

**ARM Main Building Bug Hotel and Pollinator Enhancement
Cambridge, England, CB1 9NJ
Kier Construction Eastern**

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Temporary Award

Project overview

The project involved the creation of a spectacular bug hotel complex in addition to a 70ft long flower border along the hoarding for the construction project. Site Manager Dougie Kilpatrick was the orchestrator for the project, obtaining the materials and constructing the enhancements with assistance from other members of the wider site team. The cost of the project was minimal with the bug hotel and planting border both being constructed from waste / leftover timber. The small cost of purchasing the plants and flowers was covered by members of the site team.

The project was undertaken on the ARM project, where Kier are the principal contractor for the construction of two multi-deck car parks and a state of art new office block.

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

The biodiversity conditions onsite prior to the temporary enhancement were typical of a operational construction site. The ground was mostly bare with many areas having been covered with aggregate to prevent the areas around site from becoming muddy whilst vehicles are moving around the site.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

The project was always seen as a good opportunity to implement a biodiversity enhancement of some kind. The project is also subject to BREEAM 2014 New Construction. The project was also seen as a way of demonstrating corporate responsibility in addition to reducing the negative visual impact of the project.



Planted border constructed by Dougie Kilpatrick along hoarding at the ARM main building site

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Dougie constructed the bug hotel in addition to the planted border along the hoarding at the main gate as pictured. The bug hotel is deemed to be a good example of a simple enhancement that is quick and easy to construct at a minimal cost. The bug hotel and flower border have helped to improve the aesthetics of the project as well as demonstrating a visible commitment to the environment for sub-contractors working on the project to adhere to.

The project is easily replicable on many Kier construction sites where a suitable location and reusable materials are available. Dougie is always one of the most forthcoming when it comes to promoting small scale temporary biodiversity enhancements on whatever project he is working on. For each bug hotel that Dougie creates he always likes to add an element of humour into proceedings. For the bug hotel at ARM Dougie created an 'AstroTurf football pitch' area complete with solar powered floodlights on the second tier of the complex.

Both enhancements are temporary in nature and will be taken down upon completion of the project. It is hoped that during the duration of the project the enhancements will help to enhance the habitat of the local area for invertebrates including pollinators. By improving the number of invertebrates in the local area, it is hoped that the ecosystem as a whole will be improved throughout all trophic levels.



The 'Solana' Bug Hotel at the ARM project created by Dougie Kilpatrick.

How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

Further information

The planter and bug hotel were constructed from waste packaging materials produced from materials delivered as part of the construction of the project. As previously mentioned the cost of the enhancement was minimal with the cost of the plants and solar powered lanterns being covered by small donations from members of site team. The creation of the bug hotel was also used as a vehicle of education for many of the operatives working on the site who hadn't encountered something of this nature before. These operatives were educated regarding the enhancements and encouraged to undertake something similar on future projects which they're working on and even at home if they have the inclination and want to educate their children.



Dougie Kilpatrick stood with the planted border at the ARM project in Cambridge.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

As previously mentioned Dougie Kilpatrick is always extremely proactive when it comes to implementing schemes such as this. Furthermore, Kier are committed to reducing the impact of our operations on the environment and any way of improving the value of the habitat within our sites to local wildlife is always encouraged.