

## Nest boxes: '*Brampton*' dormouse nest box

As part of our monitoring operations we use a variety of artificial nest boxes to detect and gather data about certain species. These species are often not dependant on such roosts but use them frequently enough for the monitoring to be productive. These boxes are used for breeding by dormice but not hibernation, which takes place on the ground.

While it is sensible not to change monitoring protocols once they are set up, they necessarily 'evolve' to take account of change, such as the appearance of invasive species and climate change.

The '*Brampton*' design of nest box has been developed to make the box-checking procedure more efficient. It will also help to minimise box use by other species, such as birds and wasps, as well keeping it dry in extreme weather conditions. The design is named after the first dormouse reintroduction project in this country, which took place in 1993 at Brampton Wood, Cambridgeshire. As well as including an observation panel, the box has the entrance hole underneath. Having the entrance hole located underneath, rather than at the rear, makes it easier to block during inspection and increases drainage, as well as preventing rainwater entering the box.

The entrance shelf, located below the entrance hole, acts as to baffle birds and prevent squirrels enlarging the entrance hole. It also stabilises the box against its support, so only one mounting batten is needed. It is designed to tilt to allow dormice to be easily returned to the nesting chamber.

### '*Brampton*' design dormouse nest box



Left side/front., showing mounting batten at the back.



Below, showing entrance hole at base of nesting chamber.

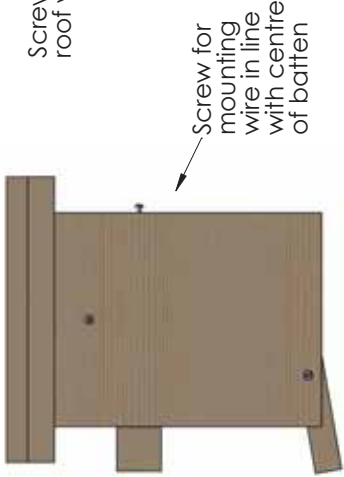


Inside, beneath lid/roof, with removable inspection panel in place.



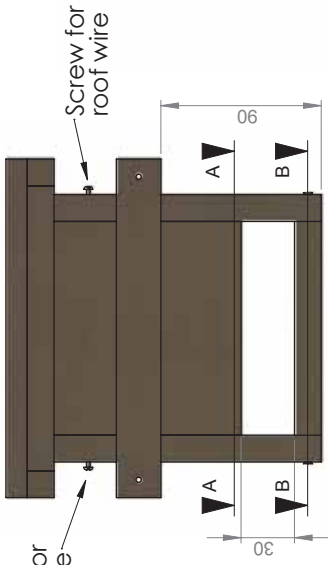
Below, showing shelf lowered for dormouse to be posted back in.

Side

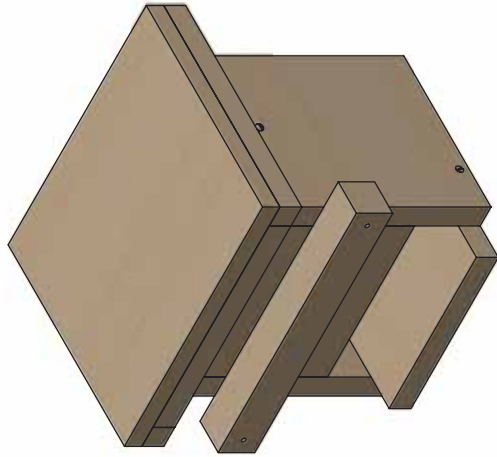


This face to tree

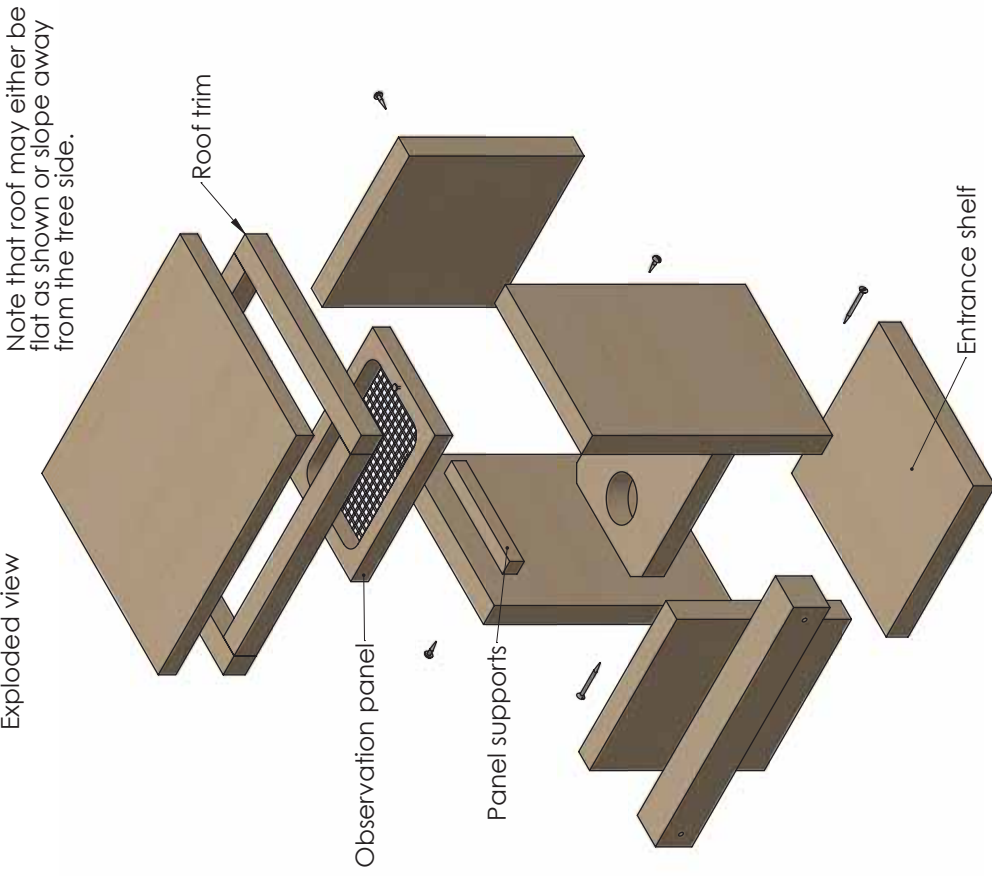
Back (this face to tree)



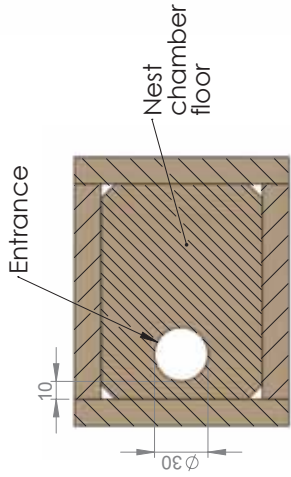
Entrance shelf can tilt freely about two mounting screws



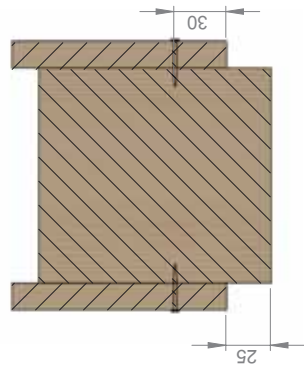
Exploded view



Note that roof may either be flat as shown or slope away from the tree side.



SECTION A-A  
Internal



SECTION B-B

All material 15mm larch planks except where otherwise noted

Issue	Date	Mod.
1	15 Jan 13	Initial version
2	7 Mar 13	Updated labelling, holes in batten
3	25 Jul 13	Added roof trim, other minor changes
4	9 Dec 13	Enlarged nest chamber, tiltable entrance shelf



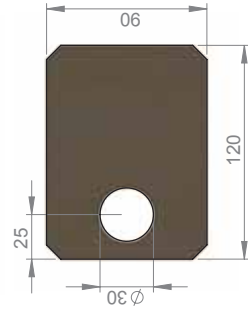
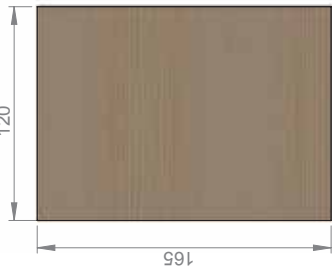
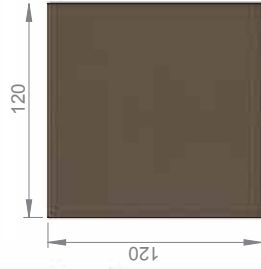
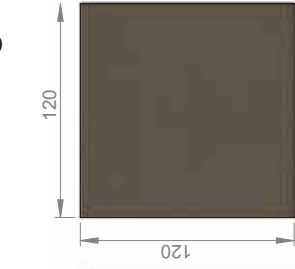
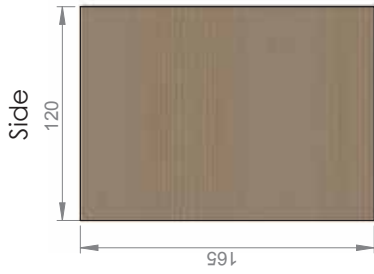
Author: D Deboys Date: 9 Dec 13

Title: 'Brampton' dormouse nest box made from larch

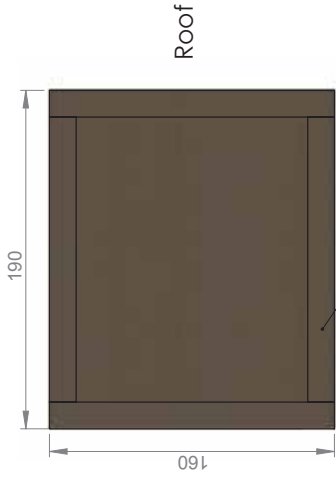
Drawn to instructions from Henry Stanier

All dimensions in millimeters unless stated otherwise.

## Cutting list

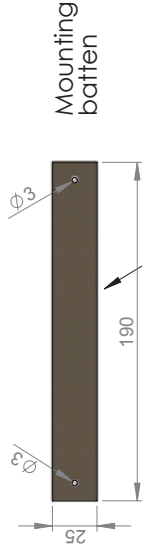


Nest chamber floor



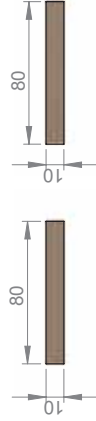
Roof

Roof trim: Four 160 mm long  
15 x 15 mm battens nailed  
to underside of roof.

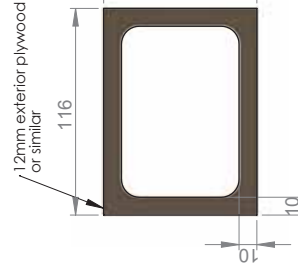


Mounting  
batten

1" x 1" batten



Panel supports



Observation panel

## Other materials



5mm wire mesh, 80 mm x 110mm

2 Woodscrews to attach fillable entrance shelf  
Small netting staples to attach mesh  
Panel pins or air nails for all other assembly

Garden wire to secure roof

3 Woodscrews to loop wire over

2 Tacks as handles for inspection panel

**NB: all wood to be left unfinished - do not use preservative**

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