

**A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road (A6MARR)
Stockport
Carillion/Morgan Sindall**

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Temporary Award

Project overview

The A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road (A6MARR) is a project which seeks to improve transport provision within the south-eastern part of the Greater Manchester conurbation and Cheshire East. The road is expected to be open in spring 2018. The construction will include:

- 10km of new single and dual carriageway;
- Substantial ecological mitigation works
- 1.2 million m3 of earthworks which will be balanced onsite
- 4 rail structures;
- 7 other bridges;
- 6 substantial retaining walls.

The land take for the project was a mixture of agricultural land (arable and pasture), primarily semi-improved and improved fields with hedgerows and trees, woodland and watercourses.

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

The compound was located on semi-improved grassland, boarded by scrub. The habitat did little to attract pollinators to the area due to a lack of flowering plants.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

Due to the site compound being in close proximity to the residents of Chester Road the site team wanted to reduce the visual impact of the offices. This was achieved by erecting a close boarded fence. The fence then offered an opportunity to install the hanging baskets and bug hotels. The site is also committed to consistently scoring highly under the Considerate Constructors Scheme and was keen to maintain a score of 10/10 for the environment.



BIG Biodiversity Fence

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The 60m close boarded fence offered an opportunity to install 30 hanging baskets, 20 bee hotels, a large bug hotel and 15 beetle buckets. The plants were specifically selected to attract pollinators and were donated by a site contractor. The baskets were constructed from offcuts of drainage duct that would have otherwise been waste, the beetle buckets from used GCN trap buckets and the bee/bug hotels from items that would have been waste.

The bee hotels provide the perfect refuge for pollinators that visit the flowering plants and offer an educational opportunity for schools visiting the site.

Members of staff were asked to donate their time and assist in constructing the baskets and hotels. The biodiversity fence is viewable to the local public and an environmental information board has been installed detailing wildlife that can be seen across the project corridor.

It's hoped that the interest from the public in the fence will encourage local businesses to consider what they can do for the biodiversity in the area.

Members of Staff water the plants using rainwater harvested from the roofs of the cabins and any maintenance is undertaken by the environmental works team.

On completion of the project the plants shall be donated to local residents.



Wildlife Information Board

How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

Further information

To construct the hanging baskets, offcuts of drainage pipe were cut down to size and a rectangular section from the top was removed. The pipes were filled with compost, topsoil and plants donated by a site contractor.

The bee hotels were made from canes donated from a local garden centre and the large bug hotel from used pallets and construction blocks from site.

Undertaking the BIG Biodiversity Challenge has strengthened the projects links with local businesses and residents through engagement and the interest generated in the project.

The project has demonstrated that with even little or no funding it is possible to make enhancements to the biodiversity of an area.

The A6MARR team intend on undertaking further biodiversity enhancements and in collaboration with the local owl trust have began construction on 6 barn owl nesting boxes that will be placed on land surrounding the project.



Insect Hotel with Graduate Environmental Advisor Molly Guirdham

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

I'm personally motivated by the desire for the project to consistently achieve highly in all environmental and sustainable aspects, and for this to receive recognition across the industry. It's my hope through sharing best practices and innovations across the industry that the image of construction shall improve and that poor site practices and cultures are challenged.