



# London Bridge Best Practice

**Case Study Title: Cross Bones Community Garden**  
**Month/Year: 2015 Ongoing Involvement**

### Key Benefits

- ✓ Provision of green spaces within the local area
- ✓ Leaving a sustainable legacy beyond project completion
- ✓ Provides new habitats for a range of species
- ✓ Raises awareness of ecological value
- ✓ Costain has now been made BOST's Business Partner of the Year

### Objectives and Targets

- ✓ Ensuring the project meets the "no net loss of biodiversity" and "supporting local communities in green infrastructure" Project biodiversity action plan objectives
- ✓ CEEQUAL – Ecology and biodiversity; new wildlife habitats; net increase in area; conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

### Overview

As part of the London Bridge local community engagement and biodiversity initiative, we have been working alongside the charity 'Bankside Open Spaces Trust' (BOST) to help regenerate a derelict, old burial ground in Southwark. This local funded project aims to restore and transform the area of land into a peaceful green space for local enjoyment and to encourage the increase in biodiversity habitats. London Bridge staff have been volunteering over multiple days to go and help with planting and landscaping works; to hold workshops and provide tools, all to create an aesthetically pleasing space that meets the communities needs now and in the future.

### Maximising Biodiversity Regeneration

The engagement of London Bridge in BOST's Cross Bones garden is driven by the opportunity to be involved in the community whilst working collaboratively with our subcontractors and local charities to help regenerate the local area. It provides the chance for staff to gain awareness of the importance of supporting local communities in green infrastructure and implementing biodiversity enhancement plans.

Given our strong relationship with BOST, London Bridge have aided in the planning and construction of this garden. The area, prior to the project, was run down, behind hoarding and closed off to the public. The ground was covered in rubble and lacked biodiversity richness. London Bridge therefore developed a landscape design that was specifically tailored to increase habitats and nesting conditions for small species.

By doing so, we were able to maximize biodiversity regeneration. The design included how the bricks of the new walls were laid to consider optimal nesting spaces between the gaps for small species and a pyramid block was also constructed to encourage smaller animals to nest and provide a secure shelter.



### Ongoing Staff Engagement

London Bridge also ran a brick laying workshop where eight project staff and local volunteers were involved in the laying of the new walls and the clearing of old ground in preparation for planting new flower beds. This activity engaged the project volunteers in understanding the needs of nesting species whilst also providing the opportunity for local volunteers to learn practical construction skills. We cleaned and reused bricks that were in good condition from the Cross Bones site to construct the new wall for the garden with the aid of the donated tools and other construction materials from London Bridge and its subcontractors. London Bridge have recognized the importance of providing 'green' spaces in communities.

It not only meets their current needs but simultaneously leaves a sustainable legacy for future generations. Despite the garden now being open to the public, London Bridge's involvement remains ongoing as the garden development progresses. As a result of the success of Cross Bones Community Garden and our ongoing relationship with BOST, Costain have been made their 'Business Partner of the Year'.

