

Community allotments
Westhill, Kettering, NN15 7RH
Kier Living Eastern

BIG Biodiversity Challenge: Medium Scale Permanent

Project overview

Kier Living Eastern's new allotments at Westhill in Kettering aimed to boost recreation for local residents, as well as improving community interaction. In addition, we aimed to retain rare arable weeds found within the stripped topsoil of the site.

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

The land for the allotments was part of the country park area provided at Westhill.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Kier Living Eastern's Westhill development in Kettering will, ultimately, comprise 210 new homes of between one and four bedrooms. Expected completion date for the whole site is 2018.

As part of our reserved matters planning consent and our Section 106 agreement, we were required to provide 0.5 hectares of allotment space within a new country park planned for the site. Extensive bulk excavation and ground modelling were required to tie into with the existing site levels, at the same time as ensuring a reasonable level surface for the allotment plots.

Westhill residents have been given priority when allocating the plots, which are being managed by local company Developer Eyes. The allotment site, to the north of the country park, includes a store, parking and access to the plots.

While the allotments have already enriched the site for wildlife, further habitats will be completed once all the plots are occupied.



The allotment area has been stripped of top weeds and will be divided into plots once we have established the level of demand

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement

Further information

The arable weeds found on the site have been replanted at the allotment area, providing new habitats for wildlife and enhancing local biodiversity.

Meanwhile, the allotments will have a beneficial impact on the health of plot holders – it has been shown that just 30 minutes' gardening can burn 150 calories, which is the same as low level aerobics.

A survey by The National Allotment Society showed that a quarter of people go to their plot to socialise with others and to enjoy a sense of camaraderie. What's more, spending time in the sunshine on an allotment helps to boost levels of vitamin D which is essential for strong bones. This can be the case after just 15 minutes in the sunshine.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

We wanted to include allotment provision for residents at Westhill and with the land available on the country park part of the site this has been possible.



Surveying the allotment area, on the edge of the country park at Westhill.



Site manager Neil Sperrin at the edge of the site for the Westhill allotments.

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