

LOWER TODMORDEN & WALSDEN WATER FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME, VOLKERSTEVIN



BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

The scheme is phase 3 of the Lower Todmorden & Walsden Water Flood Alleviation Scheme, developed to increase the flood protection for the town of Todmorden which is situated in the narrow, steep sided Calder valley with the very flashy river Walsden and Calder running through the valley bottom.

The works, overall length 1100m, took place through the town centre adjacent to the A646 arterial road, and in close proximity to shops, businesses and residential areas.

The detail of the work elements is listed below:

- Construct 500m of new flood wall up to 2.8m high
- Repairs to 400m of culverts
- Demolition of Morrison's access bridge and construction of new bridge and culvert crossing with new road to alleviate the flow restriction formed by the old bridge
- Installation of precast box culverts at 4 locations to reduce the effect of demolishing old culverts and the impacts on community
- Installation of 160 WaStop valves to pipe entries in the culverts to prevent back flow during high river levels
- Demolition of 3 structurally unsafe shops within the conservation area and rebuilding to modern standards, sympathetically to conservation area consent, whilst being flood proof
- Removal of weir structure and mechanism and refurbishing the mechanism and relocation within the town as a monument to the town's industrial past.

Fact box

Company name:
VolkerStevin

Project name:
Lower Todmorden & Walsden
Water Flood Alleviation Scheme
Phase 3

Location:
Todmorden, West Yorkshire

Biodiversity enhancement:

- Fruit trees and herb gardens
- Bat boxes
- Nesting space for dippers
- Hanging flower baskets
- Butterfly garden
- Bug hotels

Size:
13 bird boxes
2 ledges for dippers
6 bug hotels

Cost:
N/A

Tips:

- Involving local residents, organisations and charity groups ensures that the enhancements fit with the local area
- Involve local people and charity groups in the maintenance of landscaping

Year completed:
2014

Categories:

- Small scale permanent
- Pollinator
- Community engagement

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW (cont.)

Todmorden is an old mill town and the local community was keen to enhance the colour and ecology of the area. From the start of the scheme we engaged with the local groups such as Incredible Edible Todmorden and Todmorden in Bloom, with the aim of minimizing the effect of the flood works, whilst improving the environment.

Listed below is a sample of the activities carried out to improve the ecology and green spaces around Todmorden outside of the design requirements :

- At 193 Rochdale Road, the site of a box culvert installation, the opportunity was taken to create an open space and provide fruit trees/shrubs and herb gardens to be picked and enjoyed by the local community. The plants selected were also chosen to attract bees and butterflies.
- At Salford Way where the river wall was strengthened, additional trees, fruit trees, and herbs again were planted to improve the visual amenity whilst improving ecology.
- 13 various types of bat boxes were installed around the town.
- At Market Hall, again where box culverts were installed, two ledges were fitted to allow dippers to nest within the culvert.
- VolkerStevin also provided hanging baskets at the memorial garden and outside BareArts public house.
- Working with the local primary school we provided the materials and labour to create a butterfly garden to enable the children to study their habitat.
- We created and installed 6 bug residences around town.
- Working with the local high school, VolkerStevin commissioned a piece of artwork to depict the town's heritage and working with a local artist, developed this into a 3m-long artwork which now resides above the culvert at Market Hall.
- Working with Incredible Edible, we developed another piece of art fixed at the railway station welcoming people to Todmorden and depicting the heritage and activities available.
- Working with the Civic Society, we relocated a sluice structure as a monument to Todmorden's industrial heritage.
- We created and printed a leaflet describing the archaeological dig and findings from the Waterside Mill site; these are still distributed by tourist information.

Involvement of local residents, organisations and charity groups has ensured that the enhancements fit with the local area and that there is buy-in to the measures implemented. Some of the landscaping is to be maintained by local charity Incredible Edible Todmorden, through the employment of an apprentice. The scheme closely followed the Considerate Constructors Code of Practice which resulted in excellent community relations. Our efforts were rewarded with two Considerate Constructor Scheme Gold Awards and a National Most Considerate Site Runner Up award.

Pictures of the enhancements



If you would like to sign up for the BIG Challenge, please contact CIRIA by email at customer.services@ciria.org



the BIG Challenge
do one thing

