West Park
Wentworth Estate, Virginia Water, England)
S&T(UK)

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: **Temporary Award**

Project overview

West Park is situated within the Wentworth Estate, close to the home of Wentworth club and golf courses. The site is a long narrow plot with a house located centrally. The house is secluded by mature landscaping.

S&T's (UK)'s scope of works includes internal refurbishment, a new swimming pool, bowling alley and cinema room. The entire site is 4 acres which will be transformed by incorporating a landscape design which will include protected trees. Approximately 75 people are working on site each day. The project duration is 42 weeks.

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

The site has a large number of protected trees. The Wentworth Estate wants to maintain trees on site therefore have a policy of no trees being removed unless planning has been approved. Should any tree be removed, Wentworth Estate requires a new tree be planted of equal or higher ecological value.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

This site is not a BREEAM site but does have requirements to protect and maintain trees within the Estate.

Photo Description: West Park Tree Protection

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Prior to our works commencing on site, S&T received the arboricultural survey which identified a number of protected trees. We then installed tree protection fencing and signage.

We raise awareness with our site team by adding tree protection information into the inductions. We displayed tree protection posters around site and our teams receive a biodiversity toolbox talk regularly.

Deer and foxes have also been identified around the wider estate which has meant we must ensure their protection should they come to our site. We therefore ensure locked skips and excavations are closed when not being worked on.

We carried out a number of initiatives related to raising awareness on biodiversity. These included making hanging baskets from old hard hats that are no longer in use, growing vegetables in a planter which was made from waste timber found on site and building an insect hotel also from waste timber.

The site also welcomed a site visit from a primary school. A group of students came to site to learn more about construction and ecology on site. A talk was also given by our environmental advisor on protected species.

By implementing these initiatives it also ensured we improved awareness for our site teams.

Photo Description: The insect hotel that is going to be a permanent feature of the site post construction.

How would you best describe the project?

Mitigation

Further information

All recommendations identified in the arboricultural report were carried out. Other measures such as the insect hotel and planters were initiatives and were put in place to promote biodiversity awareness.

The insect hotel will stay in the wooded area after the project has completed as well as the cut logs from trees. This will be put in place to promote biodiversity into the garden.

The plants, fruit and vegetables have been grown for our workforce as well as making site aesthetically pleasing for those working and visiting during construction. They were bought from a local garden centre close to site.

Raising awareness and educating our West Park project site team on biodiversity on site will result in them sharing this information when they go to their next projects.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

S&T (UK) is mindful of projects which work close to protected species. We want to ensure that our works have as minimal impact on biodiversity and the environment as possible.

It has been rewarding to see the benefits of the biodiversity measures we have undertaken for both people and wildlife at West Park.

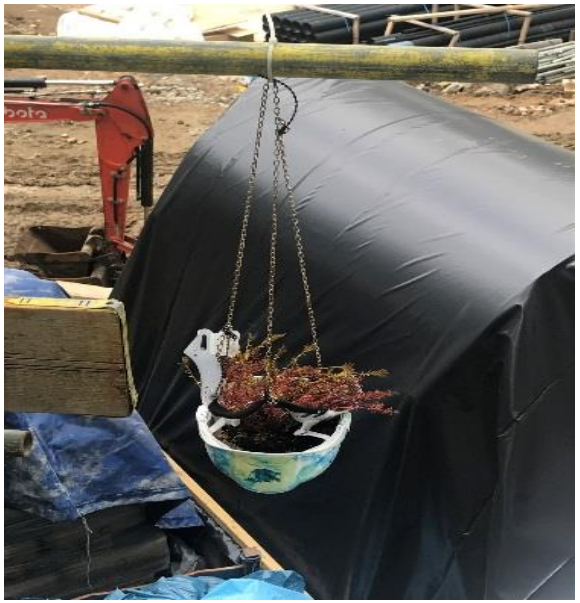

Photo Description: Hard hat planters and vegetable and plants being grown on site.