

POPULATING AND POLLINATING PIRBRIGHT'S PASTURES, THE PIRBRIGHT INSTITUTE



BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

The Pirbright Institute in Surrey is currently in the process of constructing a new 11,065m² high containment research laboratory that will further develop The Pirbright Institute as a world-class centre of excellence for research into viral diseases of livestock, after securing over £100m from the BBSRC to fund the project. The Pirbright Institute have committed to increasing the biodiversity present on site for the foreseeable future, both during and post the construction phase.

The Pirbright Institute comprises of a site that has a total of 300 acres of land, some of which has been used to encourage wildlife to permanently populate the chosen areas. To enable this, we have introduced a number of biodiversity enhancements to site, implemented new environmental management schedules and introduced new planting policies. There are a number of mini biodiversity projects that have been rolled out and future projects post BIG Challenge awards that are planned along with maintenance schedules and planting policies that have been implemented to maintain and monitor all biodiversity enhancements.

Mini-project 1: Reptilian Retreat - We have transformed 6.5 hectares of grassland into a reptile receptor site complete with a mosaic of 5 scrapes with different textures, 10 hibernacula, 4 grass snake laying areas and 6 brush piles and translocated 1024 reptiles to the new habitats created on site. Receptor sites are regularly monitored in house and hibernacula maintenance is in place.

Mini-project 2: Seeing Dead Wood Through the Trees - We have given a small 2 acre woodland a biodiversity overhaul. Here we have cleared and refilled a pond that had dried out, created various insect habitats by creating log piles, brush piles, standing dead wood, lying dead wood and building large bug hotels. We have also put up bird boxes in this small woodland.

Fact box

Company name:

The Pirbright Institute

Project name:

Populating And Pollinating Pirbright's Pastures

Location:

Pirbright, Surrey

Biodiversity enhancement:

- Reptile habitat creation
- Insect habitat creation
- Bird boxes
- Stag beetle habitat creation
- Bee hives
- Native species planting
- Wildflower meadows

Size:

- 6.5ha reptile receptor site
- 2ac insect habitat
- 3000 native plant species
- 5ac wildflower meadow

Cost:

All wood and some other construction materials on site have been recycled to create various insect, bird and reptile habitats.

Tips:

A little hard work by a few people can make a huge difference.

Year completed:

2014

Categories:

- Large scale permanent
- Small scale permanent
- Pollinator

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW (cont.)

Mini-project 3: Ain't no home small enough - Elsewhere on site, we have created a stag beetle habitat with decaying oak logs, put up house martin nest boxes and other bird boxes on carefully selected buildings, posts / trees around site.

Mini-project 4: Best Buzzing Hive - We have created enclaves for bee keepers with bee hives.

Enhancement Management Plans:

- We have implemented a native plant species policy and are only planting native plants in pots and integrated this with the construction and landscaping plans, where we plan to plant approximately 3000 different native plant species.
- We have introduced an environmental management plan, which includes maintaining field margins, less frequent mowing of meadows and opening up of existing woodland with the removal of dense scrub.

Long-term Plans:

We plan to create a 5 acre wild flower meadow upon completion of constructions ending in 2020.

Pictures of the enhancements



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