



## M62 SMART MOTORWAY JUNCTIONS 10-12 MANCHESTER

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND (CLIENT) BMJV (BAM & MORGAN SINDALL JOINT VENTURE)

### BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award Category: *Biodiversity Legacy Award*

#### Project overview

We used World Environment Day to motivate and engage all staff to get involved with biodiversity and improve their own environment at home. We briefed staff on the benefits of biodiversity and everyone was issued with a packet of wildflower seeds.

#### What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?

There is very limited opportunity given the nature of a Smart Motorways scheme for on site biodiversity enhancement, however work is progressing to ensure adjacent designated sites and great crested newts are mitigated for and invasive weeds are managed to protect biodiversity. We are committed as a project to enhance biodiversity and have therefore considered how we can do this off-site.

#### What were the reasons behind this project ?

Recognising the positive benefits that relatively small biodiversity action can have, the M62 J10-12 Smart Motorway project environmental team used World Environment Day 2019 to raise awareness. Environmental performance on the scheme has also been exemplary to date so we thought it was also an opportunity to give something back to the staff and supply chain.

Also we were looking to support our Client Highways England with achieving one of their key performance indicators; to improve biodiversity.



*Project specific Wildflower Seeds*

## What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The project environmental team prepared a briefing note to communicate World Environment day prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> June and circulated to all project staff. The communication thanked all staff for efforts to date regarding the project environmental performance and offered all staff some wildflower seeds to take home for their use.

Wildflower seed was purchased from Landlife Wildflowers and recycled paper envelopes filled with enough seed to sow a typical planted area of a home garden (2-4m<sup>2</sup>). We purchased seed that contained a minimum of 30% wildflower and staff had the opportunity to take more seed based on their available garden space.

A link to the sowing and care instructions was printed on the front of all the envelopes for ease of use and to ensure successful growth of wildflowers in the future.

We also prepared a toolbox talk style briefing for the supply chain workforce on biodiversity and invited them to take home some wildflower seed as well. An offer was also made to any staff who wanted to take additional seeds for their local community groups. Requests for extra seeds included a school gardening club, a scout hut project and a golf course boundary enhancement. Any seeds left over will be donated to local school groups that the project has been carrying out other community engagement activities with.

Internally we shared the initiative with the rest of the organisation on social media to allow others to replicate, and allow us to further increase biodiversity.



*Posters at collection points for wildflower seeds*

## World Environment Day– 5th June

World environmental day this year concentrates on air pollution. An effective way of minimising air pollution is to increase biodiversity. bmJV are giving everyone working on the m62 j10-12 project a pack of wild flower seeds for their own garden to try and increase biodiversity in a wider area than the project footprint. Seeds will be available in the wellbeing room from Wednesday 5th June in two sizes;

- Small– up to 2sqm
- Large– up to 4sqm



**Thank you to everyone on the project for maintaining a high environmental standard**

### Further information

Interest in the Wildflower seed giveaway project has been fantastic from both staff and the supply chain. We believe that this initiative will leave a lasting legacy for the project and its interest in enhancing biodiversity. Everyone working on the project and planting seeds in their own garden can tell a story regarding the wildflowers when they grow for years to come.

We expect an area of more than 600m<sup>2</sup> to be enhanced as a result of the Wildflower seed giveaway (based on the staff uptake of seeds). In addition this does not include the area planted via the community organisations we will and have donated seed to.

### Project Team

- BMJV Environmental Team

### What was the motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Engaging with construction staff and in particular the supply chain on environmental matters. Biodiversity is tangible but the benefits underestimated. Raising awareness about the bigger environmental issues but providing a simple way of us all getting involved means a real difference can be made!



*Environmental Team on World Environment Day 2019*