

# 4. Ecology & Biodiversity

## WINNER

### Farringdon Station Redevelopment

Client: Network Rail | Designer: Atkins | Contractors: Costain Laing O'Rourke

**DESCRIPTION:** As part of the Network Rail £6 billion Thameslink Programme, London Underground's Farringdon Station was transformed in order to facilitate increased Thameslink train and passenger capacity (50% longer trains and trebling of frequency enabling 14,500 extra passengers a day in 2018), to improve accessibility for persons with restricted mobility, and to deliver advanced works and full integration for the Crossrail programme. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity formed one of the Thameslink Programme's nine sustainability objectives and the Farringdon Station project achieved 100% for ecology under CEEQUAL, despite the project not having a particular impact on ecology and no ecological sensitivities being identified. This was largely due to the integration of a living roof into the station's design, a first for the Thameslink thus setting the standard for best practice in ecology and biodiversity across the programme.



**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Ecological surveys carried out despite classified as 'low ecological value', which identified potential roosting opportunities for bats and black redstarts. Inclusion of a living roof in the design of the new station building because this would increase foraging opportunities for these (and subsequently, other) species. The living roof also contributes 20% of the London Borough of Islington's annual Biodiversity Action Plan target for habitat creation. It also led to savings of £40,000 compared to a zinc roof.

**JUDGES' QUOTE:** *This project is a great example of habitat creation as there was nothing of significance on the site previously. It also demonstrates how an urban project can make use of their roof area for ecological benefit – a clearly outstanding exemplar for other designers to follow.*



[Sharon Gratton, CEEQUAL]

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