasslands for wildlife including our hay meadows which are of natural importance.

Our conservation areas provide the quiet and seclusion that hares need.

## Water vole

Immortalised as Ratty in children's literature this gentle vegetarian creature has declined by 70 per cent between 1970 and 2008.

**how we are helping** – We have created new ponds and a reed bed at the northern end of the reservoir to provide a welcome habitat for these shy mammals.

## Pipestrelle bat

Between 1978 and 2008 the recorded UK pipestrelle bat population had fallen by 70 per cent.

**how we are helping** – We provide safe undisturbed habitats and use traditional and more sympathetic methods of managing hedgerows, grasslands, wetland and woodland areas. Bat boxes have been introduced while buildings have been designed specifically to encourage use as roosting sites.

## Tree sparrow

This species once commonly found in urban gardens has drastically declined by a staggering 95% since 1970.

**how we are helping** – Carsington Water has one of the biggest breeding populations in the East Midlands, supported by our breeding stations and nestbox schemes.

Careful management of grasslands and provision of rough grass strips along hedges provide the seed food that tree sparrows need. By providing a year round supply of food and additional nest boxes we will ensure that the number of birds found on site will be increased.

## Otter

UK populations were drastically affected by the unregulated use of chemical pesticides between the 1950s and 1970s.

**how we are helping** – Throughout the Midlands our continuing investment in water treatment processes is improving the quality of river water so more freshwater sub-species on which otters depend can flourish. We have built three artificial otter holts (or nests) on site and are identifying further locations. We are also financing a number of joint projects here and elsewhere through the Wildlife Trust's Water for Wildlife Project.



## 1. Reedbeds

Reedbeds are wetlands whose water table lies above ground level for most of the year.

**how we are helping** – We are enhancing the existing reedbeds at Carsington Water. We have created a series of new ponds and scrapes in the north of the reservoir and, with the help of volunteer rangers, reeds have been planted.

## 2. Ancient/Diverse hedgerows

Every year between 1984 and 2008, 5 per cent of the UK's total hedgerows length were lost.

Yet hedgerows can support over 100 animal species – 47 of which are under threat today. They may be centuries old and as well as providing food, act as corridors to woodland areas. Carsington Water has more than 10km of hedgerows with good examples at Sheepwash and Stones Island.

**how we are helping** – We have identified important hedgerows on site and via the Countryside Stewardship Scheme are actively managing them. This involves laying hedges to encourage new growth, filling in gaps and planting new hedgerows to replace those already lost.