TfGM Bolton Interchange

Bolton Town Centre

Kier Construction

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Temporary

Project overview

Kier are working in Bolton town centre on a new transport interchange project. The project comprises of a new bus station to be built adjacent to the existing train station on derelict land and old car parking areas.

The new interchange will replace Bolton's existing main bus station and provide vastly improved waiting areas, passenger facilities, information, safety and security.

It will directly connect bus and rail services via a pedestrian footbridge improving the links between bus and train as well as access to the town centre.

The new interchange will offer enhanced accessibility with a modern concourse and passenger facilities including a retail outlet, cycle hub, shopmobility and modern public toilets including a baby change facility.

It will also make use of innovative sustainable energy initiatives, including rainwater recycling to flush the toilets, solar panels, air source heat pumps and low-energy LED lighting. .

Photo: Living hoarding

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

Prior to site establishment the site consisted of large tarmacked areas (built upon brownfields sites) used as car parks bounded by takeaways restaurants, flats and Bolton train station and rail lines.

The area had little in terms of biodiversity due to the urban use of site.

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

Encouraging public transportation via the existing train station and new bus station as a gateway to and from Bolton town centre.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The site wanted to have as small a negative impact on the local area as possible during the period of construction.

With this in mind we have installed Green Space eco cabins provided by Wernick. They are double glazed with increased insulation to improve U values and operate passive infra red for all lighting.

We have included heavy duty doors and insulated shutters to also aid in trapping heat.

Dual flush cisterns and non-concussive push taps reduce water consumption. We have increased the biodiversity on site by building planters to house bee and butterfly friendly wild flowers.

Additionally the site has constructed a bird table with a variety of bird feed available to encourage birds to the area.

Since the flowering of the planters we have noticed an increase in bees and butterflies in the area whilst the whole presentation is pleasing to visitors and locals alike.

In addition to this the site hoarding at the entrance to the offices utilises green hoarding. These hoarding panels compliment the local area increasing the greenery and providing more habitats.

The plants are watered by members of the site team who have commented on the sense of pride they feel with what they have grown and the wildlife attracted to the area.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

Photo: Wildflower planters

Further information

The green hoarding is being trialled on our site with feedback being provided to other sites in the area. The wildflowers and bird tables were created at minimum cost and the maintenance is negligible.

The wildlife has increased in the area and is something we can recommend to other sites. We will continue the bird table etc. throughout the winter seasons.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

To show that the image of construction sites can be positive and that it can be relatively quick and easy to improve the bio diversity on a project.