

GREENING OUR OFFICE THE PLAN A WAY, MARKS & SPENCER



BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

Last year we embarked on a project to give our head 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 which is of particular interest to M&S and for a number of years we have sponsored the [big butterfly count](#). We are also air quality champions for the Westminster area and felt that this initiative was a positive step to help combat local air pollution.

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:
Greening our Office the Plan A Way

Location:
M&S Head Office, Waterside House, Paddington, London

Biodiversity enhancement:

- Green roofs
- Herb garden and planters
- Insect hotel
- Signage to help educate

Size:
N/A

Cost:
N/A

Tips:

- Please see our [biodiversity manual](#) for guidance
- It's important to manage people's expectations when installing green roofs as they are not visually impressive on installation
- Engage landlords early in the project
- Engage H&S teams early in the project

Year completed:
2014

Categories:

- Pollinator
- Large scale permanent

METHODOLOGY

- The project involved transforming an inner city balcony space at Waterside for the purposes of improving ecological value and increasing biodiversity.
- We installed bio diverse extensive green roofs onto two balconies which can be viewed by colleagues eating in the restaurant. These gardens need time to grow but we are really excited to see them in full bloom in the future.
- We also planted an extensive herb garden which our chefs are using in the preparation of meals in our restaurant. We've also introduced a series of planters with native heathland plants and an insect hotel. Both are situated on the balconies which have external seating so our colleagues are able to get up close to nature.
- We have included a range of internal and external signage to help educate and engage with our colleagues around biodiversity.

Pictures of the enhancements



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