

Heysham to M6 Link Road aids in the creation of a Stumpery Lancaster

Costain Ltd

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Community engagement

Project overview

As part of Costain's Wildlife Week the Heysham to M6 Link Road project team began working with the local National Trust to help them in at Sizergh the creation of a stumpery through the provision and transportation of the necessary tree stumps that had been retained on site.

These stumps will be used by the National Trust to create the feature within the gardens for the cultivation and display of four National Collections of ferns.

Stumperies are a garden design developed in the 19th century in England which linked into the landscaping and clearance work required to create gardens and estates for great houses.

The Stumpery will also act as a haven for native flora and fauna attracted to the shelter and the nutrients provided by the rotting wood and the water running through the area provided by the opening up of a previously hidden culvert.



Photo: Donation of Tree Stumps

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

The site of the stumpery will be located in the already established Sizer Castle Gardens.

The stumpery will serve to showcase and expand the Trust's National Collections, which include a number of notable and rare fern species.

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

As part of the landscaping and habitat compensation and enhancement measures for the Link road itself, all wood that was necessary to remove in the

land clearance phase was retained on site for use within planned habitat creation areas.

It was this surplus of stumps and wood stockpiled onsite that allowed for the opportunity to provide the National Trust with a portion of supplies while retaining enough to meet our own needs.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The tree stumps provided to Seizer Castle Gardens will have a number of positive effects for the establishment and growth of the garden feature.

The dead wood from the stumps will provide a source of nutrients and an associated community of organisms to “jump start” the natural systems required for the continued survival of the garden.

Additionally, the introduction of the stumps will create refugia within the gardens which will promote local fauna to move into the area, widening their distributions and providing opportunity for populations to increase.

The stumps will also provide the opportunity to promote the continued growth and spread of the National Collections of ferns as well as raising awareness.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Costain’s Wildlife week challenged us to consider what additional measures could be taken to benefit biodiversity and leave a lasting legacy.

This campaign helped us to engage the National Trust to create a feature which will benefit current and future generations long after the road has been built.



Photo: Stumpery site at Sizergh Castle

the importance of railways in providing habitat and maintaining biodiversity. Black Redstarts surveys are also being undertaken to assess whether they are present in the locality and using the areas adjacent to the railway as foraging grounds for insects and other food sources.

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Further information

It is hoped that the invertebrate and black redstart surveys can be repeated in future years and that these will help demonstrate both an increase in biodiversity, and that that the measures implemented so far are helping to protect threatened species.

The hope is that additional insect walls can be installed at other locations along the East London Line, and that the scope of the invertebrate surveys can be expanded to provide feedback on how effective the walls have been (both in terms of the amount of usage, and species using the installations) so that the design and installation of future walls can be made as effective as possible.

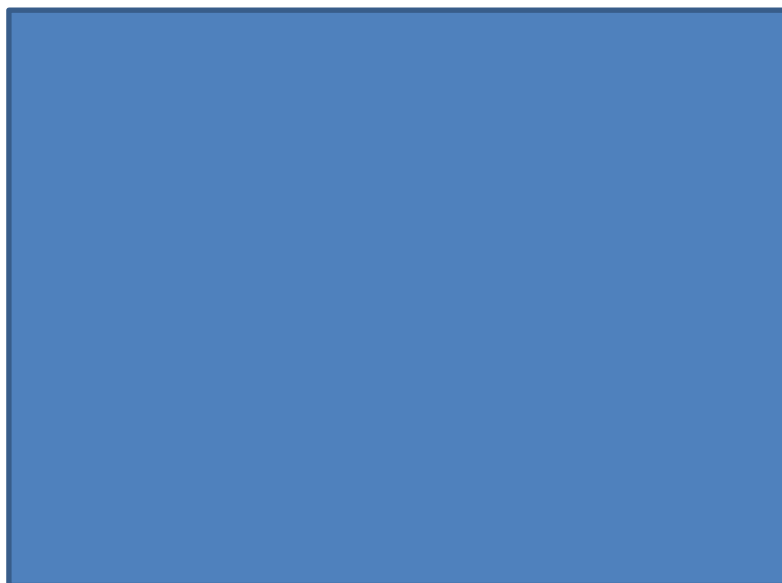


Photo: ggggg

We'd also like to promote the work and provide information to passengers, possibly by installing information boards at stations close to the insect walls.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Personally, working within TfL's Environment Team, I'm passionate about promoting biodiversity and trying to implement initiatives that will assist wildlife and green our transport infrastructure.

I'm proud of the work done to-date on the East London Line, and of the results achieved in this case study.

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