

Biodiversity at London Bridge- ‘Bee Enhancement Project’ London Bridge Station, London

Costain

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Pollinator

Project overview

As part of Costain’s inaugural Wildlife week, the London Bridge Station Redevelopment (LBSR) implemented a project aimed to increase pollinator awareness amongst staff.

Working with St Mungo’s ‘Putting Down Roots’, six project volunteers attended an apiary inspection in St Johns church in Waterloo to learn about urban bee keeping.

Following this the volunteers went onto build planters for a community garden out of pallets recycled from the project, using pollinator friendly plants.

The day in Waterloo inspired staff to implement a similar initiative at the site offices; planted troughs made from our recycled timber with Lavender, Calamintha and a few other flowering plants to encourage the pollination of bees.

Using the relationship with St Mungo’s and project donated materials, there were no financial costs associated with the activities.



Photo: Apiary inspection with St Mungo’s charity

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

Being an urban rail project, London Bridge is not known for being a hot spot for wildlife. The works do not impact habitats or biodiversity rich areas.

Nonetheless, Costain are committed to establishing a “net gain” in the surrounding area.

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?

This event was another example of LBSR continuing its relationship with St Mungo’s and the local community.

The event was organised as part of Costain’s Wildlife Week which aimed to facilitate biodiversity initiatives across the

company; to educate and engage with staff, local communities and charities, and to promote and enhance biodiversity within the area.

This biodiversity enhancement project was integral to this and to LBSR's overall commitment of leaving a sustainable legacy and achieving a positive impact upon the environment by providing small enhancement changes around site and within the local area.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The production of the pollinating pallets can be replicated at any construction site by using recycled pallets to create long lasting pollinating habitats for the bees.

The pollinating pallets that were created during the volunteer day have been placed in community gardens within the Borough of Southwark therefore contributing to the aim of increasing long lasting biodiversity and adding ecological value to the local area.

The volunteers that attended the events were fully engaged with the activities carried out as they understood the importance of their work.



Photo: Completed pollinating pallets at the Peabody Estate

Each staff member that attended was given the opportunity to plant wildflowers seeds for their personal garden which allowed their awareness to not only be utilised at work but at home also.

Due to the success and awareness gained from this day, a number of troughs were built, made out of recycled timber from our site, which we planted with pollinator plants. This has

helped with the project biodiversity target to achieve a net gain in biodiversity as well as providing a more attractive area for staff to enjoy as the troughs are now located at the front of site offices.

An ongoing maintenance plan for the planting troughs has been implemented to encourage the growth and flowering of the plants all year round with the potential

for more wildlife flower planters to be implemented later in the autumn for spring flowering.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Costain's commitment to sustainability and the development of the relationship with St Mungo's was the momentum behind this project.

By providing simple, adaptable measures that help towards improving the environment and biodiversity allowed the organisation to work towards, and achieve its overarching commitment.



Photo: Implementing biodiversity at Beazley House