

## SELBY SWING BRIDGE, KIER CONSTRUCTION



### BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

For the refurbishment and mechanical upgrade of the Selby Swing Bridge (rail) - which spans the River Ouse and carries the Hull to Selby line - Kier devised a programme to engage with the local school and children.

Delivering to approximately 127 children over 2 days Craig O'Brien, Kier Environmental Manager (rail) and Megan Villic (Kier summer placement), delivered several workshops on 'wildlife and the environment' to the children at Barlby Bridge County Primary School in Selby.

The aim of workshops was to inspire and demonstrate the importance of looking after and understanding the local wildlife and environment as well as introducing the children to hands on activities. For the younger children activities included making bird feeders, while the older ones enjoyed dissecting owl pellets and discovering what owls like to eat!

All the bird feeders were hung up in school nature area to help encourage wildlife and to contribute to preserving the natural environment, while the sessions, which involved dissecting owl pellets gave the children an introduction to an iconic wildlife species.

Children were also given an opportunity to identify different habitats and species as well as enjoying a game where they had to guess the sound of all the owls found in the UK.

An important aspect of the workshops included enhancing the pupil's awareness about the dangers of playing on/near building sites and railways to ensure the children living near our sites are kept safe.

Craig also presented the school with a bird box, bird feeder, fat balls and several books all designed to enhance the school and inspire their pupils.

### Fact box

**Company name:**  
Kier Construction

**Project name:**  
Selby Swing Bridge

**Location:**  
Selby North Yorkshire

**Biodiversity enhancement:**

- Workshops on 'wildlife and the environment'
- Bird feeders
- Owl box

**Size:**  
N/A

**Cost:**

- 2 days out of the business
- Approx. £100 on resources
- 16 hours pre planning
- 2 hours collecting natural resources (in own time)

**Tips:**

- Always plan for the unexpected, especially when children are involved.
- Make sure you have owl pellets available as they are hard to come by especially in great numbers!
- Engage with the children, make sure they enjoy it, have fun but most of all they remember it.

**Year completed:**  
2014

### Categories:

- Small scale permanent
- Community engagement
- Most innovative

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## BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW (cont.)

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In addition the Project has agreed to sponsor an owl box on behalf of the school through the Hawk and Owl Trust. The box will be located in northern England with the school getting regular updates. Tim Moss (Kier Project Manager) said *“Adopting the owl box for the children of Barlby will help further enhance their knowledge of wildlife while also demonstrating the commitment by Kier to actively engage with our communities, while at the same time helping our wildlife.”*

On hearing Kier are to adopt an owl box for the school, David Barber (Head teacher Barlby Bridge) said *“Thanks Craig, that’s great news I’m sure the children will enjoy learning more about their owl and box over the coming months”*

Lesley Walker (class teacher Barlby Bridge - Selby) added *“During 2014-2015 the school is aiming to enhance the immediate and local environment by being involved in many eco projects like; constructing bird boxes and mini beast hotels, planting saplings, and we hope that the activities will help the children of Barlby Bridge develop a sense of environmental responsibility and we would love to work with Craig again as the children are desperate to learn more about his bees!”*

Craig said *“None of this would have been possible without the support of Kier and Network Rail who have really encouraged the sessions. The feedback both internally and externally has been amazing and it was a pleasure to visit Barlby Bridge. The children were incredible and soaked up the information and it was great to see everyone getting involved including the teachers with the hands on activities. Putting in the hours of planning paid off as I believe each child who attended got something from each of the sessions.”*

Darryl White (Network Rail PM for Selby further added *“It was great to see the Kier environment team deliver several hands-on interactive wildlife and environment awareness sessions at Barlby Bridge, and It has provided a fantastic opportunity to promote the environment in the local community. It further demonstrates the commitment Network Rail and Kier has in respect to supporting and engaging with the communities in which we work, all I can add is well done Kier!”*

Following the sessions Craig has received a ‘thank you’ letter from every pupil at the school.

### Pictures of the workshops



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