

City University – Main Entrance Project  
 London Borough of Islington  
**Morgan Sindall Construction**

**BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Small Scale Permanent Award**

**Project overview**

Our project is a circa £8million ‘cut and carve’ job to regenerate the University’s main entrance. On average there are 50 persons working on the construction project each day across a number of trades. The University is located in Islington, London and as such is situated in a built up city area. There are some green spaces in the Islington area consisting of parks and play areas which are important to the local residents and also for retaining local wildlife.

**What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?**

City University, our Client, is fully committed to biodiversity, with a number of initiatives already in place prior to Morgan Sindall’s enhancement. These include vegetable gardens, green space in it’s courtyard area, and an existing beehive on the roof.

**Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?**

City University, are committed to mitigating their impacts on biodiversity by incorporating the principles of conservation into all aspects of development, on their campus. This coupled with our own desire to leave a biodiversity contribution following completion of the project, prompted us to work on our own initiative.

Our project is assessed by SKA – the environmental assessment tool by RICS. Our intention is to implement initiatives throughout the project life time to assist us to gain at least a silver award in SKA – partly achieved by reducing our long term impact on biodiversity, as well as leaving a lasting legacy.



*City University Bee Keepers and Morgan Sindall*

### What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Our client's own Biodiversity strategy set out in 2013 incorporates plans from Local Boroughs, wider plans set by the London Mayor. From these, they have developed their own objectives. The objective that we felt we could assist with, to *"consider enhancing the green infrastructure on existing and new developments on the campus and in the local area"*.

After liaising with our client, we agreed that the donation and installation of a secondary beehive and also a Queen Bee would be beneficial to the local area and University. The University already have staff and students involved in beekeeping, and as such the addition was welcomed.

The hive is replicable, and as more and more people become interested in bees, the likelihood is that more hives can be produced and installed on the campus.

To extend our legacy outside of the campus, we partnered with the local Dania School and 3 Corners Community unit to paint and install bird and bat boxes, along with bug hotels in locations within Islington. Islington Council agreed on two locations within the Borough.

A total of 5 of each were made and will be installed as older habitats are replaced in the Borough. As well as providing new habitats, we engaged with the community to improve the level of knowledge on biodiversity.

Our bird and bat boxes, along with our bug hotels are made from recycled site waste timber.



*Local School Children Painting Bird and Bat Boxes prior to installation*

### How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

### Further information

City University's Beekeepers installed the new hive in the same location as the existing hive – on the roof of the Campus's conservation area. Our Site Manager, Frank Douglas has also started attending the weekly Bee Club to assist with the ongoing maintenance.

The habitat that we have created is valuable in the sense that 'urban type' environments are becoming a more desirable location for bee populations, to live in. This is due to the milder climate and also the much wider range of food that can be found, as opposed to that in the countryside. The Morgan Sindall beehive will provide a habitat for bees who will in turn contribute to pollination in the green areas around Islington.

After holding meetings with Islington Council we collectively agreed the ideal locations for our new habitats to be installed. Spa Fields Green Area was chosen for the bird boxes and bug hotels; due to the notable tree species and herbaceous beds – we felt this was ideal. Additionally it was agreed that our bat boxes would be placed at various locations on the Islington Canal.

Our initiatives meet the biodiversity strategy of our Client, and own legacy and will undoubtedly offer continued ongoing benefits to the wildlife for the foreseeable long-term future.



*Frank Douglas (Morgan Sindall Site Manager) assisting with the upkeep of the bee hive.*

### What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The motivation for Morgan Sindall completing our small scale enhancement was to leave a long lasting legacy on completion of our construction works. We agreed that the legacy must be educational, maintainable and of benefit to all involved, something we believe we have achieved!