

C10871 – Stoke Gifford IEP Depot

Stoke Gifford, Bristol, South Gloucester

Volker Fitzpatrick Rail

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Small scale permanent

Project overview

To create this project a dozen members of staff assisted with the construction and implementation of the bog garden.

The area it is situated in, is one of the earthwork formed bunds that has been hydro-seeded, adjacent to the mains access road to the depot.

The bog garden will help encourage more biodiversity into the area. There were minimal costs, they were for the plants, as the pond, stones and soil were all either donated from members of the team or sourced from site.

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

Prior to development there were some biodiversity evident, 31 invertebrates, slow worms, birds and other insects were found when a survey was carried out in 2011.

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



Photo: Close up view of the bog pond

This project did not have any specific conditions for biodiversity placed on it, however working with the environment team we felt it was necessary to compensate for the construction and help the local population of species.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The long term management will be minimal as the plants chosen for the bog will help regulate the water conditions, making it suitable for the animals that could be attracted to the area.

This idea could be deemed as innovative as it is not normal practise within the construction industry.

It is simply, easy to install and maintain. It can be estimated that this feature will see an increase in toads, frogs and aquatic invertebrates once settling is complete.

It will complement the current wildlife within the site that in turn should boost the local numbers. Many of the staff helped with the implementation of the pond from cutting material, digging out the space and planting the flowers.

Furthermore many have offered materials from their own gardens such as: plants and logs. Material found on site were also reused, top soil, stones and

logs were used to help create areas for frogs to hide.

How would you best describe the project?
An enhancement.

Further information

To install the bog pond a hole was dug out of the side of the existing bund, amongst the wild flowers and grasses.

Stones and soil were placed in the bottom before it was filled with water. Plants were then placed on the ledge to create the refuge for the animals.

A rockery was erected on the edge to create space for frogs and invertebrates to shelter. The long term benefits should see a rise in toads; frogs and aquatic invertebrates that will help encourage more diverse wildlife.

The pond is still in the early days, and has not reached its full potential, however there has been signs of wildlife in and around the pond which is a positive sign.

If this project were to be carried out again it would be completed at an earlier stage of the main projects development so it would grow into the surrounding area.



Photo: Side view of the bog pond with the to show positioning

This project demonstrates how biodiversity can be created and achieved with minimal time and cost but more enthusiasm and effort.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The environment team felt it was important to create habitats for the local wildlife not only temporary measures but long terms one too.

This project will leave a legacy that demonstrates the Volker Fitzpatrick Rails commitment to environmental biodiversity.