

**Project Vie**  
**Manchester, England**  
**Kier Construction**

## BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award Category: *Community engagement*

### Project overview

The project is a legacy project the is undergoing some remedial work, it is an effort to show what can be achieved by some willing people with no budget, but bucketloads of determination and some elbow grease!

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

Prior to commencement there was a maintained garden and a river full of rubbish.

### What were the reasons behind this project ?

The reason behind this project was just an endeavour to increase ecological awareness, to show that just a small amount of willingness can go a long way.

All ecological and carbon reducing measures were undertaken with no money at all, the workers on site gave their time freely before and after the working day.

We wanted to show as many people as possible what could be done with just a bit of effort.



*What was in place on the project prior to our start*

*Our wormery recycling our food waste and making compost for our pots and planters, the wormery is made from old plastic tubs that were thrown by the rubbish bins*



## What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Biodiversity measures were numerous and completed in many ways. Too many to list

### Rubbish Fishing

The location of the project was next to the river Medlock, with no budget to shut off the river flow, the guys on site were 'rubbish fishing' using a magnet on a rope and a long net, prior to starting work in the morning at lunchtimes and sometimes for an hour or so after work, we noticed in a short space of time the increase in invertebrates and even fish were swimming past.

### Wormery

All food waste and newspaper was recycled into our onsite wormery and the compost used was put into our on site planters, reducing our carbon footprint (and methane )

### Planters

Our scrap timber was made into planters, our planters were planted with rare British wildflowers (free left over stock from the wildflower centre in Liverpool which shut down), thus helping not only the plants but also the invertebrates that feed on them.

### Pots

Any plastic pots that were fished from the river were planted with our compost and free seeds

### Bees

Two beehives were brought to site, beekeeping lessons were given free to all site workers and the residents of the 219 apartments upon request (124 people so far)

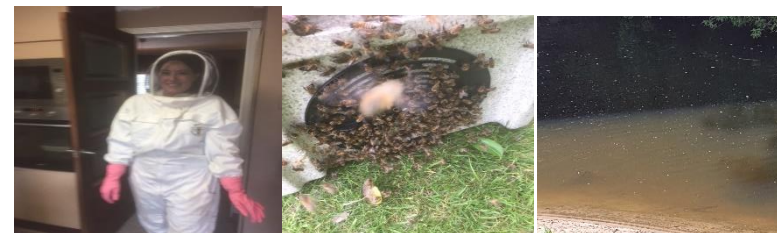
### Bat boxes, bird boxes and nesting sites

In order to help the larger species, we made bird boxes from recycled timber, nests for swifts, housemartins and swallows from old plaster, and we sold one of our planters and bought 2 bat boxes from ebay.



*Our rubbish fishing showing the equipment and our daily catch of plastic*

*Insert Image with Description:*



*One of the residents ready for her first beekeeping lesson*

*Our girls ready for the days work*

*Some of our invertebrates having a fly (no pun intended) over the river*

*Insert Image with Description:*

## Further information

Each aspect of our ecological efforts triggered another, we were looking for ways to accomplish changes for free, the wormery led to having compost, which led to the creation of planters, the 'rubbish fishing' gave us waste plastic pots which were also planted.

Having bees increased the number of birds and bats on site looking for food which led to the building of nests and nesting sites.

The education of the residents of the building came as a result to let them know there were bees on site and what other pollinators which were in the vicinity of the building.

The beehives will be staying and maintained by the management company as will the planters.

The increase in biodiversity has been incredible with stone flies being seen by the site cabins.

## Project Team

Kier

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

The motivation was just to see if some education and a willingness to do more could make a difference, nobody asked anybody to do anything on site, quite the reverse the site team were asking what *they* could do and giving their time freely. Everything the guys on site did was over and above what was expected.



*Our caught from the river, plastic pots, all composted by our worms ready for plants*



*Our roofer says he is better at roofs than planters, but we love his effort*



*Manchester can make honey*



*First signs of life, but no shortage of watering in Manchester rain*



*In the film frozen they sang lets build a snowman, on site we sing lets build a wormery or in this case a housemartin nest*



*Its up but nobody has moved in yet*