

C10871 - IEP Hitachi Rail

Stoke Gifford, Bristol, South Gloucester

Volker Fitzpatrick

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Small scale permanent

Project overview

The project involved transforming an old waste disposal site into a new depot for the IEP Hitachi trains which are to replace the current rolling stock. The estimated cost of construction is £80 million.

The site is an enclosed on all 3 sides by railways with housing along one side.

Many of the staff engaged with the project ranging from cutting the wooden reels to size, sourcing materials from site and many donated bamboo from their gardens and their time to help build and create the bug hotels.

The setting is semi-rural in the side of the bund which already had flowers adjacent to the welfare cabin.

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

Despite the land being perilously used as a land fill there was a large verity of species found when a survey was carryout in 2011,31 invertebrates, slow worms, birds and other insects were found.



Photo: Bug hotel

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

For this site there were no planning conditions to enhance biodiversity.

However the company felt it was important to create some form of habitat even for the short term to try and offset the construction.

Furthermore it was to be used as evidence for our CEEQUAL application with the ambition of obtaining an “outstanding” rating.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The bug hotels can be replicated on other sites as the wooden reels are easy to get hold of.

This project has resulted in biodiversity gain, as there was already seen an increase in bugs, and small insects.

All materials used in this project have been recycled and would have gone to waste. We have also engaged with several members of staff to create the bug hotel, ranging from their time to donations of materials.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

Further information

To create these habitats, old wooden cable reels were stacked to make a pyramid on top of an unused pallet.

Inside the wooden reels bamboo, leaves, bark and wood were placed to allow bugs to make their homes.

If we were to do this again, we would do it at an earlier stage of construction as it meant removing some plants that had already grown on the bund.

However this loss has been offset by the plants used in the plastic plant pipe planters outside the welfare cabin.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Working with the environmental team we felt it was important to help improve the biodiversity on site if it were a temporary measure.

We wanted to create some form of refuse for animals, and create something a little different. Moreover we wanted to reuse as much material on site as possible.



Photo: Bug hotel