

Crossbones community garden

[Creating positive industry partnerships] - a social performance case study

The project

To support the Thameslink Programme community and biodiversity objectives at London Bridge, Network Rail and Costain worked alongside the Bankside Open Spaces Trust 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 volunteered over multiple days to help with planting and landscaping works, held workshops and provided tools, all to create an aesthetically pleasing space that meets the communities needs – both now and in the future.



The key benefits delivered

Benefits to society: Working collaboratively with the community, local charities and subcontractors helped regenerate the local area. The project also provided an environment tailored to increase natural habitats and nesting conditions for small species maximising biodiversity regeneration. The garden also gave local volunteers the opportunity to learn practical construction skills such as bricklaying.

Benefits to the business: Bringing staff together increased awareness of the importance of supporting local communities in green infrastructure and implementing biodiversity enhancement plans. All parties focused on reusing materials where possible, such as bricks that were in good condition from the Crossbones site to construct the new wall for the garden. The work was a great team building project for the Thameslink team, who built strong relationships as a result of the work.

Lessons learned

- Lots of people were really enthusiastic after the event, so it's worth finding something you can repeat a few months later to keep staff engaged and stay connected to the local community.
- Take lots of pictures – it's the best way to promote the activity and show people tangible benefits.

Who to contact for more information

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