

One Nine Elms Vauxhall, London, UK

Multiplex Construction, Access Logistics, McGee's and Wanda ONE

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Temporary

Project overview

The One Nine Elms development is a mixed used scheme of two high rise towers in the urban setting of Vauxhall, London. The demolition started in 2015 with the project due to complete in 2021 and will include high end residential apartments (CfSH Level 4) as well as a 5* hotel and retail space (BREEAM Very Good). A central plaza will also complete the linear park running through the Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea Regeneration area.

The plazas created within the development will incorporate tilting green lawns, plating beds and scattered trees throughout. A series of 'garden rooms' are also proposed along the café and retail frontages. The planting scheme will include a variety of nectar rich plants and native species, as well as bird boxes for starlings, house sparrows and the black redstart; all London BAP species.

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

Prior to the demolition of the existing buildings the site was considered by a suitably qualified ecologist to be of low ecological value. Both habitat type and individual biodiversity was considered negligible.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

Although CfSH, BREEAM and Planning requirements all influenced the decision to undertake the temporary enhancements, the overriding factor was the enthusiasm and focus of the site team.

It is a Multiplex corporate target to take part in the CIRIA BIG Challenge on all of our projects by installing temporary, and where possible, permanent ecological enhancements.

By engaging the Multiplex site team, subcontractors and the Client, the project has been able to effectively raise awareness of the need to protect and enhance biodiversity



Photo Description: One Nine Elms Biodiversity Area (Maria Cachafeiro, Multiplex)

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Due to the extremely small footprint of the site, it was very challenging for the team to find adequate space to implement the biodiversity enhancements that they had in mind. To overcome this the team decided the best place to position the area was immediately before, and immediately after, the site security hut. This not only maximises the sites ability to showcase what the BIG Challenge is all about but also provides a welcoming entrance to the construction site for employees and visitors.

In line with the waste hierarchy and the One Nine Elms (ONE) target of reducing overall waste, many of the temporary enhancements have been created with reclaimed materials from site. This includes pallets, timber off cuts and tubing. Several members of the wider ONE team put forward their suggestions which were then built out of the excess waste. Using these materials the site team have been able to create a raft of different bird boxes (sizing appropriate to different species) as well as bug hotels and even a wormery.

The wormery recycles some of the waste food from the site canteen to make a superb fertiliser for the plants that have been put in place to attract invertebrates to the bug hotels. The wormery is perfect for the small space the site team have as its compact, doesn't smell and can make compost faster than conventional methods.



Photo Description: A couple of the bug hotels (Maria Cachafeiro, Multiplex)

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The ONE Biodiversity Area has been showcased to the wider Multiplex teams to highlight the good practice and to ensure it is replicated across all appropriate sites. To ensure the project is sustainable and has a positive effect on biodiversity levels, Access have taken responsibility for its long term management in partnership with the Multiplex Sustainability Manager helping to improve teamwork and morale across the site.

How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

Further information

As previously mentioned the installation of the ONE Biodiversity Area involved the entire site team. Design and suggestions were put forward and then a variety of these were built by using what would otherwise be waste materials from the main site. The location was chosen for access but also for the added benefit of being the first thing that will be seen as employees and visitors arrive, really emphasising the projects passion for biodiversity and the wider environment.

If we were to revisit the scheme it may be more valuable to locate the bird boxes in other locations – due to the pedestrian traffic regularly going passed. There has however been a noticeable increase in invertebrate biodiversity around the enhancements and the wormery is working well.

In terms of supporting the BIG Biodiversity Challenge, getting the entire site team involved from the outset has given the greatest benefit. It has allowed us, as Main Contractor, to continue those conversations through to other environmental issues such as waste management or energy efficiency in a much more positive manner.



*Photo Description: The site wormery
(Andrew Hodges, Multiplex)*

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The entire One Nine Elms site team are acutely aware of the negative impact that construction has on the local environment. It is always our intention to ensure we can mitigate these impacts but if we are able to go further, enhance biodiversity and increase the awareness of environmental issues, this is a major bonus and something that should be encouraged.