

Farringdon Station, Crossrail London, England

Crossrail, BFK, Friends of City Gardens, studio xmpl, 1st Crystal Palace (2nd Croydon) Scouts,

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Temporary Award

Project overview

This is the construction of the new Elizabeth Line station here at Farringdon. Two new ticket halls are connected by underground mined platforms. The western end located on the corner of Farringdon Road and Cowcross Street will provide access to and from the Thameslink ticket hall. Farringdon Station will provide a major transport interchange in the heart of central London. There are over 600 people involved in the construction which has been on site for over seven years. This is a major Civil Engineering project that is currently being fitted out in readiness for opening at the end of 2018. This is part of the £14.8bn railway.

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

This was a neglected street corner next to our site entrance.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

Following on from the Barbican Station pop up garden, by the Friends of City Gardens, we chose this to promote the City Air Challenge initiative for Barbican and Golden Lane Low Emission Neighbourhood. It gave the scouts the chance to partake in site activities as we raised money for their den. Crossrail are keen to help out the local community to help Green the Grey Streets of London and to provide a touch of orange and sunshine to world.



Photo Description: Crossrail, Friends of City Gardens, Skanska Women in Construction, 1st Crystal Palace Scouts and studio xmpl, Sarah Hudson (Friends of City Gardens)

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The garden is located at a busy road intersection near Farringdon Rail Station in London and provides the only street level green space within the immediate area. The design was based on incorporating materials used on site, including waste wood and surplus ducting, demonstrating that even construction materials could be used effectively to create a dynamic and biodiverse garden habitat and encouraging replication by other businesses and construction sites.

A variety of plant species have been used with focus on bee friendly species which also provide additional vibrancy to the area. Plant choice to provide a range of foliage heights and perennial species provides a more complex habitat structure to encourage other invertebrate species and ensure longevity of this garden. This is supported by creating of bug houses on the site hoarding behind it, adding further micro habitats into what was once a paved area. The garden was built by site staff and planted with support from the Friends of City Gardens, members of a scout group that the project is currently supporting through other sponsored events and apprentice engineers from Skanska's 'Women in Engineering' programme.

The garden has inspired creation of a further garden within the site boundary (currently being planned as part of the project environment week) to provide additional habitat. Judging from the numbers of pedestrians who have stopped to admire the garden and take pictures, this pop up garden will also inspire many other to create their own green space, providing many more pockets of biodiversity within both the local area and across London.

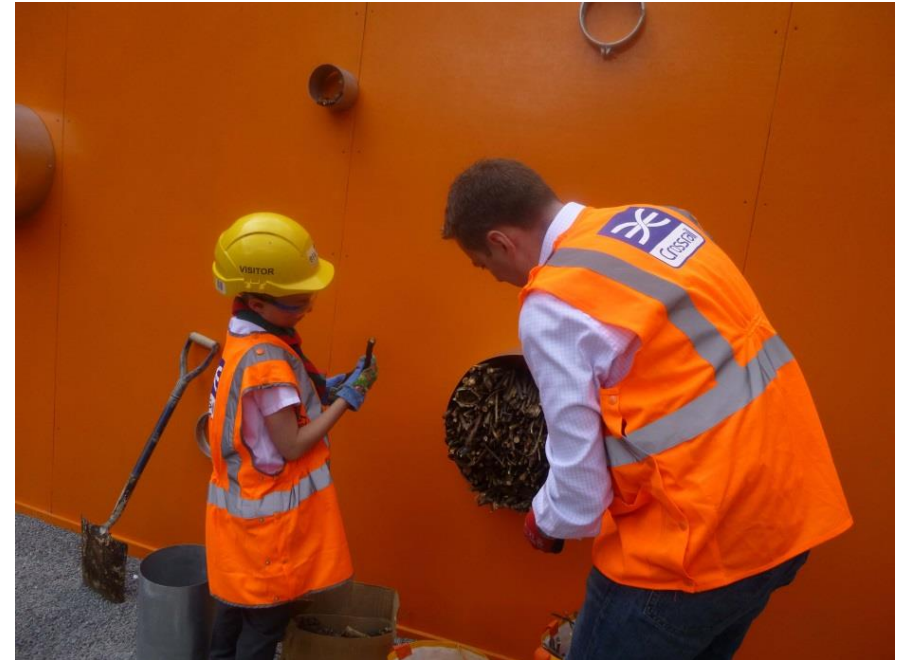


Photo Description: Creation of a Bug Hotel, 1st Crystal Palace cub scout and Crossrail Site Manager, Sarah Hudson (Friends of City Gardens)

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

This would be a welcomed addition to our living wall on Farringdon Road and to the garden at Barbican Station.

How would you best describe the project?

Please state: Enhancement

Further information

This project was inspired by our involvement with the Friends of City Gardens who inspired us to join the City in Bloom Challenge for 2017. With our support of the Barbican Station garden and our living wall installation on Farringdon Road we were then tasked with promoting clean air and biodiversity within the City of London. With the design done by the excellent studio xmpl, the site team then used site rejected ducting and materials to create the outline of the garden. With the backdrop created the cubs of the 1st Crystal Palace (2nd Croydon) Scouts then created the bug hotels to enhance the biodiversity in the area. They then helped the Women in Construction team, from Skansa, plant the garden. The plants were provided by the Friends of City Gardens, Marion Blair and Sarah Hudson.

The installation is an eye catching orange, our personal protective clothing colour, and using circles representing the tunnels of the station we have created a striking feature that cannot be missed. It is a ray of sunshine on these grey city streets and allowed us to work with the community to show what we can do when we all work together for the greater good.



What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

My motivation was to allow the 1st Crystal Palace (2nd Croydon) scout who we have been raising money for to come to site to help the team create something striking. Their work along with the Friend of City Gardens and the Women in Construction helps to promote and enhance biodiversity in the City of London