



PINE MARTEN DEN BOXES

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John Martin has been involved with the deployment of pine marten den boxes since they were first introduced to Britain by the VWT in 2003. Assisting Dr Johnny Birks and John Messenger with the first two batches of boxes erected in Galloway and Cowal & Trossachs Forest Districts for Forest Enterprise Scotland he has been involved with the project continuously to this day in Galloway Forest. Monitoring, maintenance, data gathering and reporting of a fifty den box scheme is completed annually and the fifteen years of experience has resulted in modifications to the original design to increase durability and ease of monitoring.

A second design of box was deployed following field trials. Nicknamed the 'Galloway Lite' – the title is now firmly fixed – this lightweight design was produced by a need to install boxes on younger, smaller circumference trees. The first scheme of Galloway Lites was commissioned for Galloway Forest by Forest Enterprise Scotland and in September 2014 fifty such den boxes were located in an area south of Clatteringshaws Loch. The cumulative use of these boxes has now reached over 80% during their short span of availability to martens in the area.

Two designs of boxes are manufactured and offered for sale, the adapted VWT box and the Galloway Lite. Both are hand made to order by John Martin in South Cumbria using quality materials and fixings guaranteeing a cost-effective long life.

A delivery, siting and fixing service can be provided. Please get in touch to discuss your requirements. Individual and multiple box orders can be despatched by courier at cost.

Guidance for optimal placement and numbers of boxes will be freely given on request.

John is ably assisted by his wife, Shirley, who manages administration and assists with fieldwork for Myotismart Ltd, our wildlife surveying business which has been operating since 2005.

