

PLAN BEE, MARKS & SPENCER



BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

Last year we embarked on a project to give our Stockley Park Office a green-fingered makeover. The key aim of the project was to positively impact the local environment. We were keen to help support bee and butterfly populations which have seen a decline in recent years. This is an issue of particular interest to M&S and for a number of years we have sponsored the [big butterfly count](#).

We also felt there were some compelling people benefits to greening our external areas. Our colleagues had fed back that they felt there was a disconnect between our publicised [Plan A Sustainable Agenda](#) and the culture of our offices so we felt that external greening would be one of many great way to start bridging that gap. There has also been much debate in recent times around the theory of [biophilia](#) and the impact of green features on positively impacting employee's health and wellbeing leading to higher productivity and reduced absenteeism.



Fact box

Company name:
Marks & Spencer

Project name:
Plan Bee

Location:
Stockley Park, Uxbridge, London

Biodiversity enhancement:

- Wildflower meadows and planters
- Woodland regeneration
- Honey bee hive

Size:
N/A

Cost:
N/A

Tips:

- Please see our [biodiversity manual](#) for guidance
- Consult H&S early on in the process
- Don't underestimate how much interest colleagues will have in biodiversity features – our bee and garden club are very popular.
- Don't forget to include money in your budget for communication - signage is really valuable to be able to engage people in your biodiversity initiatives

Year completed:
2013

Categories:

- Large scale permanent
- Pollinator

METHODOLOGY

- The project involved transforming the outdoor areas of the office for the purposes of improving ecological value and increasing biodiversity.
- Stockley Park is a business park in Uxbridge, West London. Although Stockley Park is heavily landscaped and close to extensive tree belts, the arrangement and choice of planting is a conventional style and has not been devised with the primary purpose of attracting wildlife. Therefore we saw considerable opportunity to improve the site for wildlife and also to create opportunities for staff to enjoy the grounds.
- We used existing amenity grassland to create a Plan A Garden for colleagues to come and relax and enjoy time away from their day to day jobs. The Plan A Garden included picnic benches, wildflower meadows and planters (made from old plastic bottles) with herbs to be used in the restaurant. At the same time we set up a garden club and encouraged our colleagues to get involved.
- We also regenerated a woodland area by removing invasive species and replanting and reseeded to create an improved woodland habitat. With this we created a trail which included insect stacks and bird boxes to encourage our colleagues and animals to come and explore.
- Lastly we installed a honey bee hive where we are producing honey for our colleagues to enjoy. Again we have a group of bee enthusiasts that have formed a bee club and participate in the weekly maintenance checks of the hive with an experienced bee keeper.
- We have included a range of signage to help educate and engage with our colleagues around biodiversity.

Pictures of the enhancements



If you would like to sign up for the BIG Challenge, please contact Louise Clarke, CIRIA by email louise.clarke@ciria.org



**the BIG
Challenge**
do one thing

