

David Ball Group H.Q.
Bourn, Cambridgeshire
 David Ball Group Ltd

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Large scale permanent

Project overview

The pond was quite a large project for us as it was in a poor condition when we first arrived at our new 5-acre H.Q. site.

We cleared away any unwanted vegetation and debris in and around the pond and refilled it with water as it was at a very low level.

This wasn't an expensive task, it just required the man-power to be able to complete it. Several staff members worked on it and did a great job that resulted in a usable habitat for all sorts of animals.

We built a duck house out of old pallets and milk cartons which has been a huge success as we have had ducks nesting there over the last two years.

Since its revival, the pond has been maintained by our staff who have spotted several wildfowl within the vegetation and common newts, frogs & dragonflies are regular visitors to the pond.



Photo: Wildflower garden

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

The pond was in a very poor condition when we first arrived at the site, containing virtually no water and surrounded by overgrown wild plants. It was refilled and many of the plants were cleared to make it a more appealing habitat for local wildlife.

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

In order for the company to show commitment and meet the requirements of its accreditations for ISO 14001 environmental standard and BES 6001 Responsible Sourcing we

believe that we have the facilities and green space to make a difference and contribute to biodiversity.

Having the two standards, and with our 9001 responsibilities, we want to show that the company can recycle and reuse waste material to a level where we can help the local wildlife and attract new life to our premises.

This way we can prove that a manufacturing plant & wildlife can co-exist without having a negative effect.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The company has installed a number of items to aid and support wildlife & plant

growth on the premises, bat boxes in all four corners of our green space, bird boxes placed at different heights to attract various species of birds to nest, bug hotels positioned within the woodland areas, log piles and a duck house.

All of these have been made from recycled pallets taken from our own production area.

The company has planted a mini fruit orchard and has created a wildflower/grass area to attract bugs/bees etc. to the premises.

The company also has a number of plants & shrubs that have been planted. All the grass cuttings and waste food has been collected and added to a woodland bay that has been made from fallen trees & branches.

The compost from these bays have been used when planting all of our plants onsite. Water butts have been installed so the company can recycle rain water to feed the plants and orchard that we have planted.

Trail wildlife cameras are also used to record wildlife using our premises and the new features added since we arrived.



Photo: Bat boxes

We are seeing a wide range of wildlife using the premises such as badgers, foxes, muntjacs, buzzards, kestrels, polecats, stoats, jay birds, mallards, owls plus much more.

Most of what has been implemented on the premises has had staff involvement. The company is also a corporate member of the Wildlife Trust BCN with their head office just a few miles away from our site.

They often visit our premises to set up cameras to record and manage the wildlife on our site and we take a lot of our guidance from their wildlife trust volunteers.

How would you best describe the project?
An enhancement.

Further information

Installation: As mentioned we are seeing a wide range of wildlife using our premises which has increased over time and will continue to do so as we add elements such as more plants & housing for wildlife to use.

Have objectives been met?
– Our objectives have been met so far, as we wanted to show that a manufacturing plant could co-exist alongside wildlife without it having a negative impact on the environment.

In a lot of ways we have surpassed ourselves as we didn't think it would be as successful for the wildlife as it has been, but observing the wildlife with the aid of the cameras just proves how well-used our grounds are by an array of creatures.

Would we do anything different/lessons learnt –

We would like to gain more knowledge about what plants would be the most beneficial to the wildlife that use our premises and that's something that we are currently looking into. We'd also like to recycle and reuse even more of our waste materials.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Our personal motivation was to improve the surrounding area for both the wildlife and a nicer place for our staff to come to work.

We encouraged each department to get involved with various aspects of the project such as helping to plant the orchard and monitor the wildlife cameras.



Photo: Mini fruit orchard