

Pudding Mill Lane Substation
Cooks road, Pudding Mill Lane, London
 J Murphy and Son Ltd.

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Temporary

Project overview

This large scale infrastructure project involves building a high voltage electrical substation that will feed Crossrail in east London.

Site programme runs from Spring 2015 to Autumn 2016. All site personnel (10) have been embraced the sustainability project - exchanging ideas and sourcing suitable materials for use before implementing the improvements.

The site compound was selected for flower beds for several reasons – it gives a good first impression upon arrival to site, the plants can be monitored and maintained more easily and it can be accessed safely, away from any vehicle movements.

The joiner was tasked with identifying any suitable lengths of timber that could be used for flower beds, painting contractors were already on site and painted them.

A local community garden centre was identified to source seeds and plants



Photo: Waste timber used to create plant boxes

from. The total cost was £50 for new materials bought which were offset by savings made from reducing waste and reusing materials.

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

The area is a brownfield site in east London with a history of heavy industrial usage over the past 150 years and large scale infrastructure projects more recently.

Biodiversity has greatly improved by the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, but the area surrounding site is still scarce with poor habitat in the immediate vicinity.

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

N/A no specific requirement or planning condition.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Because of the ready availability of the materials used - off cuts of timber shuttering, a section of plastic piping and stone chippings - this can be replicated across all sites as a very cost effective, low-maintenance way of creating new habitats as well as generating ideas for other simple ideas to improve the environment.

Seasonality of the plants was considered, with

vegetables planted to provide for the onsite canteen and perennials chosen to ensure that there would be little need to reseed at later date.

There will be little day-to-day management ensuring that the programme does not slip as attention is taken up with sustainability projects.

Site were tasked with implementing a sustainability project and given some ideas, they then designed the flower beds, decided on the plants and have managed the project themselves.

Growing Concerns – a local community run garden centre was identified for supplying the plants and materials necessary materials.

They have regenerated a former rubbish dump into a community resource where they run workshops teaching children about gardening.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

Further information

This project has been successful for a variety of reasons.

Firstly, it has benefitted from some enthusiastic site



Photo: Ken making it all happen

personnel, passionate about improving the environment as well as being keen gardeners.

Secondly, it was introduced soon after site mobilisation, meaning that there was sufficient time to make some of the beds and pots as well as fewer site personnel so it enabled an element of control - lengths of timber were kept, plastic pipes put aside.

Other schemes that have been encouraged to get involved have not been as willing to, perhaps for the opposite reasons - programmes are getting tight as completion dates loom and there are many more contractors on site and it is difficult to control every reusable material.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

This project represented a great opportunity to engage and inspire site staff on sustainability matters and focused on what they could do to enhance their work environment.

With very little investment, a few resources and not a lot of time, the site team achieved a positive impact and are continuing to look at ways to further improve the local environment.