

## St Mary Magdalene School, North Greenwich

London

BAM Construction Ltd

**BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category:** Community Engagement Award

### Project overview

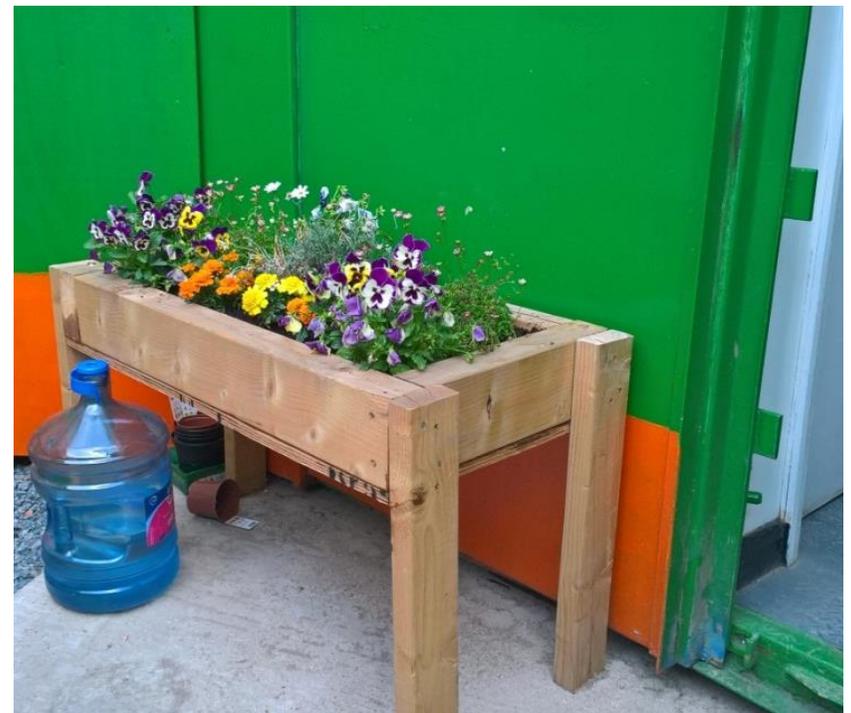
BAM Construction is building a new school which will cater for up to 1,646 children from the age of three to 19 and 200 staff. It will be complete in the summer of 2019. The site is located in an area of mixed-use urban development at the northern end of Greenwich Peninsula.

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

The site ecological survey described the site as bare ground, with two main vegetated areas consisting of scattered broadleaved trees, saplings and dense scrub.

### Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

Working in close proximity to a primary school has given BAM the opportunity to engage and support the local community of students and their families. The CIRIA BIG Biodiversity Challenge is a great way to showcase the excellent community engagement initiatives.



*Photo Description: Enhancement to the entrance of the BAM construction site*

## What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Our community engagement manager organised an event with the school gardening club to create some hanging baskets out of hard hats. This was a fun activity and it enhanced the appearance of their school playground, as well as introducing students to the safety equipment that is needed when working on a construction site.

To improve the image of the site compound, we planted some flowers and herbs near the entrance in planters made from recycled wood on site. We also have two old wheelbarrows that have been turned into a mini garden. This was also carried out with the students.

We held an assembly for the whole school, to talk about the potential risks that they may see whilst their new school is being built. This involved staying away from the site entrances due to extra traffic and vehicle deliveries, and discussing personal protective equipment.

The BAM team has donated different materials for the students to create their own building site. They have PPE, traffic cones and BAM hoarding to create a mini site in the playground.

Class site visits on the viewing platform gives a great view of the whole site. The children were shown photos of the completed school, which inspired them. BAM helped with the school open evening by supplying information on the new school building and how the project is progressing. We supplied goodie bags for the children who attended and ran some colouring in activities to keep them entertained.

During May, we hosted four days of work experience for students from Greenwich UTC. The work experience made up part of the recruitment process for a technical apprenticeship we are looking to fill.



*Photo Description: wheelbarrow planters in the welfare area*



*Photo Description: hard hat planters in the playground*

**How would you best describe the project?**  
Enhancement



*Photo Description: Enhancement to the entrance of the BAM construction site*



*Photo Description: wheelbarrow planters in the welfare area*

**What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?**

To create a positive impact in the communities that we work in, as well as improving the site appearance for the workforce and visitors to site.