

Kier Construction Eastern New HQ Office and Bingham Palace Waterbeach / Cambridge

Kier Construction Eastern

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award Category: Small Scale Permanent

Project overview

Kier Construction Eastern new HQ building in Cambridge Research Park was a much needed solution to a shortage of space for our expanding business unit. During construction many wildlife features have been added such as log piles, bird boxes and wildlife meadow but staff at new Waterbeach Office wanted to have something special within their new surroundings. We decided to run a bug hotel competition within the Business Unit as part of Kier Group Environmental Week and build a new hideaway for visiting mini - creatures.

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

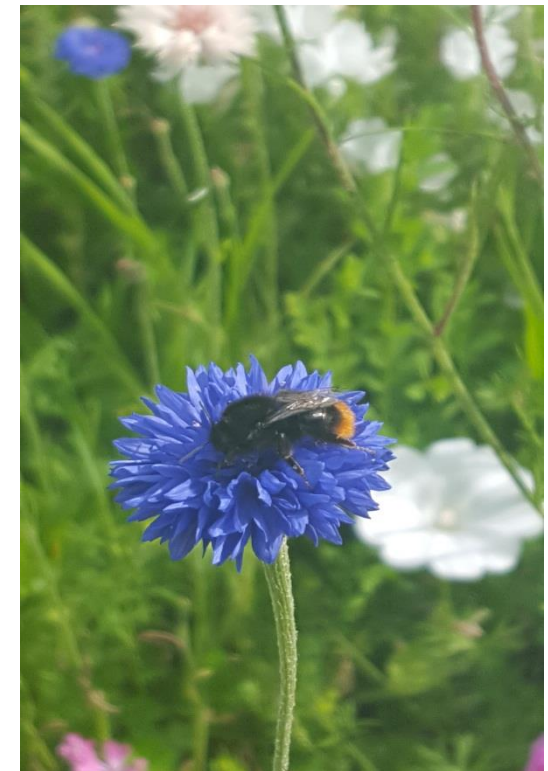
The site had previously been used as a landfill site and turned into a brown field. Development to reuse the land have been ongoing for several years, as part of the new build was the development and improvement to the local biodiversity.

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

The project was constructed under planning with BREEAM agreement. The business also wanted to improve the local environmental surroundings around new office to provide a pleasant working environment and enhance the local biodiversity.



New KCE HQ



Bumble bee within wildflower meadow

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

A bug hotel competition was organised by Environmental Advisor. A team was formed and eager to get involved, first of all we had to come up with the name and design structure – after all we are a construction company so we wanted to do a good job at it.

After many interesting names we decided to go with Bugingham Palace to celebrate our Queens official birthday which falls on the second Saturday in June.

We carried out work on 21st of June using all recycled materials, which meant no cost was involved. The staff from Waterbeach donated their time to build bug hotel. Material to build came from office (cardboard) as well as nearby Kier construction sites (bricks, timber, pallets and pipe cut-offs) as well as pine cones and logs from nearby woodland. Staff were pleased with the completed hotel and hoping that bees and other creatures will be habituating this amazing new facility.



Bugingham Palace made from reclaimed materials.



Bugingham Palace outside new Kier Construction Eastern HQ

As people got involved in this project from very early days they have learned about need to protect bees and necessity for biodiversity. At the same time people who **didn't** get a chance to get involved could admire new addition as it is adjusted to life near the car park.

This has inspired staff to think about this at home with bird boxes and bug hotels a welcome addition to their back gardens.

The wild meadow has flourished with colourful spring wildflowers which have attracted a wide range of pollinators and provided a beautiful addition to site. Planting scheme of trees and shrubs around the site was to enhance local and native species.



How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement to the natural surroundings bringing new life to an old landfill site.

Further information

Cambridge Research Park is lovely place to work, set within lakes. Grass snakes, water birds including ducks, geese, swans and also heron and visiting barn owl are common sights around our office. People take daily lakes walks and runs around lakes and in good weather spend their lunch breaks outside on the grass or bench by the lake.

As part of the build and to encourage our health of staff and reduce our carbon footprint a secure cycle shelter was constructed which is now being used by several members of staff to get to work.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

It was a great pleasure to be able to provide a little space within new office grounds for the wildlife to flourish and staff to get involved in understanding more about our natural environment.