

**Free-Bee posts**  
**England, Wales, Scotland**

BAM Construction

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Temporary Award

**Project overview**

BAM Construction has a good working relationship with Community Wood Recycling (CWR) – an initiative that diverts timber from landfill and gives marginalised individuals job opportunities.

In order to boost the relationship between the two businesses and also provide a home for bees, BAM contacted the CWR team to see if they could offer a ‘free-bee’ post to our construction sites that partner with them across the UK.

Between 10-20 people from five BAM sites and five CWR centres were involved in making, distributing and installing the bee posts. The materials were supplied free-of-charge from CWR centres from their stock, so the only cost involved was the time of CWR employees to make them.

The bee posts have been supplied to five sites, spanning the UK from London to Exeter. All projects are in the non-residential built environment.

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

Bee posts are not a requirement on BAM construction sites, so prior to the implementation there was no existing habitat for bees.

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

BAM wanted to promote the services of CWR internally to increase the number of sites recycling wood. We wanted to use the free bee posts as a promotional tool to spread the word, while at the same time providing a habitat for bees.



*Bee hotel presented to Coral Springs by Oxford Wood Recycling*

The exercise had two aims: to enhance biodiversity on our sites, and to divert timber from landfill. At the same time, by partnering with CWR, we are helping to develop job opportunities for marginalised individuals.

### What were the biodiversity measures taken?

There was only one biodiversity measure taken – supply and installation of bee-posts at five construction sites.

Guidance has been provided to sites regarding the management of the bee-posts, i.e. that they need to be sheltered in winter. All posts will need to be disposed of after two years, so long-term management is not applicable.

While the creation of a bee-post may not be innovative,, the relationship between BAM and CWR centres around the UK is the first of its kind.

The creation of a habitat is minimal, however, the potential is much bigger. If all construction sites that are using CWR received a bee-post, there would be **hundreds of locations where bees would be provided with 'accommodation'**.

### How would you best describe the project?

A proactive approach to promoting recycling wood and diverting materials from landfill while also providing a habitat for bees on our sites, free of charge.



*Bee hotel presented to Lyde Green Primary School by Wiltshire Wood Recycling*

### Further information

After the CWR centres drilled holes in a block of untreated wood they supplied it to site where it was fixed to hoarding in a south or east facing direction. The posts will be brought in over winter to protect the post from the bad weather. Some of the projects are handing over before the winter, so the bee posts will be transferred to other BAM Projects.

The posts can be used for two years. The exercise was to raise awareness amongst individuals about how easy it is to make a bee-post. So they may be more likely on future projects to provide a home for nature during the construction stage.

It is too soon to tell if there has been an increase in biodiversity as the posts have only started being delivered in July. However, this is a lesson to be learnt, that the posts should be delivered to sites in March, for optimal use.

Everyone likes something for free, it is even better if that free thing is something useful, and better still if it is good for the environment. So I would suggest any industry suppliers reading this case study to think about their offering to clients.

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

The Central Sustainability Team hopes that by entering the CIRIA Big Diversity Challenge, we can raise awareness of the worthwhile initiatives our teams are carrying out across the UK to encourage other sites to follow suit. We hope this submission will raise awareness internally of the CIRIA, CWR and the small things our teams can do to make a big difference to the environment.



*Bee hotel presented to Living Systems – University of Exeter, by We're Eco, Community Wood Recycling*