

CIVIL NUCLEAR CONSTABULARY PROJECT CALDER BRIDGE

MORGAN SINDALL

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award Category: Small Scale Permanent Award

Project overview

Morgan Sindall are constructing a new £35 million central training facility in a semi-rural setting for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

Enabling works during the winter period at the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) project provided the opportunity to create some locally valuable ecological habitat. Log piles, areas of wood chippings from the tree and scrub clearance and bat and bird boxes were placed around the boundaries of the site. Sited next to each individual new habitat area is a simple weatherproof poster highlighting which species will benefit. The enhancements and existing features have been named by the project team the *'Nine Wonders of Calder Bridge'*. The project team decided to promote the ecological enhancements to the workforce with the overall aim of highlighting the benefits they can bring. This is raising the profile of biodiversity and demonstrating how simple and relatively cheap measures can make a significant difference.

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

The site comprised two agricultural fields with boundary hedgerows and trees. A small section of the site was grazed pasture. The River Calder and its riparian habitats, the Sellafield Reprocessing site, sewage works and a plantation woodland bound the site

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

The River Calder which runs adjacent to the site is an important wildlife corridor and a UKBAP Priority Habitat and therefore all opportunities were investigated to further enhance this corridor during construction.

In addition to training the workforce on ecological protection measures (BREEAM requirement) the project specifically chose to promote the ecological enhancements.



New Habitat - Log Piles & Wood chippings

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

- 6 areas of Wood Chippings from site enabling works were created for insects (spiders, beetles and worms)
- 4 Log Refugia / Hibernacula using materials from the enabling works for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians
- 6 Bat Boxes
- 6 Bird Boxes of mixed type to target a range of species

The above measures are in place now and there are further initiatives planned for the project:

- Artificial Otter holt
- Combined surface water attenuation / Wildlife Pond – Amphibians
- Sand Martin / Kingfisher Wall – New artificial breeding site

The implemented measures along with the planned measures plus the existing River Calder and areas of surrounding woodland all form the '9 Wonders of Calder Bridge'. **Small biodiversity enhancements are not innovative on their own, however** the project team for the CNC project decided to go further by creating visual displays at each location detailing what the feature is and which particular species benefits. A drawing showing the added features has been placed in prominent locations around the site facilities so that the workforce can take a tour around the '9 Wonders of Calder Bridge'. **In the new term local schools will be invited for a project tour and their route will take in the biodiversity enhancements and will be called a 'Nature Trail'.**

The enhancements support National Planning Policy, and enhance the sites opportunities for wildlife in the long term by extending the exiting wildlife corridors.



Log Refugia/Hibernacula

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement

Further information

The signage used at each of the '9 Wonders of Calder Bridge' comprised of A3 laminated signs that were fixed to a timber plate/stake.

The extended Phase 1 Habitats Plan was marked up with each enhancement, planned and existing feature and these were printed for display at the site entrance, induction room and mess faculties. The areas of enhancement are checked weekly by the site team to look for any signs of wildlife using them and to ensure the signage is still intact. Species of bird have already been spotted 'investigating' the new boxes.

The project team are looking forward to hosting visits for local schools to demonstrate how construction projects can support biodiversity in the long term.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

As a business, Morgan Sindall are committed to sustainability and ensuring we leave a positive legacy. All projects produce a sustainability plan which adds long term socio-economic value to communities and the environment.

The CNC team are personally passionate about wildlife and have used the project to deliver a real difference to the local landscape.

Wood Chippings

Wood chippings were scattered on the ground to replace the natural features that were lost during the construction process.

They are especially important as they provide protection for insects, such as spiders, beetles and worms.

This is very helpful to the local food chain and ecology, and they provide food to the birds and worms help decompose organic material.

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MORGAN SINDALL Nature Trail



Example of poster on display on site