

Redrow builds a new type of home

St David's Park, Ewloe

Redrow

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Small scale permanent

Project overview

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide a home for wildlife at St David's Park in a way that provides valuable, sustainable habitats for a range of birds and animals, we have provided some new accommodation for them:

In total, we have 152 new homes in place throughout the park:

- 60 Bird Boxes,
- 50 Roosting Pouches ,
- 10 Bat Boxes ,
- 24 Bee/Bug/Insect Homes,
- 5 Butterfly Homes,
- 3 Hedgehog Homes.

We aimed to monitor and record activity in each as we went through the year and have noted around 80% of the new homes have been used this year.

A main feature of our suburban St David's Park wildlife homes was a bird box with a camera installed which allowed all Redrow employees to observe the nesting and raising of chicks in our very own Nestwatch.

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



Photo: Hedgehog home being placed

The grounds of St David's Park where the Redrow headquarters is based include landscaped gardens and short mown grass, although it plays host to a beautiful array of colours and wildlife we wanted to provide somewhere for nature to survive during the testing winter months.

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

Redrow Homes collaborated with the BBCT and RSPB over the last year and has since undertaken a number of initiatives to create wildlife friendly habitats at its offices and developments around the UK.

We have sought advice on where best to situate the homes from these organisations and have provided regular updates on the amazing nature we have seen occupy them.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The experienced groundsmen for Redrow Homes who have over 25 years experience tending the park take the management of the area.

From the notes, photographs and reports taken by our groundsmen throughout the year, the homes which were not lucky enough to have wildlife residents will be relocated

to ensure maximum occupation next year. The area is not only for the wildlife to enjoy, the local residents to St David's Park have enjoyed seeing the new habitats created with benches placed around the park at key wildlife viewing areas.

In addition to this, the highlight of our Green Day was a bumblebee safari, a tour taken by the BBCT around the park for Redrow employees who were able to see the insect homes and beehives in full use with Sinead Lynch, a conservation officer for the BBCT on hand to help identify species.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

Further information

Redrow wanted to share its new wildlife homes and their inhabitants with our employees and provided an online live camera feed from one of the newly installed bird boxes.

We were lucky enough to have occupation in the first year and over the space of two weeks, a female Blue Tit made a nest, this led to eight eggs being laid of which six hatched.

A benefit of having the live feed available for our



Photo: Selection of new homes

employees to view was that we could send updates that were relevant to the species they were viewing.

From the project Nestwatch, employees learned about the importance of materials for nest making, the patience and food needed by Blue Tits whilst egg laying and the hatching process first hand.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The plight of our wildlife in the face of climate change and the impact of modern living is increasingly brought to our attention through the media and the valuable work by conservation organisations.

We want to help protect, enhance and create new habitats to support our wildlife wherever possible.