

## FSN397 Welsh Government Contract

### Aberystwyth Ceredigion

Vinci Facilities

*BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Small scale permanent*

#### Project overview

Vinci facilities work very closely with the Welsh Government in Aberystwyth on Biodiversity projects.

This particular project of the Beastie Mansion has virtually no costs except for labour as everything is recycled or reused waste.

The mansion is located in the South West corner car park on a small patch of ground which is pretty much all the available land to use for this project – land is a scare commodity as much of it is paved for car parking with only boarders for bedding plants.

It also consists of a dining area and a beehive apiary which VINCI manage on behalf of the Welsh Government.

Over the past few years Vinci have paid particular attention to what types of additional plants could be introduced on site to ensure that they complement the project , using only insect friendly weed control.



*Photo: Bee Apiary in paved jungle*

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

Various bio-diverse projects have been introduced on site such as beehives, bat boxes, hedgehog houses(2015), slowworm dens(2015), bird house, bumble bee den (2015) and small insect dens.

The insect friendly weed killer used is a mixture of salt vinegar and a tiny amount of washing up liquid.

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

The specific conditions are the equal interest of

biodiverse projects between Vinci Facilities and the Welsh Government in Aberystwyth.

From this there is a biodiversity off setting as the Bestie Mansion will hopefully be a home for certain types of insects that will feed on green fly etc.

#### What were the biodiversity measures taken?

This is an innovative project as the Beastie Mansion once it is populated with a certain types of insects will help the Honey Bee population on site.

Insects such ladybirds eat Greenflies, thus in turn

helping the Honey Bee. Also a birdhouse and hedgehog den have been introduced within it and on it.

It has a conservation value as it can be a home for hibernating insects and animals in what would normally be considered a vastly concrete area.

This project will be replicated on the last bit of land available and will be more visible to the public all year round whereas the Beastie Mansion is mostly only visible during the winter months.

There has been great interest created within the Government Building and with the Vinci Staff, all of the ideas and time spend on creating the projects on site came from the Vinci team, who are very proud of our success.

The Beastie Mansion has already featured in an online Vinci blog. All the materials are recycled products and waste from the onsite Recycling station (which Vinci also operate – reaching 95% recycling of the building waste).

With most of the site comprising of car parking space it is extremely important that the little space left over is used to



*Photo: Beastie mansion complete with bird house*

introduce measures to try to home and feed as much wildlife visiting the area as possible.

#### [How would you best describe the project?](#)

An enhancement.

#### [Further information](#)

The project was a simple task of collecting 5 pallets, turning the bottom one upside down to create a hedgehog den.

The pallets were stacked and filled with recycled waste and products such as broken plant pots, straw, twigs, plastic and clay pipes, broken crockery, logs with holes drilled into them and lots of dead leaves.

A house roof was then built on top to catch the public eyes that pass by and staff who work in the building. A bird house was then built as the chimney.

It has been a success despite the poor summer as there is insect activity.

A stout hedgehog has have been spotted in the grounds and observed coming in and out of where it is situated.

The long term benefits are conservation and the continuing biodiversity. The mansion will remain on site indefinitely with materials being added as and when required.

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

A genuine interest in Biodiversity but never really acted on it ,but working with Vinci Facilities gives this opportunity and with the support from the line manager to carry out projects that bring a lot of job satisfaction.



*Photo: Hedgehog house under construction*