![We're taking the BIG Challenge]

CONNAH'S QUAY SUBSTATION 400kV, MORGAN SINDALL

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

To facilitate the new 1800MW HVDC link between Hunterston in Scotland and Deeside in North Wales, the Electricity Alliance Central are undertaking the build of a new 400kV GIS (Gas Insulated Switchgear) substation to replace the existing CEGB MK II design substation which was originally constructed in the mid 1950's. The new substation will not only replace the existing Deeside 400kV AIS (Air Insulated Switchgear) substation but allow the new HVDC link to Hunterston to have a connection point on to the grid system.

Unfortunately when starting the project it was necessary to remove the existing grassland, trees and shrubs for works to proceed. Therefore when the opportunity came early in the project for us to be able to reestablish a new yet temporary facility for us to cultivate some nature albeit small birds and flowers the project acted on it. The joiners used waste timber off-cuts along with mesh off-cuts from the perimeter fence to construct a bird table thus creating an ideal habitat for birds to feed all year round. Bird seed and suet balls are regularly replenished to provide a constant food source. The joiners also used plywood off-cuts to fabricate a number of flower boxes which have been filled with soil excavated from site and populated with flowers such as Pansies, Busy Lizzies, Lobelia, Marigolds, Ageratum and Isotoma to encourage pollenating insects such as bees which are known to be in decline.

Fact box

Company name:
Morgan Sindall

Project name:
Connah's Quay Substation 400kV

Location:
Deeside, North Wales

Biodiversity enhancement:
- Bird table
- Flower boxes

Size:
N/A

Cost:
Minimal – materials from site; only bird food was bought

Tips:
With only minimal investment of time and effort you don't need to spend money to provide local birds and pollenating insects with opportunities to feed and thrive.

Year completed:
2014

Pictures of the enhancements

Categories:

- Small scale temporary
- Pollinator