

**Beaverbrook Hotel and Spa
Leatherhead, Surrey
S&T (UK)**

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Temporary Award

Project overview

Beaverbrook Hotel and Spa project is situated in Leatherhead, Surrey. Once the home of Lord Beaverbrook, this late Victorian - Classical mansion and estate is located in a rural location and consists of 370 acres.

The main house is a Grade II listed building, which originally contained a garden pool, lower terrace and a wide terrace. The scope of works currently underway by S&T(UK) is to restore and refurbish the main building into an exclusive 5 star 18-bedroom hotel with a new build spa containing indoor and outdoor pools, sauna and treatment pods.

The works will be carried out over 72 weeks with approximately 50 people working on site each day.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

Beaverbrook is being constructed to BREEAM Very Good rating.

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

The site falls within the North Downs and has vast amount of protected species such as common lizards, slow worms, grass snakes, adders and bats. There is a large numbers of rare birds, priority species butterflies, crane fly, roman snails and protected trees.



Photo Description: The grounds that are overlooked by our construction works

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Prior to our works commencing on site, we carried out an ecology survey which identified a number protected species.

We raised awareness with our site team by adding biodiversity and protected species that could be found on site into the inductions. We displayed protected species posters around site and our teams receive a biodiversity toolbox talk regularly.

We installed a biodiversity awareness board at the entrance to the site which provides information to visitors of the protected species who live in the area and precautions to take which aid in their protection.

Using off cuts and from site materials we built bird feeders and insect hotels which are now home to a number of species. Our teams fill the bird feeders on a weekly basis with bird food purchased from a locally.

We installed tree protection around retained trees on site. We undertook a nesting season survey to ensure no birds were nesting within the trees being removed. Those trees were then cut into logs and placed in a location that are now home to voles.

We invited a local group from Countycare, a company who provide specialist care to people with learning difficulties, autism and mental health issues. The group had a site tour and a presentation on the construction works as well as finding out about the biodiversity on site.



Photo Description: S&T(UK) prepared soils post drainage works to allow them to carry out planting.



Photo Description: Cut logs helping to attract voles to the area

How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

Further information

All measures were carried out through the ecology and arboriculture report. The findings were shared and communicated to all S&T staff globally via an E- Newsletter.

The insect hotel, bird feeders, and logs will stay in-situ after the project has been completed.

Raising awareness and educating our Beaverbrook project site team on the biodiversity elements on site will also result in them sharing this information when they go onto their next projects.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

S&T are cognisant of biodiversity and the environment at all of our projects. Given the location within the green belt and North Downs, Beaverbrook Hotel and Spa project enabled us to implement wider biodiversity enhancements.

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



Photo Description: Visit from Countycare to look at biodiversity features on site.