

**THE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL – BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**  
**THE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, PEPPARD ROAD, READING RG4 8TU**  
**NETWORK RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED**

## BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award Category: Community Engagement

### Project overview

- Supporting local communities and charities through Volunteering and funding for enhancement projects is part and parcel of a sustainably conscious organisation, as an organisation we wanted to support a local charity so we seized on a opportunity to work with a local primary school to help enhance the biodiversity of their expanding and regularly used wildlife area on the school grounds.

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

- The wildlife area on the school grounds was in need of work to clear low lying scrub and brambles, pond area was over grown with little access for students to safely use, overgrown grass meadow and footbridge access point made it difficult for staff and students to enter the area via the approved route.

### What were the reasons behind this project ?

- We saw this as a great opportunity to not only work/volunteer in the community but also to provide biodiversity net gain to an area that is constantly being used by the school and their students to enable them to learn more about wildlife and biodiversity.
- This enhancement project also fell under our Sustainable Delivery Plan and strategy 2015-2020 as a one of the keys areas we wanted to target over the 5 year period.



*Description: (left) shrub and bramble are to be cleared for new outdoor classroom. (Right) Access bridge completely covered by brambles and poorly maintained*



*Description: (Left) overgrown meadow. (Right) Overgrown Pond Decking area*

## What were the biodiversity measures taken?

All Scrub and brambles cleared were cut and composted in the wildlife area, turf removed from the meadow area was reused to create a grass bank to prevent growth of low lying shrub to invade the planting area, the deck area of the pond was cleared to allow better access for students and further work required to extend the decking further into the pond. The Access bridge was cleared to make way for any repairs required to allow safe access in the wildlife area. To assist the school and students Lundy Projects Ltd donated £5k so that the school could purchase tools and equipment to maintain the area, future work in partnership with the Parent committee and school leadership team to maintain and further enhance the area in 2018.



Description: (Left) outdoor class (Right) Access footbridge cleared for safe access



Description: (Left) Team involved in the volunteering day. (Middle) Grass Meadow area cleared. (Right) Pond decking area cleared

### Further information

On the 8th November 2017, Volunteers from Lundy Projects and Network Rail (Thames Valley Area Project) got together at the Hill Primary School to undertake the planned works, the pictures attached show the wildlife area at various stage as well as some group and actions photo's. The day itself went brilliantly with a lot of hard work from all the team and school staff.

### Project Team

- Client: Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
- Funder: Lundy Projects Limited
- Other Organisations involved: The Hill Primary School, NJ Heaven Landscaping

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

"We have a great responsibility to work closely with the local communities that are affected by our operations; our priorities are to exceed the expectations of our Lineside neighbours, the wider community and the traveling public" – Mike Lundy (Managing Director)



*Description: Some of the students handing out biscuits and hot drinks to the volunteers*



*Description: (Left) Volunteer clearing the meadow area (Right) Presentation of the cheque to Mrs Hogarth from Tom Brenchley, Nick Heaven and Jason Yates*