

Congresbury Yeo Tidal Banks
Wick St. Lawrence, North Somerset
Kier/ Team Van Oord

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Small Scale Permanent

Project overview

The Congresbury Yeo Tidal Banks is a flood defence scheme completed on behalf of the Environment Agency. The scheme saw approximately 1320m of new flood bank created on a set-back alignment at a height of 8.82m above ordnance datum (AOD).

Once the new embankments were established, the length of existing tidal embankment that they replaced were then demolished and used as fill for the remaining embankment raising works. This saw an additional 1350m of bank raised to the new required height.

The scheme is situated on the banks of the River Severn/ Bristol Channel and has many environmental constraints, including an extremely high tidal range and is an important area for wintering bird species.

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

The client set out an Environmental Action Plan for the project, included within that document was the requirement to include bat boxes at a local farm to help enhance local bat populations.

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

The site on a wider scale is very sensitive and diverse within the inter-tidal range and is protected for its wintering bird populations. Local land owners have also noted a large number of bats using the habitat for commuting and feeding.



Congresbury Yeo from the air.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Four Kent style bat boxes were added to trees at a farm within the site boundary. The boxes were made from surplus wood from the project and built by members of the site team. Staff engagement is something that Kier tries to promote at all times when adding enhancements to projects as this leads to a better understanding of the site ecology and a wider appreciation for biodiversity.

The boxes will make a small but hopefully important improvement to the local environment for bats, where resting places are in short supply as the area of moorland lacks mature trees with suitable natural resting places. The design of the boxes makes them quick and easy to build and there is no need for on-going maintenance. This enhancement can be readily recreated on other sites.



Bat boxes in place

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

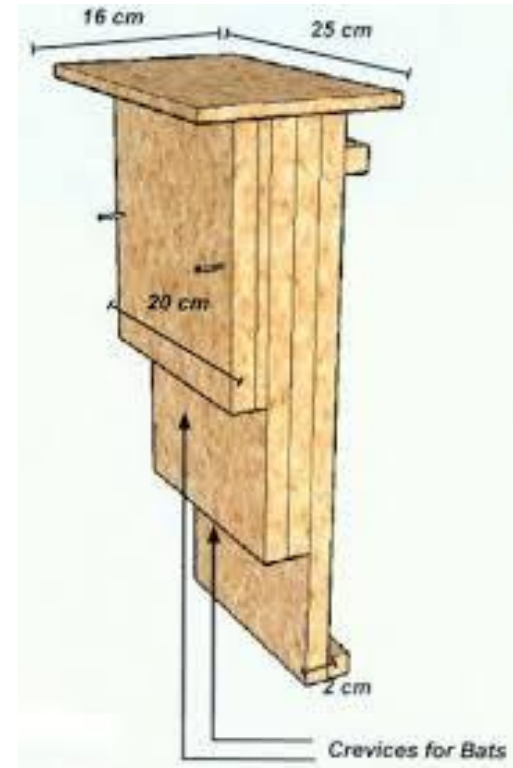
Further information

The bat boxes are easily made and readily used by bats. The design is such that off cuts of wood can be saved and used and the build time can be less than 20mins per box.

Installation of the boxes requires the use of a ladder but only for a short duration whilst the attaching wire is mounted. Full step by step guides for building the boxes are available online and as is advice on positioning and height of boxes.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Our personal motivation was to enhance the local environment for bats and to demonstrate that enhancements, even on small scale can make a difference to wildlife and don't have to be expensive.



Kent Bat Group Box Design