

## Battersea Power Station's Bug Hotels Battersea Power Station, London

Sir Robert McAlpine (SRM) and Battersea Power Station Development Company (BPSDC)

### BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award Category: *Community Engagement Project Award*

#### Project overview

SRM and BPSDC launched a bug hotel design competition with a local school. The winning design was built by the SRM team using waste site material and items foraged from Battersea Park. The hotel is now installed in the school's garden; shortlisted designs are being installed at Battersea Power Station's 'Biodiversity Triangle'.

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

Battersea Power Station was derelict. There were a number of species including peregrine falcons and black redstarts resident on site which have been managed and protected during the construction stage with a roosting tower and site ornithologist to guide us in protecting these Schedule 1 listed species. The area of the 'Biodiversity Triangle' was derelict.

The school's wellbeing garden had a few flowers present and a pond, installed during the school's construction in 2016, however there little wildlife was observed. During a survey, only two bees and a handful of gnats and flies were spotted.

#### What were the reasons behind this project?

This project stemmed from the development of our Considerate Constructors Scheme action plan with the aim evolving to demonstrate the importance of biodiversity through engagement with local schools, employees, workers on site and the general public and to provide life learning and demonstrate practical outcomes. In turn the project has helped us improve our Considerate Constructors Scheme performance, fulfil our Section 106 obligations and contribute to achieving both our and Battersea Power Station Development Company's Corporate Social Responsibility objectives and KPIs.



*School activity to create hanging bird feeders and introduce the bug hotel design competition*



*The winning bug hotel design*

## What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Whilst the creation of bug hotels is not a new concept, this project has taken an innovative approach to engage the community in biodiversity.

The initial school visit engaged students and highlighted the importance of diversity in ecology and the need to re-wild the city. The SRM sustainability team volunteered their time hosting a lesson and assisting year 4 students with making their homemade bird feeders and launched the bug hotel design competition. The bird feeders were made from natural materials and specifically designed to accommodate the demographic of the area and could be hung from windows and balconies if needed. The competition was then jointly judged by staff from BPSDC and the SRM project team.

The structure of the bug hotel was then constructed using waste material from site including plywood and duct tube offcuts to represent the Battersea Power Station-like chimneys. Building the structure involved the workforce – in particular trade contractor, Clipfine, who donated their time to assist.

The materials within each hatch were foraged locally, from Battersea Park during a wellbeing walk undertaken by the SRM team. The bug hotel itself invites many species and is located next to a pond creating ecological benefit in an area that would have previously been brownfield, resulting in biodiversity net gain.

Long term management has been considered through producing a management plan that has been shared with the school management team and the facilities management company responsible for Battersea Power Station's 'Biodiversity Triangle'.

The project has been planned to allow ease of replication by others and written up as a case study to help facilitate this.



*Sarah Banham, Head of Communities and Sustainability presents the winning designs to the class*



*Sarah Banham and Lucy Austin, SRMs Community Manager present the winning bug hotel design to the students in their wellbeing garden*

### Further information

The bug hotel was installed by Clipfine, the logistics company on the project in collaboration with the facilities management team for the school

- Since the installation of the bug hotel the school’s Head Teacher, Jared said “There is a phrase ‘insectageddon’ - the children of Battersea are doing their bit to turn the tide.” He has also stated that the hotel is now 'fully booked' as it is flourishing with plenty of wildlife present.
- The legacy for the project will remain as the bug hotel installations are permanent for both the school and the development
- The future of the project will see more wellbeing walks for the wider team to forage for materials to be used in bug hotels for ‘The Biodiversity Triangle’ area of the development

### Project Team

- Sir Robert McAlpine
- Battersea Power Station Development Company
- Clipfine

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

The core purpose of this initiative was to work collaboratively with the school, client and project teams to educate and inspire the next generation to protect and enhance the natural world and show that by doing one thing, you can have a great impact, even in the city centre.



Foraging for natural materials in Battersea Park

**W** SCHOOL CHILDREN DESIGNED BUG HOTEL AND SOLITARY BEE HOUSE  
 'W' DENOTES WALL-MOUNTED

