

Linear Park

Kier at Elsea Park, Bourne, Lincs, PE10 0QR

Kier Living Eastern

BIG Biodiversity Challenge: Medium Scale Permanent Award

Project overview

Kier Living Eastern's Linear Park is a green corridor running from the eastern to the western side of its Elsea Park development in Bourne. This was designed around a high pressure gas main and overhead electricity cables which naturally split the site on an elevated crest. The scheme's aim was to capitalise on these existing constraints, improving the existing environment and providing a feeling of open countryside for the Elsea Park residents.

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

The works to create Linear Park took into account an existing wooded area known as The Spinney. Running north to south, this land has significant ecological value as a home to badgers and foxes, amongst other species.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Work to the Kier-funded, £700,000 Linear Park started in 2014 and has continued alongside the provision of Elsea Park until the present day. It is ongoing and will continue to be delivered as further parcels of land are developed.

Significant earthworks were required to turn a previously neglected area of arable land into a meandering corridor, to include a network of cycle ways plus both wet and dry surface water features. The new cycle ways connect the heart of the development with the existing facilities in Bourn which include pubs, restaurants and shops.



The picture shows work getting underway at Linear Park, which runs from one side of the development to the other and will continue to be developed as further phases of land are built upon by Kier Living Eastern.

What were the biodiversity measures taken? (cont'd)

Without the cycle ways, access to these amenities would be greatly restricted. Linear Park's cycle ways also benefit from an external gym trail for use by one and all, while it allows for natural policing and surveillance of the site. As a result, it reinforces Elsea Park as a safe place to live.

Also created at Linear Park are three new ponds; Cooks' Pond to the front of the community centre, Arena Park near the edge of Zone 3 and the Ogrey Pond, a sustainable drainage feature to the west of the site. Arena Park is surrounded by wetland thicket and wild grasses, promoting localised ecosystems.

Ongoing, the open spaces will be managed by the Elsea Park Community Trust. This is a company procured by Kier Living Eastern and paid into by residents on an annual basis.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Linear Park promotes a healthy lifestyle and connects the site to the wider community. It also gives the local children places to explore and feel safe.



Work gets underway to create Linear Park



The picture shows the current development at Elsea Park with part of Linear Park, including one of the pond area, central to the properties.