

TIDEWAY WEST LONDON/UK

BMB – BAM Nuttall, Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure and Balfour Beatty

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Temporary Award

Project overview

Thames Tideway Tunnel is a tunnel which is being built to tackle the problem of **overflows from London's Victorian sewers** for at least the next 100 years, and enable the UK to meet European environmental standards. The project has been split up into three main works packages - West, Central and East. The main works contractor for the West section is BMB, a joint venture between Bam Nuttall, Morgan Sindall and Balfour Beatty. The biodiversity enhancement measures took place at Carnwath Road, the main drive site for the western section of the tunnel, an urban area in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The measures consisted of planting up various receptacles with plants specifically chosen to attract pollinators. Led by the environment team with support from members of the site team, the cost was approximately £70 which was for the peat free compost and the plants.

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

The Carnwath Road site is bounded to the south by the River Thames and is comprised of two wharfs (Whiffin Wharf and the safeguarded Hurlingham Wharf). Covered by hard standing, there were areas of scrub within the site of negligible ecological value.

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

There were no specific conditions which led to carrying out the works. The Tideway project has an overarching environmental legacy commitment to protect and enhance the environment, and BMB has adopted a number of objectives to enhance biodiversity, including implementing one enhancement at **each of our seven worksites in line with CIRIA's The Big Biodiversity Challenge 'Do one thing'.**



Hard hat planted with Lavender

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Planting of a selection of flowers and herbs specifically attractive to pollinators. Receptacles used included old hard hats which would otherwise have been disposed of as waste, and a planter reused from a previous project. The enhancements undertaken require very little maintenance and can be easily replicated. They were also relatively inexpensive as other than the plants and the compost, no other materials were purchased.

Members of the site team were involved in siting the receptacles, preparing them prior to planting and in collecting the compost and plants. The actual planting of the receptacles was undertaken by the environment team, who also chose the plants.

Construction works at the site at Carnwath Road have only just begun. The site will change dramatically over the coming months and the temporary office and welfare facilities will be replaced with accommodation that will remain in place for the duration of the project.

Although the planting receptacles will have to be moved to facilitate these changes, it was thought worthwhile to put some enhancement measures in place now. Works at this site are not due to be completed until 2022, so there is plenty of time to add to and improve upon the measures already implemented.



Preparing the large planter

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement

Further information

Installation firstly involved sourcing the receptacles to be used, which included collecting the large planter which we wanted to reuse from a completed project associated with one of the JV parent companies. All receptacles were then cleaned, locations chosen for then to be installed, and once installed, filled with compost and planted up.

All the planters have been sited on or around the security cabin, so are one of the first things staff and visitors see when they access the site. Our objective was to implement one biodiversity enhancement on site which we have done, however this is only the start of a bigger project, as there is plenty of scope for additional measures to be implemented. Going forward we would also hope to engage the local residents and schools in these enhancement measures.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

It's important to promote biodiversity wherever we can, even if the measures are relatively small and of a temporary nature. Bees are having a hard time of it at present, so we wanted to plant flowers that would attract them by providing a source of pollen and nectar.



Finished planters