

## HIBERNACULUM BUND, KIER CONSTRUCTION



### BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

The Oxford Sewage Treatment Works project includes the improvement and upgrade of existing sludge treatment processes. The works included excavations and vegetation clearance. The site was also identified as having conservation value due to local records existing showing presence of grass snake and slow worms within the local area.

Proposal was made by the site team to create hibernacula within the new earth bund to provide suitable habitat for reptiles. Advice was sought to ensure planting, design and location would maximise the potential use by reptiles and other species.

Vegetation clearance commenced prior to October to ensure no disturbance of any nesting birds and other wildlife. The hibernaculum was constructed on the South and South East facing slopes in well-draining soils. The base was constructed of rocks, stones and logs and then covered with branches and brush, a geotextile was then placed on top to prevent erosion or collapse as well as to provide insulation and protection from frost. The bund was then completed with soils creating small gaps to ensure openings were left open for reptiles and other species to enter. Materials to complete the structure were site won. Timber and branches were sourced through the vegetation removals prior to works commencing, and soils from excavations during works.

Following the completion of the structure, the bund was seeded with plant species of local provenance, to encourage the scrub growth. Since completion, the hibernaculum has been left to develop naturally.

The photograph shows the structure as it is today. Whilst the bund was bare during the summer months; it also proved to be a nesting area for solitary wasps. Hibernaculum was completed in June 2013, the project is still on-going.



### Fact box

**Company name:**  
Kier Construction

**Project name:**  
Hibernaculum Bund

**Location:**  
Oxford

**Biodiversity enhancement:**  
Hibernaculum

**Size:**  
N/A

**Cost:**  
£0, site won materials, additional man hours only to make the hibernaculum

### **Tips:**

- Ensure timing of build to maximise potential for site won materials (e.g. after scrub clearance)
- Seek advice for local plant species to ensure full benefits for the bund

**Year completed:**  
2013

### Categories:

- Small scale permanent