



**the BIG
Biodiversity
Challenge**
do one thing

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GROWTH (GI4G) PROJECT Bude, Camborne, Hayle, Redruth, Penzance, Pool & Saltash, CORNWALL)

Client: Cornwall Council

Delivered By: Cormac Solutions Ltd

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award Category: *Biodiversity Legacy Award*

Project overview

Public urban spaces within 7 towns have been improved so that they are of greater benefit to people and wildlife. Improvements have included planting wildflower meadows, trees, orchards, pollinator friendly flower beds and pond creation. The target was to enhance 35Ha of public urban spaces however 40Ha has been realised.

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

The Green Infrastructure assets were dominated by areas of heavily mown grass of low biodiversity value. The green spaces were of low public interest with 24% of Cornish residents not being satisfied with their local green space.

What were the reasons behind this project ?

Cornwall Council's 2015 Environmental Growth Strategy identified that protection of the environment is no longer enough and that it needs to be invested in and grown. Green Infrastructure for Growth has led the way in environmental net gain and worked with local communities to re-think areas of our green space.

Another driver was the benefits identified by the project including:

- Improving the wildlife value of an area equivalent to 35 rugby pitches
- Increasing accessibility to open spaces for all
- Providing opportunities for outdoor lifelong learning
- Increasing community engagement in positive green space management



Knights Way, Redruth | BEFORE - September 2017
Photo By Cormac



Knights Way, Redruth | AFTER - October 2018
Photo By Cormac

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

- New terrestrial habitat creation through the planting of new shrub beds, beds of pollinator friendly plants, tree planting and creation of new wildflower meadows is attracting wildlife, improving biodiversity and increasing species richness.
- Artificial habitats have been created in suitable locations. Bird, bat and dormouse boxes were installed by licenced ecologists through Cornwall Environmental Consultants. Goldsworthy Way also featured a ‘bee village’ comprising of three Bee Posts which are designed to be nesting sites for solitary bees.
- New aquatic habitat areas were designed and created on site including ponds and wetland areas.

Each site was designed to minimise waste with all site won material used to create new mounds which were either covered with wildflower turf or seeded with wildflower seed.

Long term management has been considered. The project features an Establishment Period running through to 31st December 2019. Each site has a specific Management Plan produced by Cornwall Environmental Consultants which details the maintenance required for each habitat type. Following the establishment period, each site will be routinely maintained within the existing annual public open space maintenance programme. The local authority will benefit economically as a result of less intensive maintenance regimes: twice yearly cuts of wildflower meadows versus approximately 8 cuts a year for mown grass.

Feedback from members of the community has highlighted the success of the project:

“Since the flowers have been planted there has been a big increase in the number of bees and butterflies in the area which is fantastic. Not only does this make the playing field a more usable place it has increased the wildlife seen throughout the estate which is truly wonderful.” –

Comment from a local resident at Trenoweth Estate, Redruth.



*New Pond Area | Trenoweth Estate, Redruth
(Photo By Cormac)*



*New Seating Area Overlooking New Wildflower
Meadow | Trenoweth Estate, Redruth (Photo By Cormac)*

Further information

The project is receiving £2.8m from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020.

Enhancements to each site began with construction of the civils elements including new pathway networks to improve access for all and installation of benches and picnic tables to create new seating areas. The civils construction team also stripped the turf use this to create mounds in preparation for the landscaping team to carry out the planting of the beds with shrubs, perennials and wetland plants.

The client – Cornwall Council – is working with the University of Exeter to monitor and measure success in the form of wildlife surveys. Before the enhancements were implemented, the University of Exeter did a baseline survey on the number of species at each site. A second survey will take place for these sites once a sufficient period of time has passed to allow the enhancements to establish to identify the success.

The project has provided opportunities for community engagement and education across the towns. Local schools and community groups have also been engaged with the creation of bug hotels which have been installed at specific sites such as Treskerby Public Open Space, Redruth and East Pool Park, Pool.

The enhancements are also receiving recognition from recognised horticultural organisations. In October 2018 Treveglos Meadow, Hayle was awarded a an ***It's Your Neighbourhood Award - Level 5, Outstanding*** by The Royal Horticultural Society and South West in Bloom.



Cormac Staff & Local School Children Constructing a Bug Hotel | Treskerby Public Open Space, Redruth (Photo By Cornwall Council)



Wildlife Interpretation Board | Treveglos Meadow (formerly Bay View Terrace), Hayle (Photo By Cormac)



Project Team

- Client : Cornwall Council
- Funder: European Regional Development Fund
- Designer: Cormac Solutions Ltd
Cornwall Environmental Consultants
- Principal Contractor: Cormac Contracting Ltd

What was the motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

All of the green spaces will be devolved to town and parish councils who will take responsibility for all future maintenance of the assets which has involved a large amount of community consultation

The project stands apart from other schemes as this is a standalone project rather than a response to a planning condition to deliver green infrastructure improvements. The project has encouraged discussions within the project team and beyond. This knowledge sharing has resulted in the delivery of similar enhancements on other unrelated projects such as the use of wildflower turf to create instant impact and provide wildlife benefits.