

## TRW Factory Extension Insect Hotel, Bird Table, Bird Box & Feeder Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear

Willmott Dixon Construction

*BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Temporary*

### Project overview

The TRW project consisted of the design and construction of a new 4700m<sup>2</sup> extension to the existing plant facility at their Houghton Le Spring Site 1, along with a new entrance canopy to their Site 2, on the opposite side of the road.

The plant provides a clean facility for the assembly of automotive components and has been commissioned in response to additional demand from the local Nissan plant, amongst others.

The extension will accommodate additional manufacturing facilities, including an inward and outward goods area, cellular office and stores as well as associated car parking.

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

Prior to our enhancement there was very little in the way of visible biodiversity.

A required bat survey showed that no bats were present and only the sparse hedges and a few small trees around the site offered



*Photo: On-site insect hotel*

any cover for insects or a home for birds.

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

Willmott Dixon believes in operating in a sustainable manner and this key tenet of the organisation's ambitions is consistently promoted.

Though the site has been assessed as a low ecological value and the site development presents no risk of impacting on the local biodiversity, it is company policy that anything that can be achieved during our works will only improve the area.

There were no specific conditions which led to the work being carried out, just an awareness of the opportunity to do something positive for the local fauna and ensure the site was environmentally responsible.

### What were the biodiversity measures taken?

This small project is replicable as a step by step guide to potential biodiversity activities that can be carried out on site.

The task now is for other sites to follow this example and dedicate some time to creating a similar habitat for

local creatures. The bird box, table, feeder and insect hotel have led to biodiversity net gain as a much needed home has been created to address a lack of suitable environments in the vicinity of the site.

Many different types of bird have been making good use of the feeder, with food being replaced on a more regular basis than was first anticipated!

Whilst this project was carried out by the site team, local school children were invited to watch the construction and operation of the bird box and insect hotel.

This has enabled the organisation to teach basic construction techniques and demonstrate how to reduce waste and do one thing for biodiversity.

The project has been a big success both in terms of providing a habitat for local fauna and by being an educational tool.

The vast majority of materials used were reused waste materials and members of the site team were happy to volunteer their own time to help in the delivery of the project.



Photo: 'How to' guidance note

This project contributed towards the site achieving its Community Investment target and provided a feeling of satisfaction for all involved.

**How would you best describe the project?**  
An enhancement.

**Further information**

The project was installed by finding a suitable, quiet area on site which was then kept aside for this purpose.

The insect hotel was built by stacking recycled timber pallets on top of each other. These pallets were then secured to the one below using screws and plastic ties to make the structure as stable as possible. The gaps within the basic

structure were then filled with a range of various materials, many of which were found on site, to attract creatures.

The bird box was constructed with untreated, sawn timber which was carefully measured, cut to size and assembled using nails and self-tapping screws.

A hole was drilled in the top of the bird box and it was attached to the hoarding around the site. The bird feeder was purchased and was the only capital cost incurred.

A bird table was created using an off cut of 18mm plywood and a plastic trim similar habitat for local creatures left over from the cabin installation.

Objectives have been met as the insect hotel, bird box, table and feeder have been used extensively since their creation.

On future sites the intention is to devote more time to enhancing sustainability and biodiversity on site and will aim to undertake a larger scale project in conjunction with several smaller ones like the insect hotel and bird box.

**What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?**

We are all responsible for the well-being of our planet and can all make a contribution.

Seeing the site, it was felt a bird box, feeder and insect hotel would make a positive contribution to the local environment.



*Photo: On-site*