

## FSN397 WELSH GOVERNMENT CONTRACT, VINCI FACILITIES



### BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

We deliver a full soft service contract, including the self-delivery of Cleaning, Postal, Reception and Grounds Maintenance. VINCI have been delivering this contract since 2009 at Aberystwyth and 2010 at Llandudno Junction. We work closely with the Welsh Government to increase the pollinating insect population and improve bio-diversity within our landscaping. This has enabled us to change the way we think, act and do when it comes to our operation.

Aberystwyth is a suburban office location on the edge of town with little landscaping however; it is situated only 150m from the River Ystwyth and natural habitats that border the railway line to the North. Llandudno Junction is an office with a significant amount of landscaping and is bordering on farmland to the north and west.

Apiaries were set up at both sites June 2013 with one hive in each. VINCI staff attended an Introduction to Beekeeping course to ensure that we were equipped with some knowledge to begin keeping bees. We joined the local Beekeeping Associations who mentored and advised us through our first year. Now both sites contain three hives each. This year honey has been extracted and will be sold for charity. VINCI staff continues to manage the bees.

Bat and bird boxes situated and insect houses hidden within the undergrowth at both sites.

Insect friendly weed killer used instead of usual pesticides which is made up of a mixture of salt, vinegar and a very small amount of washing liquid.

At Llandudno Junction a new grounds maintenance plan has been implemented to encourage the growth of pollinating wild flowers, this involves leaving large border areas to grow naturally for longer periods of time. Wild flower seeds have also been added to the mix. We also have a large amount of fruiting trees and shrubs. Large lawn areas away from the access roads and paths are left for longer in between cuts to allow clover to blossom.

### Fact box

#### **Company name:**

Vinci Facilities

#### **Project name:**

FSN397 Welsh Government contract

#### **Location:**

Llandudno Junction & Aberystwyth

#### **Biodiversity enhancement:**

- Apiaries
- Bat and bird boxes
- Insect houses
- Wildflower and fruit tree planting

#### **Size:**

Three bee hives per site

#### **Cost:**

N/A

#### **Tips:**

- There is a large variety of tree species to consider which also attract pollinating insects such as Horse Chestnut, Sycamore and most fruiting trees
- Think about when and for how long the plants and shrubs blossom for before you purchase. Aim to have a variety of plants to ensure blossom from early spring through to late autumn
- If you are considering keeping bees the hives ideally need to be situated in a sheltered area with plenty of sunlight and water nearby.

#### **Year completed:**

2013

### Categories:

- Small scale permanent
- Pollinator

## BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW (*cont.*)

There is also a large water feature cooling (attenuation) pond on site which is bordered with reeds and marginal plants.

At Aberystwyth some areas have been left to grow naturally but as the grounds are occupied mostly by car parking space the choice of new plants placed in the ground plays a more significant role.

During the spring and summer we encourage building users to accompany us to the apiary to observe. Our aim is to create greater awareness about bio-diversity and the importance of bees and all other pollinating insects.

Now that we have kept bees for over a year we help out with Conwy and Aberystwyth Beekeepers Associations by becoming involved in community requests such as talking to the public at the Ceredigion Museum for Wild World Week.

### Apiary site prior to and after the enhancement and bee-related activities



If you would like to sign up for the BIG Challenge,  
please contact CIRIA by email at  
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