

Manchester Business Park

Case Record



Location	Manchester
Client	Arlington Securities plc
Main Contractor	Carillion Building

Environmental Initiative

Waste reduction through the recycling of used wooden pallets.

The reduction, re-use and recycling of materials is one of the key principles in the ever-growing problem of waste management. As with many other construction sites the project at Manchester Business Park faced the problem of accumulating pallets. To take them off site to landfill disregards the principles of sustainability. With the ever increasing cost of landfill this may no longer be the most economically or sustainably viable solution.

Other solutions over the years have involved companies advertising "Pallets Wanted". However, the response to this is often "wrong size, colour etc". Phone calls to the manufacturer who supplied them usually deal with the problem by saying "next time we have a wagon in your area we will pick them up". They are then very rarely in your area.

At the Manchester Business Park site Peter Hanson (Health, Safety and Environment Management) was set the challenge by the Project Manager Syd Charmley to find a sustainable solution to this problem

The solution was found in a company called Enviromulch, who create bark mulch from the pallet. It was decided that there would have to be a trial period to test the company's system as it was important that this was a solution that fulfilled the criteria of sustainability as well as health and safety guidelines.

Enviromulch supply and remove 40 cubic yard skips from the sites. From there the pallets would be repaired or reworked to sell on for future use. If they were beyond repair the pallets are chipped and a biodegradable dye added.

By chipping the pallet the wood pulp is absorbed into the earth at a greater speed than just leaving it to rot away. This makes it a sustainable - Cradle to Grave Scenario. All parts of the pallet are recycled including ring nails. They are collected with a high powered magnet after the pallet is chipped and then sold to the local scrap merchant for recycling.

The trial was completed at Manchester successfully and will hopefully be used on other projects in the future.

There was also a site visit to Enviromulch by Syd Charmley, Project Manager and Peter Hanson to follow the procedure through to conclusion.

As well as pallets the skips were used for the storage of all the off-cuts of timber shuttering waste, with the joiners helping themselves for re-use. The remaining timber was then sent to Enviromulch for the same treatment as the pallets.

Enviromulch are currently processing approximately 400 tonnes of timber per day for production into wood fibre.