

Bristol water – hedgehog box  
Bristol Water Depot, Lower New Road, Cheddar, Somerset  
**Kier (Utilities)**

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

**Project overview**

The aim of the project was to provide a bird box within the depot boundary to encourage breeding birds and to help increase local bird populations.

Nigel Beaver (SHE Advisor) was asked to make the bird boxes using surplus wood from recent depot improvements.

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

Several species of common birds were noted within the depot, which has some semi-mature trees and broken hedgerow. The depot also backs on to residential gardens.

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

The staff who work in the depot are enthusiastic about the environment and are always looking for opportunities to help wildlife.

A surplus of wood allowed the nest boxes to be made and the depot staff to place them in the trees and enjoy watching the birds using them



*Homemade bird boxes*

### **What were the biodiversity measures taken?**

Nigel Beaver made the bird boxes from surplus wood from recent improvements made to the depot offices. The boxes were built by Nigel in his own time and donated to the site team who attached the boxes to the trees in the depot. The depot staff will monitor and maintain the boxes on an annual basis.

The design for the boxes was taken from the RSPB website and are suitable for Blue Tits, Great Tits and Robins.

The boxes were installed during early spring of 2016 and were used within a matter of weeks by nesting birds.



*Robin box in-situ*

**How would you best describe the project?**

An enhancement

**Further information**

The depot was deemed to be a suitable location for the bird box because of the surrounding habitat and available food in the area. There is also a footpath next to the depot acting as a natural corridor for birds and its proximity residential gardens where residence frequently leave out bird food.

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

My motivation was that I had the opportunity to use surplus materials to benefit local wildlife and engage site staff.



*Blue Tit box in-situ*