

Dougie's Twin Tower **Highfield School/ Letchworth Garden City**

Kier Construction Eastern

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Temporary

Project overview

Kier has been appointed to build new school facilities at Letchworth Garden City and demolish the old existing building. We will be completing the new building towards end of 2016, with pupils scheduled to move in at the beginning of January 2017.

Throughout 2016, Kier construction ran a Bug Hotel Competition. Many weird and wonderful structures were produced, with site foreman, Dougie Kilpatrick creating one of the larger projects. As can be seen from the picture, Dougie created an amazing bug hotel complete with incorporated bird boxes and feeders, as well as constructing a large plant bed at the main gate.

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

Typical construction site, most vegetation was removed prior to groundworks being undertaken. Very little or limited space for wildlife.

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?
No special conditions were in place which influenced us to undertake the work.



Dougie's Twin Tower – multifunctional premium bug hotel

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Dougie and the team built the bug hotel in addition to constructing the flower bed outside the main gate as pictured. The bug hotel was deemed to be one of the best entered into the internal competition; with incorporated bird boxes and feeding station, wildlife pond and pollinator plant bed.

Using recycled materials meant the cost of the project was kept to a minimum. In order to raise the small fund needed for the plants, a small donation from members of the site team was made. Kier staff also donated their time in order to complete the different elements of the projects.

Whilst clearing out the dry room, a few pairs of unwanted working boots were identified, these have since been installed as possible wildlife hideaways/bird boxes within the existing fence.

The large planter was added in order to improve the image of the construction site, but also provided additional habitat for pollinators in particular.

The bug hotel was advertised in humour as “We have two modern multi-storey facilities connected by internal corridor (pipe) for smoother accesses around the accommodation. Addition of pool on second floor will make your stay more relaxed, bugs welcome”.



Flower bed outside the main gate.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

Further information

The hope for this project is that it could easily be replicated on **other sites. It didn't require vast quantities of materials being purchased, or take long to build** – all you need is people willing to take up the challenge. This activity was also a learning opportunity for the site team who were encouraged to build bug hotels with their children in their own gardens. Participants were showing off their own creations with a healthy amount of competitiveness being exhibited.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Kier are dedicated to trying to mitigate the effect their operations have on the natural environment. The site team were keen to improve the environmental image of the site, and relished at the challenge of wanting to be the best at what they were doing.



Providing home for nature