

What's happening?

Best Practice at *Blackfriars* Biodiversity

Overview:

Under the Thameslink Programme, significant improvements are being made at Blackfriars, one of which is the a new station on the Southbank, the first for 120 years. In order to accommodate the south station works, and provide lay-down space for the bridge works, the project obtained some space along Jubilee walkway for their south compound.

Best Practice:

As part of establishing the south compound it was necessary to removed six trees. To replace these trees the Network Rail and Balfour Beatty environment teams wrote an objective to plant no fewer than 50 trees into the Blackfriars Project's Environmental Management and Sustainability Action Plans.

In keeping with our close relationship with Camley Street Natural Park (we have previously donated electrical equipment and redundant wood) a total of twelve volunteers spent an afternoon at a tree planting event organised by Balfour Beatty.



Photo One – Camley Street Natural Park near King's Cross.

Work carried out by the volunteers included planting rare heritage apple species (in line with

Camden council's Biodiversity Action Plan) as well as some small trees and 'whips' on the southern boundary of the park. They also cleared ground and dug holes in preparation for planting fifty birch, elm and hazel trees donated by Balfour Beatty using funds raised at charity events such as head shaving and the Blackfriars Sustainability Days. These trees are scheduled to arrive in two weeks' time.



Photo Two – Planting heritage apple trees outside Camley Street Natural Park near King's Cross.

Meeting our objectives & targets:

Along with meeting the Project's Environmental Management and Sustainability Action Plan's objective, the project is able to meet the following objectives and targets:

- Network Rail's Sustainable Design and Construction Strategy - *Protect and enhance biodiversity*
- CEEQUAL – *Ecology and Biodiversity*

The Camley Street Natural Park, a two-acre canalside site at King's Cross, was the very first urban conservation sanctuary in Europe. Over the past 30 years this former wasteland site has been transformed into a nature reserve. It is not publicly funded, being entirely dependant on public donations.

<http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/page/reserves>

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