

150 HOMES FOR NATURE, LONDON UNDERGROUND



BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

As part of London Underground's celebration of its 150 years, LU launched a joint campaign with the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB). The campaign was launched in a joint LU-RSPB event through the creation of a wildlife garden at Oaks Park High School in December 2013. The day was a success and made it in to the METRO magazine as well. It was a great opportunity to educate the children why it is important to enhance and protect the environment and wildlife.

There were 150 saplings and whips planted at Oaks Park High School: 25 Hawthorn; 25 Blackthorn; 25 Hazel; 25 Dogwood; 25 Buckthorn and 25 Holly. A Hogitat, a bug hotel and a Birdbox were also installed.

On the sidings, there was scrub and a loggery, plus other deadwood and decaying plant matter.

Some A-level geography students have conducted their own research as part of coursework, which they submitted as part of their exams. These studied things like soil temperature, moisture levels, light levels and growth rates, plus species diversity as part of a study into the impact of a new and developing hedge (or mature tree) on the surrounding habitats. The school could easily follow this up and buy some low-cost kit to help students. TfL may be able to extend this by helping students consider whether the hedge reduces noise from the tracks or "catches" litter to reduce wind-blown rubbish. Thorny hedges are often used around waste site to catch plastic bags and paper.



Fact box

Company name:
London Underground

Project name:
150 Homes for Nature

Location:
Newbury Park – Oaks Park High School, London

Biodiversity enhancement:

- 150 saplings planted
- bug hotel, bird box and hogitat installed

Size:
150 trees

Cost:
£0 – shrubs were donated

Tips:
RSPB runs their national Big Schools' Birdwatch every January / February, which include online surveys that students can take part in to monitor bugs, plants, butterflies and bees.

Year completed:
2013

Categories:

- Large scale permanent
- Community engagement