

## BRINGING SITE TO SCHOOLS, HOCHTIEF TAYLOR WOODROW JOINT VENTURE



### BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

The Bexhill to Hastings Link Road aims to regenerate the most deprived area in the south east and indeed, one of the most deprived in the UK. Construction works on site have also opened up new opportunities for community engagement with biodiversity. The project approached Crowhurst Primary School and supported their curriculum work on the environment by highlighting the importance of biodiversity and the ways in which the project has helped to protect wildlife on and around site. It aimed to develop an interest in construction and change the outdated perception that the industry works antagonistic to biodiversity and the environment.

Biodiversity is a key sustainability challenge facing the world and we believe that engagement with the next generation will be instrumental to achieve positive environmental change for the future. Our work with Crowhurst Primary School is also part of ongoing outreach work to build positive relationships between the project and local people, the social component to sustainability.

After discussions with the headmaster to determine expectations and appropriate material to be delivered, all pupils (aged 5-11) attended a school assembly explaining the steps taken throughout the project to safeguard and enhance biodiversity and provide a home for wildlife. We showed photographs of the badger sett created to keep these animals safe from construction works, showed videos of live animals from camera trap captures and handed round bat boxes being incorporated into the road design to encourage nesting of these protected species. During individual class presentations, the children were encouraged to ask questions about the project and the biodiversity found on site.

After the positive reception of the assembly and class presentations by both staff and pupils, 25 children from the school's General and Environmental Councils were invited on a site visit. They were given a tour of the site and shown how biodiversity protection has been considered within the project design.

### Fact box

**Company name:**  
Hochtief Taylor Woodrow Joint Venture

**Project name:**  
Bringing site to schools

**Location:**  
Bexhill to Hastings Link Road,  
East Sussex

**Biodiversity enhancement:**  
School engagement

**Size:**  
N/A

**Cost:**  
Employee time and minimal  
material costs

#### **Tips:**

- Tailor presentations and language towards the audience age group
- Visual aids helped to keep the children listening and enforces take-home messages
- Adding a competitive element to activities encourages child engagement
- Practical activities facilitate discussion and further learning through question and answers

**Year completed:**  
2014

### Categories

- Community engagement

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## BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW *(cont.)*

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The children were allowed to sit inside dumper trucks to produce posters representing what they had learnt, an activity which was presented as a competition. The winning drawing has been mounted and displayed at the site entrance. The rest have been positioned at various locations around site and serve as a reminder to site workers to be environmentally aware.

Goody bags were distributed before the children left, allowing them to take something home to remember the day. This included a memory stick, pen and notepad as well as a Lego builder's kit donated by our project partners. By involving our project partners in this way, we also encouraged consideration for biodiversity and business environmental improvement within other organisations outside of Taylor Woodrow. By extension, this demonstrates to employees that biodiversity is an important consideration within all aspects of the construction process in the hope that this will carry over into their daily lives.

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