

Selley Park Flood Alleviation Scheme

Birmingham, England

Kier Utilities/ Team Van Oord

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Small Scale Permanent Award

Project overview

The project will develop a flood risk management (FRM) design for Selly Park South (Birmingham), to reduce the risk of flooding for up to 219 properties in the area and facilitate the proposed extension of the St. Andrew's Healthcare Centre. The works include the provision of an embankment on the St Andrews development and piled wall along on the left riverbank. An embankment parallel to Dogpool Lane and extending upstream on the right bank (The right bank which eventually ties in to high ground). Construction works to raise the height of the existing flood wall on the left and right banks downstream of Dogpool Lane Bridge, will also be undertaken. This solution will reduce the risk of flooding from the primary mechanism which is overtopping of the left bank, upstream of Dogpool Lane Bridge.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

The site has been prone to flooding in recent years. The Environment Agency made the decision that flood alleviation was required to help prevent further flooding

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

The site consisted of an urban stream and car park prior to work commencing. The car park area offered little for wildlife but the stream offered some useful habitat. Gabion baskets will be used to reinforce the river bank which will increase refugia for fish and invertebrates.



Ariel view of Selley Park Project

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

This is an urban site with little space for wildlife, so incorporating enhancements was a big challenge, however the site team identified a small opportunity to incorporate an area for invertebrates. Several small trees needed to be felled on site for the works to be completed, the site team saved the material from being chipped, and piled it in a quiet corner of the site.

It is hoped that it newly created deadwood/ log pile habitat will encourage invertebrates and potentially amphibians and reptiles in an area where there is little natural habitat.

Kier site staff came up with the idea of the log pile and wanted to build it themselves. We recognise that this isn't a big or elaborate enhancement but is something that can be very easily replicated on even the smallest site at no cost. We encourage all of our site staff to think of enhancements no matter how big or small with the hope that collectively they will amount to a significant net gain.



Log pile habitat created

How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

Further information

Log pile habitat is very easy to create, you simply cut logs into similar lengths and stack them in a quiet and undisturbed area, where wildlife can move in without be disturbed. Brash and other organic matter can be placed around the area too if it is available.

The site team enjoyed creating the pile and the creative process has acted as team building and a positive effect on team spirit.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Our personal motivation was to enhance the local environment and to demonstrate that enhancements, even on small scale can make a difference to wildlife and don't have to be expensive.



Ariel photo of the site