



What's happening?

Best practice at Farringdon: Material Use Plan

Overview

One of the best ways to improve the environmental sustainability of a project is by assessing the building materials to be used. At Farringdon a material use plan has been put in place to examine the most frequently used components (including an expected 15,000 tonnes of concrete and 2,000 tonnes of steel) against 20 criteria in order to identify potential sustainability impacts and opportunities for improvement.

The material use plan:

- Calculates a 'RAG' (red, amber, green) score that provides the designer with a view of the sustainable performance of each material
- Provides guidance on opportunities to reduce the impact of each material
- Allows the contractor to input additional information to refine the data (such as distance travelled, manufacturers' data) in order to identify opportunities to reduce environmental impact through procurement choices

Network Rail's contractor, Costain, has also been asked to review the supply chain of some key materials, such as concrete and zinc.

Results/benefits

- 22% of materials were assessed as green (low environmental impact) and no materials were rated as having a red, or unacceptable, impact
- A change in the materials to be used for the new ticket hall's glazing
- Material use plan integrated into the contractor's procurement process so that further opportunities and issues can be identified and addressed

Targets & objectives

As part of the Thameslink programme, the Farringdon project has been set a range of targets and objectives. These help us measure our achievements and demonstrate that we are implementing industry best practice in areas such as sustainability.

Our work on the material use plan helped in the following areas:

- Farringdon sustainability strategy – energy & carbon, natural resource protection and environmental management
- Targets & objectives – use sustainable materials in a sustainable way
- CEEQUAL – material use