Fulham Reach
Project Office, Distillery Road, London W6 9AD
St George Developments Limited

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Temporary

Project overview
Fulham Reach is set on the River Thames, overlooking Hammersmith Bridge. The project started in 2012 and is due to be completed by 2022. Where a disused sugar refinery once lay there will be a total of 750 high end apartments and a number of commercial units. We are currently building phase 3 and have complete over 200 apartments so far.
At any one time there can be up to 350 operatives and managers on site with an estimated build cost of £350M

What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?
The site was a derelict sugar refinery for 10 years prior to St George injecting some life back into it.

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?
We were looking for ways to increase our rating as part of the considerate constructors scheme as well as our own internal sustainability audit. There were a number of options available to us but we wanted to ensure that what we went with would be the most beneficial to the environment and also potentially to the workforce.

Drone photo of the site back in 2013 against a CGI of the riverfront apartments.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

To introduce biodiversity to the Fulham Reach site three main measures were taken.

Firstly dead wood originally on the site was retained to create an area for invertebrates, secondly bee homes were introduced in a more secluded area on site to provide a habitat.

Thirdly one of the sites most common waste streams, pallets, were recycled into planters, the pallets provide a plentiful and flexible resource to accommodate a variety of flora. At site they focused on two areas, herbs and vegetables that could be used in the canteen facilities and flowers to enhance the external area.

The planters were put together by the site's sustainability representative in conjunction with the site handyman as part of their sustainability programme and the compost used within was provided in part by the onsite wormery that takes much of the food waste produced by the canteen on a daily basis.

The measures in the planters provide a number of advantages beyond the habitats and resources for biodiversity as they contribute to making the external part of the welfare area a much more pleasant environment for operatives.

With the development regularly undergoing changes they are transferable should it be necessary and the resources required to produce them are readily available on site, the main requirement is expertise and time so should be transferable to other developments.

Upcycled pallets

How would you best describe the project?
An enhancement

Further information
Meetings were held to discuss ideas and produce a plan for our sustainability corner. Our sustainability champion produced some sketches of planters for our on site handyman to work with.

Our landscapers provided us with an inclusive range of plants which are maintained by our welfare labourer.

We have inadvertently provided a habitat for kale butterflies to lay their eggs which have since hatched and the caterpillars have feasted on our entire kale bed.

A lesson learnt would be to research what crops are the easiest to maintain depending on available resources and if planning to provide a habitat for wildlife to keep that produce separate to those we wish to consume.

Kale caterpillars and vegetable patch