

**LOWASP – Bountagu Community Allotment**  
**London - Enfield – Edmonton Green**  
**J. Murphy and Sons Ltd**

**BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Small Scale Permanent**

**Project overview**

As part of the London Overground West Anglia Station refurbishment Programme (LOWASP) J. Murphy and Sons Ltd. identified an opportunity that benefited the local community of Edmonton. The Bountagu Community Centre is in possession of a run down allotment and expressed a wish for accessible planters for the elderly or those with limited movement to enjoy the allotment. Murphy operatives attended site to cut and strim the overgrown grass and memorial orchard.

Using excess materials from other projects, two raised planters were constructed. Benches that had been removed from the local Edmonton Green train station were installed, and three bug hotels were installed to aid pollination of sown vegetables.

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

Due to the lack of management on the site it was largely overgrown with tall ruderal, tussocky grassland and provided little importance in terms of biodiversity.

**Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?**

As the construction programme included works on 4 stations within Enfield, it was decided to try to give something back to the community in light of the potential disturbance caused.

By liaising with a community group local to the Edmonton Green overground station it was possible to provide some benefits for those directly affected by the construction works.



*Overgrown state of allotment prior to project*

## What were the biodiversity measures taken?

This small scale project focused on reusing materials in order to improve the allotment space for the community group. Left over sustainably sourced timber was used to construct 2 raised planters which will enable people with limited movement to enjoy gardening, while 2 benches that had been replaced as part of the London Overground Project were reused to allow people a place to sit and rest following their gardening. The planters were filled with spare sub soil under a U1 exemption that had been procured from a different J. Murphy and Sons project.

An existing rotting tree stump was left in situ as this is a prime habitat for the Stag Beetle, one of London's target species within the BAP, and 3 bug hotels were installed, 1 on each planter and 1 on the shed to promote pollinators throughout the site.

Whilst never intended to be a project of huge importance from a biodiversity perspective, this project used all recycled materials apart from the bug hotels. After the community group use the planters it is hoped that the pollination will be aided by the provision of the bug hotels which will aid the allotment.

Long term management will be achieved by the community group.



*Murphy staff working on the planters*

## How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

## Further information

This project was undertaken over 2 visits to the allotment. The first, to cut and strim the overgrown areas of grass was done under supervision from an ecologist, who then carried out a Phase 1 Habitat Survey to identify any potential biodiversity implementations.

The planters were constructed on the second visit, with the sub soil being transported from a different project.

A future visit to the scheme is planned when the community group have an open day at the allotment to attract interest from the local community.

Lessons learnt – it doesn't need to be expensive for projects to make a difference to a community. As a construction company we have access to resources that the normal public don't have and therefore can make a significant difference by simply providing 'left over' materials at hardly any expense.

This will now set a precedent with future projects looking to liaise with a local community group in order to see if there is any way we can provide resources.

## What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The motivation for this project was simply an attempt to aid a community that could have been disturbed by our construction works in the local area.



*One of three bug hotels installed throughout the site*