

**73 Brook Street
Mayfair, London**

Brookfield Multiplex Construction Europe Ltd. (BMCE)

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Temporary Award

Project overview

The 73 Brook Street Project is located in the heart of Mayfair in a mixed commercial and residential area. The project comprises the demolition of the existing building (by a third party) and the subsequent construction of a new commercial building arranged over the lower ground, ground and five upper floors.

The project is targeting a BREEAM score of 'Very Good' and includes the provision of PV panels. An average of 25 operatives work on this small and constrained site. With the exception of the front steps all external areas of the site form part of the active working area.

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

Prior to the enhancement no vegetation was present on site.

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?

The Project entered the BIG Biodiversity Challenge as part of BMCE's commitment to enhancing biodiversity on our construction sites. The Project's entrance was voluntary.



Image of planters on site.



What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Given the tight site constraints and lack of external areas two planter containers six lavender plants were made and sited at the site entrance primarily to provide habitat for pollinating species.

The planters were constructed using waste timber (FSC certified) from site operations. Following research lavender plants were selected as the plant species of choice given their capacity to attract and feed a relatively large number of pollinators. Furthermore, the plants should flower during the relatively short construction programme and provide a source of nectar after the local third party hanging baskets have died back.

It is hoped that the planters will help attract more pollinators (bees in particular) to the area and support pollinators already utilising the existing third party hanging baskets. It is hoped that the measures will result in a net biodiversity gain (albeit a small increase).

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement

Further information

Given the recent planting of the lavender we are yet to note an increase in pollinators. However, this small contribution has increased the site team's awareness of the BIG Challenge and will hopefully lead to further involvement in site biodiversity initiatives on future projects where the opportunity for significant improvements will be greater.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

I have a long standing interest in biodiversity and environmental sustainability issues. I am a strong believer that the key factor hampering efforts to reverse the decline in worldwide biodiversity is driven by poor awareness and a lack of relevant education. The BIG Challenge and other similar initiatives are helping raise awareness and address environmental issues.