

4. Ecology & Biodiversity

HIGHLY COMMENDED

White Cart Flood Prevention Scheme

Client: Glasgow City Council | Designer: Halcrow

Contractors: Carillion (Flood Storage Areas) & VolkerStevin (Urban Flood Defences)

DESCRIPTION: The White Cart Water Flood Prevention Scheme significantly reduces the risk of flooding for 1,750 properties and businesses in the south of Glasgow with anticipated savings of over £100 million flood damages. In 2002, the development of a flood alleviation scheme commenced based on a holistic catchment management principle looking for a solution that stretched beyond the city boundaries. The scheme includes three rural flood storage areas and thirty eight urban flood defences, which created an opportunity to enhance biodiversity through the formation of new wildlife habitats. Those new habitats include new woodlands and over 90,000 square metres of diverse species-rich wet grasslands, shallow scrapes and ponds, as well as artificial badger setts and otter holts, and the erection of many bird and bat boxes.

ACHIEVEMENTS: Extensive environmental studies carried out over several years, such as: habitat surveys, protected species surveys, surveys for flora identified in Local Biodiversity Action Plans, fish and invertebrate surveys, trees and hedgerows surveys and surveys of any other features of ecological interest; Planting of 6,000 trees; Invasive species treatment prior to construction.

JUDGES' QUOTE: So often achievement of the flood prevention objective of a project such as this becomes all-consuming at the expense of other environmental factors. However, in this case the design of culverts focused on maintaining and enhancing species mobility. It is clear that a great deal of thought went into the ecology and biodiversity aspects of this project.



[Sharon Grafton, CEQUAL]

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