

## Highwood Extra Care Horsham, West Sussex, England.

Berkeley Homes (Southern) Ltd.

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Temporary

### Project overview

Construction of an extra care facility to include 105 apartments (45 x 1-bed, 60 x 2-bed) and communal facilities to include fully serviced restaurant, living/activity room, therapy/hairdressing suite, staff facilities with associated access, car parking, drainage and landscape works.

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

The area surrounding was farmland, and this area completely overgrown. This area will be retained, with raised paths running around for the residents of the extra care facility to enjoy.

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

We wanted to encourage wildlife to the area. There were no planning requirements that meant we needed to do this, just a team who were keen on enhancing the biodiversity and reuse their timber waste.



*Bug Hotel and Duck Mansion*

### What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Two structures were constructed for the area, using our waste materials and the time of our carpentry contractor. The first of the structures was a Bug Hotel. This is something that is easily replicable for all of our construction sites that have areas where the existing landscape will be preserved, and where the construction works carried out will not impact any wildlife. As many of our construction sites may continue for 5-10 years, we have lots of scope for building similar structures which allow our contractors to work on something different which has a positive environmental benefit.

The second structure is the Duck Mansion, built as an additional project because one of the contractors noticed some duck eggs in the area. Our carpentry contractor got straight to work building a shelter for them in the pond area. Seeing the ducks grow has been a real pleasure for everyone working on the development, and the carpentry contractor has taken great pride in the work they have done.



*Le Pantera L'Hotel de Bug*

### How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

### Further information

The Bug Hotel (Le Pantera L'Hotel de Bug) was constructed using the available waste material, layer by layer, using standard pallets for the structure. A simple roof was added, as well as the filling materials focussing on variation of texture and compaction. This structure will exist until the facility is handed over, by which point it will have slowly been dismantled.

The Duck Mansion was constructed using waste materials, with a more intricate roof system, showing off the contractors skills. Steps were added to make sure that the little ducklings could access the platform, and the Mansion was created to be just the right size for the mother duck and all her ducklings.

The scale of these projects was ideal, as was the availability of appropriate materials **at that particular time in the development's programme. This was an inclusive project** that all of the contractors working on the project have enjoyed, in particular the ducks have been a welcome addition to the Project Team.

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

I wanted a project that was as engaging for the contractor carrying out the activity, as it was for the Management Team. Of course the main benefit is the biodiversity increase, with a positive side effect of the teams and contractors having an example of a contribution to the natural habitat.



*Residents of the Duck Mansion*