

Manor Lane Biodiversity Challenge Sheffield, England, S2 1TR

Kier Housing Maintenance

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Medium Scale Permanent

Project overview

Manor Lane is Kier Housing Maintenance's main office / depot in the East region. The site is owned and shared with our client Sheffield City Council. We sought to enrich the biodiversity opportunities for wildlife, whilst raising environmental awareness of all site users including our work force and that of our client.

A biodiversity plan was created to engage the site community to get them involved and so help deliver the environmental enhancement.

It was designed to be an inclusive activity and not a random act done in isolation and just tick the boxes.

The ultimate aim was to improve the quality of life of those who use the site now and in the future because of the richer diversity of species being attracted to this inner city site.

The plan was successfully completed in June 2016 to coincide with Kier Groups Environment Week (10th – 14th June 2016).

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

Typical inner city council depot with several office buildings, stores and workshops. Most of the site is car parking space.

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

Kier Groups 2020 vision includes a target to undertake a biodiversity project within each business unit.



Hibernacula

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The Manor Lane site has installed;

- 14 bird nesting boxes
- 4 bumble bee houses
- 4 bat boxes
- 1 hedgehog house
- 12 flower planters
- 2 large hibernaculum's

The wider community (On-going, due to its popularity, bird, bat boxes etc. are still being made),

- 30 bird boxes given to employees, local schools and local community groups
- 15 bat boxes given to employees and local bat society
- 2 large owl boxes given to employees
- 5 hedgehog houses given to employees, one was installed in a local community garden
- 4 bird tables given to employees
- 10 dormouse boxes given to Kier employees in Southern England who work as Dormouse volunteers

Employees were given the opportunity to give a donation for the items listed and £100 was raised for Macmillan Cancer.



Planter for flowers

The flowers were either grown from seed or grown by employees at home and brought into work. Individual employees tend the flower planter under a box arrangement.

The wood for the bird, bat boxes etc. were made on site from scrap / off cuts of timber from the joiners shop. The hibernaculum's were made entirely from salvaged materials from our onsite permitted waste recycling facility. Installations were installed either in the normal working day or after work and including weekends by volunteers. Other materials for the hedgehog houses, branches, and leaves were collected over a few weekends from local woods.

How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

Further information

A plan was presented by Kier housing maintenances environment manager to the local operations director for approval and once agreed the plan was managed by the environmental manager.

The work of making, collecting materials and installing the enhancements was all done on a voluntary basis and involved a wide range of people including the operative working in the onsite waste transfer station who intercepted materials for the project, the joiners shop manager who collected offcuts of timber to make the various boxes and the staff who planted and care for the flower planters.

We know the bird boxes are being used, one is used by bees and the bees like the flowering plants introduced around the site.

It was extremely worthwhile: with a bit of forward planning, commitment and engagement with your workforce and the local community anything is possible.

If you want it to be successful get people involved, let them take ownership and take pride in their effort.

We are planning to replicate this successful project at similar housing maintenance depots in the UK.



Hedgehog House

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Its great to see a plan come together, involve friends and colleagues and for it to make a difference.