

DEWSBURY LEARNING QUARTER
2 COMMERCIAL ROAD, DEWSBURY, WEST YORKSHIRE
Kier Construction - Northern

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Pollinator

Project overview

The project involves the regeneration of a brownfield site that has stood vacant for the previous 15 years. The works involved will not only be of a benefit to the local community but will also enhance the environment through retained trees, shrubs and new planting schemes.

Throughout the construction phase we are implementing measures to protect the existing trees and have also created a 'Biodiversity Corner' on the site which has been positioned in the soft landscaped area and will remain on site after we have completed works. The corner includes a bug hotel, constructed from used pallets and construction materials, a Bee Hotel that was created from the pruned branch of one of the retained trees, bird feeders and bird boxes. The site team have also introduced potted plants and fruit trees in the site break-out areas which enhance the workers experience on site.

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

The site was over-run with weeds, rats and was a haven for drug users with used needles and syringes scattered across the area.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

There was an incentive from the Council to Kirklees College to centralise their education facilities, to promote the regeneration of Dewsbury through 'bringing business and facilities' back into the town centre. This facility along with a Grade 2 listed building currently undergoing the early stages of refurbishment for the Council / College, are hoped to be the spark for other businesses to return to the town centre through an outlined spend budget of £100m.



Bug Hotel (Under Construction) With The Bee Hotel & Bird Feeder In A Retained Tree

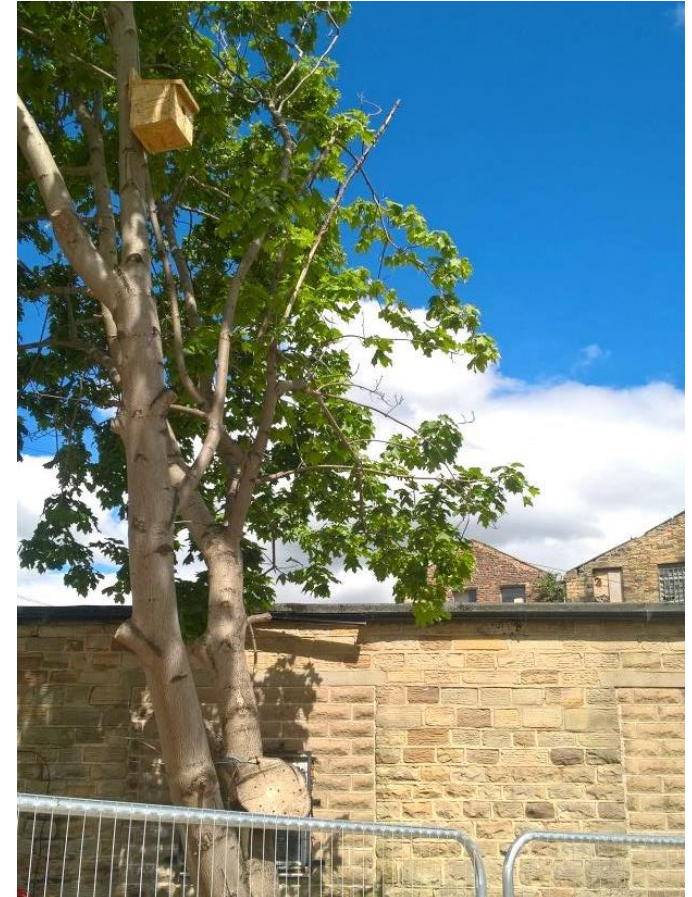
What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The site team have endeavoured to create an environment that is welcoming to the workforce and beneficial to the local environment and wildlife. It was decided early in the project to create a 'biodiversity corner' on site. In order to ensure that we could construct this area through the re-use of materials the decision was taken to start working on the area at the earliest opportunity. The site team ensured that the finished scheme entrance area was formed at the outset of the project to allow an adjacent area to be developed as the 'biodiversity corner'. This housed one of the retained trees and had space to accommodate the bee hotel and bug house that we have been creating through the use of used pallets and building materials which has been developed by all workers on site.

The solutions implemented are definitely replicable on other schemes with simple modifications through careful early consideration and planning. We have maximised the use of the existing resources on the site. This has seen the former building's concrete floor crushed and laid to form piling platforms and substructure which has resulted in minimum amounts of materials leaving site.

The measures which have been implemented to create the 'biodiversity corner' have been considered and located on the site to prevent future disturbance with minimal maintenance and will be left in-situ for our client to adopt following the completion of works.

Whilst not necessarily innovative, we have tried to improvise with our solutions such as creating bird feeders from used soft drinks bottles and creating the bug hotel from used materials that would generally have been waste. We also used pruned tree branches to form the bee hotel.



These solutions are ecologically valuable to the environment through the encouragement for wild species to occupy and flourish.

How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

Further information

The steps taken have been implemented through relatively simple, and repeatable, methods. The materials used are those that are utilised in the construction stages and readily available throughout the build process. Single use pallets would normally be disposed of as waste so the use of these to form the bug hotel serves two purposes. There was a need to prune some of the trees on site, we used a sizable cutting from one of the branches (mounted within the retained tree) with a variety of different sized holes drilled in to encourage bees and beneficial solitary wasps to take up residence and promote pollination. A bird box has also been built and mounted in this area.

There needs to be thoughts at an early stage of how to implement measures to enhance the environment, it needs to be at the forefront of thinking and planning at the outset of the project to enhance the local environments rather than it being an afterthought to fulfil a requirement. Consideration should be given to a budget to ensure that goals set can be achieved.

The long term benefits will be realised through the end user taking ownership of our solutions to ensure that our efforts to enhance the area remain long term and are not lost when we leave site.

So far we remain on target to deliver our objectives.



Fruit Trees In The Break-Out Area

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

We wanted to create areas that would have long term environmental benefits that also enhanced and engaged the workforce during their time on site. The site when we took over was run down and we wanted to improve the feel as effectively as possible with the participation from all involved.