

# Sustrans School Travel Case Study: Somerford Community Primary School, Dorset

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**Title of project:** Sustainable Habitat Cycle Shelter

**Type of School:** Primary

**Location of school:** Christchurch, Dorset

**Partners:** DCC

**Key Features:** Sustainable Cycle Parking, Pupil Involvement, Educational resource

**Initiative:** The school contracted the company Terra Perma to build a cycle shelter made of locally sourced sustainable materials. The shelter has a green roof and wildlife habitat features.

Head teacher, Neil Tarchetti, says: "Throughout the process the children have been involved in various ways. The shelter is very exciting as it is not just a bike shelter. It is made from 100% sustainable materials and it will actually grow and be a home for wildlife! Children from the school have planted the meadow which makes up the roof, built the walls and painted the shelter. The walls of the shelter have been filled with various things such as logs, bug walls, honeysuckle and reeds. Each part of the wall makes a good habitat for some form of wildlife or minibeast. This means that as time goes on we will be able to use the shelter in our Science lessons to look at habitats. Although it was freezing cold the children enjoyed working with the eco-friendly materials to build the shelter. They used paint to make hand prints and paint some of the panels. What we didn't tell the children at the time was that the paint is actually edible!"

## **Outcomes:**

- The new cycle parking saves children pushing their bikes all the way up to the other end of school. Now pupils who cycle to school and come in the back gate will have a shed close by to park their bikes in
- pupil participation and sense of ownership raised awareness of the new cycle parking facility
- the shelter provides an ongoing educational resource
- no net loss of green space
- enhanced habitat for wildlife.

## **Costs and Funding:**

The school secured a cycle parking grant from Sustrans

**Problems and solutions:** The only problem was involving the children in freezing weather and snow. We should have installed the shelter at a warmer time of year! As it was we just had to wrap up warm!

**Case study contact details:** [www.somerford.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.somerford.dorset.sch.uk) or email [office@somerford.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@somerford.dorset.sch.uk)



**The shelter in full use!**



**The new shelter just prior to completion, with view of the green roof**



**Getting messy during construction**



**Planting up the shelter**

