

Woodland wildlife enhancement Cranwell, Lincolnshire

Kier Construction Central

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Small Scale Permanent

Project overview

Cranwell was taken over by the RAF on its formation in 1918, for officer cadet training, a role it fulfils to this day as the world's first air force college. Kier has been appointed to add new training school facilities for flight cadets. Landscaping of the proposed facility is to return any external areas to their current condition, as well as introducing vehicular areas for visitors and servicing.

The building will generally sit within a grassed area with pedestrian and vehicular routes added to provide external circulation. This will link up with existing highways and footpaths outside the site boundary and utilise paths and roads through the trees to minimise the impact on existing root structure. Site has very limited scope for biodiversity on site as it is next to live RAF airport.

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

Site is under BREEAM as well as Considerate Constructors Scheme.

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

Very limited within the construction site area with a wooded area the size of football pitch behind the main cabins. There were no bird boxes previously.



Some of the bird boxes

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Site team couldn't do much on actual construction site due to small size plot but decided to improve biodiversity of the area adjacent to site cabins. 9 bird boxes and large bug hotel made from waste materials generated on the construction site have been incorporated within the woodland.

They have been installed very early in the spring, ready for breeding season. Boxes are visible from the main site cabins and there has been a great excitement when 2 of the boxes found new residents in the form of robins and black birds –not together of course, and successfully reproduced. We are hopeful that the boxes will carry on providing much needed breeding space for small singing birds.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement

Further information

Site team has worked hard to reduce their environmental impact. Their canteen waste includes separate waste bins for dry recycling and paper/cardboard and they made sure all construction waste has gone to waste transfer station for further segregation and recycling. Early in the project 30 trees had to be removed from site, safely outside of bird breeding season, and those have been sent to be used as biomass in a local power station. There is green travel plan in place to encourage workforce to share cars to and from work.

Our project was one of many initiatives during Kier Group Environmental Week to raise awareness and profile of the environment within the construction industry. This could be easily replicated not only within the construction industry, all it requires is good planning and a willing team.



Bug hotel within woodland made from site won waste