

CANTERBURY COLLEGE BLOCK 18, MORGAN SINDALL



BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

The project has a value of £7.1m and is a single phase of construction inclusive of the following:

1. The enabling works involve the demolition, clearance of the existing Sports and teaching blocks which were built in the 1960's and 1950's respectively.
2. The main works include the redevelopment of a brownfield site, construction of a new Sports, Business and Arts Block. The Morgan Sindall philosophy "Perfect Delivery" will be the vehicle to ensure high standards of safety, health and environmental controls are implemented inclusive of biodiversity measures to promote the positive interaction within the natural environment and local community.

An initial ecology report was completed on behalf of the client at the early design stage 29/10/13 by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) employed by Adonis Ecology

There are a number of mature trees present on site and these will be all retained to encourage nesting bird life.

There are a number of neglected borders with a number of plants growing in them that surround existing building due to be demolished. None of the plants found growing in these borders are considered rare and, or invasive or non-native. These borders will not be retained during demolition and clearance.

The new development will be built on 100% previously developed land (hard standing) thus saving any further displacement or disturbance to any established habitats.

The final planting scheme will include a greater area than was currently in place and will include 15 additional species of plants which will create a positive change to environment.

Fact box

Company name:
Morgan Sindall

Project name:
Canterbury College Block 18

Location:
Canterbury

Biodiversity enhancement:

- Tree retention
- New plant species
- Bird boxes
- Bug hotel

Size:
N/A

Cost:
Minimal, reuse of spare offcuts and fallen branches . The bark/mulch was supplied discounted

Tips:
Biodiversity and the local and wider environment should be thought about from the conception of the project and not as an afterthought. This allows many measures to be taken during the design process rather than "off the cuff" efforts during construction.

Year completed:
2014

Categories:

- Small scale permanent
- Small scale temporary
- Most innovative

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW (cont.)

The project due to length of timescales cannot be timed around bird nesting times. “*There is considered to be some potential for birds nesting in the mature trees*” which are growing within the site but as previously stated these trees will be retained and considered within the final site planting scheme. The site team were mindful and vigilant with regard to birds and their activities. There were no visible or apparent bird activities within the site boundary during the nesting periods.

A number of bird boxes have been introduced during the demolition and construction phase to the mature trees that will be retained on site. These bird boxes will remain in position after the construction phase has been completed and will be cared for by the premises management team. These bird boxes will be documented within the handover files. These bird boxes will target Sparrows and Starlings as recommended by Adonis Ecological Report but will also target Robins as there have been a number of Robins noted on site. ‘*Even entering into our site office*’. They have become quite friendly with our builders! The bird boxes that have been constructed of 100% FSC timber and will be untreated with preservatives.

A row of Swift nest boxes will be installed to the finished development in line with Adonis Ecological report. Along with these, there will be within the scope of the final landscaping scheme be clay and reed insect nests which will benefit native bee population.

A Five Year Ecological Management Plan has been developed and will be managed by the Site Project Manager and the nominated Biodiversity Champion.

The site biodiversity Champion’s responsibilities ‘Ben Davison’ will include but not restricted to influencing site activities and ensure that detrimental impacts on biodiversity are minimised in line with Adonis’s Ecological Report, carrying out site wide education on ecology during the project to ensure that the key points of Adonis Ecological Report are carried out and followed, where flora and, or fauna habitats exist on site, they will not be disturbed by site operations.

Within the site office area, retaining timbers borders have been constructed, log piles have been placed and recycled mulch chippings have been used to fill these soft borders under the existing trees within shaded conditions. This environment and provision of habitat will actively encourage insects, flora and fauna.

Pictures of the enhancements

