

**The Grande
Aberdeen, Scotland
SIR ROBERT McALPINE LTD**

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Community Engagement

Project overview

As part of Sir Robert McAlpine's The Grande project in Aberdeen, a bug hotel was constructed close to the site cabins. In addition, the environmental engineer on the project undertook engagement activities with local schools, which included constructing bug hotels at two local schools.

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

There was limited biodiversity on the site prior to the enhancement.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

The Project Manager was keen to engage with schools local to the project. As part of the engagement activities, the schools were challenged to see what they could do to 'make space for nature'.



Photo Description: The Bug Hotel constructed on site

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The project environmental engineer and site team constructed the bug hotel on the site entirely from materials which would have otherwise been put in a skip and removed from the site as waste. The materials used included pallets, broken bricks, pipe offcuts and rubble. The packaging that the plants were purchased in were also used in the bug hotel.

Turf and flowers were used to finish the bug hotel and encourage additional species to use the structure.

Following this, the project team engaged with a number of local schools and helped them to construct their own bug hotels around the schools.



Photo Description: The Bug Hotel constructed on at Walker Road Primary School

How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

Further information

The project environmental engineer provided educational sessions with the students on the purpose and importance of bug hotels and insects in the food chain. The activities created a platform for students to learn about biodiversity and the construction industry.

Janette, the Primary Teacher at Ferryhill Primary school said, “Thank you so much for the bug hotel. I took the pupil council to see it and they were particularly excited.”

This is a project that could be replicated at all local schools. The bug hotels can be constructed using waste materials, so the capital cost to a project would be minimal. The bug hotels provide a valuable opportunity for students to learn about nature and biodiversity first-hand.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

As part of the project, there was a desire to engage with local schools in order to have a positive impact on the local community. The focus on biodiversity was to encourage students to interact with nature.



Photo Description: The Bug Hotel constructed on at Walker Road Primary School