

BCM Construction - HV Feeder Renewals Kent (Network Rail Infrastructure)

Bearsted, Kent

BCM Construction Ltd

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Small scale permanent

Project overview

BCM Construction have an office and site compound at Bearsted Train Station. Materials, plant and waste are all stored here then transported to the sites of work on Network Rail infrastructure projects.

The compound area is also used for parking for site and project management staff - an increase in use identified a need to make this larger and safer (approx. 284m² to utilise).

To do this an area of scattered scrub and a few young birch trees were cleared as well as a large pile of spoil and mixed waste that had been left on site by a previous contractor.

BCM employed a contractor to carry out the clearance and levelling works, they also created an insect hotel and established 2 bird and 2 bat boxes.

It took a team of 2 people to build the insect hotel and 1 person the bird/ bat boxes. Total cost = £425.



Photo: Bird box

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

Site conditions were relatively poor prior to the works scattered scrub across about 1/3 of the total area that was cleared and three small birch trees (broadleaved semi natural).

Vegetation bordering the site was left intact to retain screening for residents and the public using the train station.

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

Increased demand at the Bearsted compound and offices identified the need to increase the parking area to ensure BCM employees and their clients could park and walk to and from the area safely.

Safety was the main justification for carrying out these works.

The Environmental Manager identified an opportunity to include some offsetting measures to compensate for the loss of habitat through creating an insect hotel and establishing bird and bat boxes.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The senior project manager bought in to the offsetting measures and agreed that they would be a good addition to the site.

This work will feature in the next BCM newsletter to encourage others within the company to identify similar opportunities on our other sites.

Insect hotel – An insect hotel was created using old pallets (waste) that were stored on the yard, stones and the trunks from the three small birches that were cut down. It has been located on a piece of elevated ground in a vegetated area, this will ensure that it can remain their long term.

The Storeman who looks after the site compound will check on the fixture regularly to see if any maintenance is required. If and when BCM hand back the yard to Network Rail, BCM will ensure the insect hotels existence is known about.

The insect hotel has added some ecological value to the site and is a good support mechanism for the food chain, it should encourage woodlice, centipedes, spiders, worms, ladybirds, bees &



Photo: Bat box

lacewings, all beneficial insects.

This structure is replicable and could be used as a model for others.

Bird and Bat Boxes – Were constructed off site using redundant materials by the contractor and attached to trees and a small out building at the compound.

This should encourage bird and bat nesting in the area providing safe places for the species and reducing the chance of human disturbance to the species.

They complement the insect hotel well providing a food source within meters.

How would you best describe the project?
Mitigation.

Further information

Insect hotel installation as follows:

- 5 old pallets for the basic structure, these were stacked and secured together.
- The birches that were cut down were then cut down further to slot between the gaps of the pallet structure.
- Ground vegetation (dead wood, dry leaves) was then used to fill the gaps and form a cover over the insect hotel.
- Rocks and small stones from across the site compound were also

- used to help build the structure.

Bird & bat box installation as follows:

- Constructed out of untreated offcuts of timber and plywood.
- Attached to trees and outbuildings

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

I wanted to identify any opportunities to compensate for the vegetation loss.

Using the small birches that were cut down as well as waste pallets from the site compound made sense to me as it reduced waste from site and offered an interesting biodiversity feature for the project team.



Photo: Bug hotel