

A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road Stockport, South East Manchester

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BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Small scale permanent

Project overview

The A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road is the construction of a 14km dual carriage providing a link to the airport for South East Manchester.

The road links into the existing stretch of the A555 at Handforth. The project runs through a semi rural area consisting on pasture/grazing land, a number of golf courses, a small pocket of Ancient Woodland and three watercourses.

To date there are approximately 110 staff on site supported by approximately 35 sub contractor companies. Works commenced on site in March 2015 to discharge the various environmental mitigation measures prior to handover to the construction teams, these include site clearance, great crested newt capture and exclusion, badger work, soft felling of bat roost and otter surveys.

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



Photo: Box construction

The site in the majority exhibited fairly limited biodiversity potential as the land uses do not allow enhancement - golf courses and intensively grazed pasture.

The exception being the ancient woodland which appears to be well maintained in so far as the ground flora is flourishing.

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

The project has over 100 planning conditions with many of covering ecological issues.

Despite the requirement to fell a significant number of semi-mature trees there was no requirement or similar to provide alternative nesting habitat. This seemed like a missing link.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

30 bird boxes have been made by the project apprentice joiner from waste

wood where possible with the assistance of AT Nolan a local small works building company.

The decision was made to ensure a good start in the joinery apprenticeship that a small local company would successfully fulfill the early years and give a good grounding.

As there is a lag between tree felling/site clearance and the reinstatement/planting phase the bird boxes will be installed within the retained woodland/scrub areas.

This is a valuable addition to the retained habitat along the project route.

How would you best describe the project?

Mitigation.

Further information

As the road scheme is in its infancy it has not yet been possible to carry out any monitoring or under effectiveness.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

A good opportunity to provide our apprentice with a useful task and help mitigate the loss of nesting habitat.



Photo: Box construction