

M1 Smart Motorways J28 to J35A
Between J28 – J35A, South Normanton and Barnsley
Costain

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Community Engagement

Project overview

The project is to upgrade carriageway safety features and electronic signage and control systems to enable use of "hard shoulder" for operational running. "All Lane Running".

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

Biodiversity enhancement opportunities on site have been carried out in a limited manner where opportunities allowed.

The initiative entered is for introduction of biodiversity awareness off-site to primary schools using recycled construction materials to make insect houses and nest boxes.

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

There was no specified requirement to do this work other than a desire to actually do something hands on with primary school children by a construction company that didn't use "Lego" as the core content!

What were the biodiversity measures taken?



Photo: Duct Bug House

The main component of the initiative is the use of sections of recovered 100mm communications duct as the casing to build colourful (it's purple) insect houses for primary schools to place in their "wild corners" etc.

The filling for the bug houses is a mix of sticks and stems from site with some bamboo sections to provide some "closed cells". A mix of pre-prepared and kit versions have been made to take out to schools.

Reusing wastes and engaging with local community allows the initiative to be easily scalable and replicable on other sites.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

Further information

The plastic pipe is cut about 250mm long on top and 200mm long underneath to give an overhang to each end.

150mm long bamboo tubes and sticks stuffed inside and held together in a bunch with two cable ties. Another two cable ties threaded through holes in the "eaves" to enable it to be fixed outside.

Even if the "houses" don't perform brilliantly, they are easy to mount and easy to refill by teachers in school gardens. The only thing to watch out for and which has taken the most time is sanding off all of the bamboo splinters and plastic spikes etc. to protect little hands.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Who needs motivation to take bumpy purple pipe, sticks, tubes & cable ties out to groups of primary school children!



Photo: Log Bug House



Photo: Log Bird Box