



Social Value Interim Site Report

Developer/Main Contractor: **Network Rail/Buckingham**

Site Address: **Headbolt Lane, Knowsley**
Date: **November 2023**
Planning ref: **21/00563/FUL**
Fusion21 ref: **14881**

Introduction and Overview of Social Impact

This report outlines the significant social impact generated by Network Rail and Buckingham in partnership with their site-based subcontractors on the new railway development at Headbolt Lane, Knowsley.

This site is one of many Knowsley developments benefitting from Fusion21 and Knowsley Council's award-winning 'Social value through Planning' service; meaning major residential and industrial developments deliver positive outcomes for the people of Knowsley.

This scheme has generated a number of social value outcomes. Key areas of outstanding contribution include:

- Working with Fusion21 to create pathways to work for **8 Knowsley residents**, funding Personal Track Safety Qualifications.
- Advocating for careers in rail and construction at **3 local schools**
- Enabling **86 Knowsley residents** job opportunities during construction phase
- Investing in a **local supply chain**
- **Environmental excellence** and innovation

The Social Value target for this site was **257** Social Value weeks. The total number of Social Value weeks delivered to date is **1176**. There are plans in place to deliver the remaining weeks before the end of the project.

Headline outcomes are as follows...



Social Value Partners

The Social Value delivery on this project has been supported by a number of partners including the following;



Case Studies and Impact

Creating Opportunities for Knowsley Residents

Fusion21 have been proactive in supporting Buckingham Contracting with social value delivery, which has enabled Knowsley residents to access training opportunities linked to future employment.

In January 2022, Fusion21, Buckingham's and Knowsley Job Centre Plus began designing a Sector Based Work Academy Programme (SBWA) linked to jobs the rail industry.



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Following an information morning held by Fusion21 and Buckingham's, 10 Knowsley candidates joined the SBWA programme in March 2022. The ten-week programme saw the individuals gain their Personal Track Safety (PTS) Qualification.



8 individuals who took part in the training secured full time employment during the construction phase of the project, working directly with the Buckingham's site team.

Head of Social Value, Sarah Maguire, said: *"The long term impact created by enabling access to this rail specific qualification will change the employment pathway for Knowsley residents long into the future. Sector based work academies provide an ideal opportunity to engage with employers, receive meaningful work experience and*

receive lifelong skills and qualifications."

"The collaboration between local employment partners was key to delivering the outcomes and shows how social value can pull together a long line of opportunity for unemployed residents and can support to inspire and engage in various careers pathways."

Inward Investment in Knowsley

Buckingham's worked alongside Fusion21, Knowsley Council and Knowsley Chamber of Commerce to identify and support local Knowsley businesses who had the potential to form part of their supply chain.

The following local businesses have delivered subcontracting packages as part of the overall works programme:

Knowsley Business	Value of Subcontracting Package
CC Geotechnical Ltd.	£200,000
Huyton Asphalt	£203,368

Keeping residents informed

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Network Rail and Buckingham's have held a number of resident engagement events in Knowsley with the aim of giving local people a chance to comment on and shape future plans for the area.

The first Public Consultation event took place on 25 May 2022 where the public were given an opportunity to comment on public realm improvement plans that would be delivered as part of the development. The plans included cycling and walking routes which would be utilised by local people living in the area and using the new railway station.

This was followed by an event in Summer 2022 where the focus was on improving the appearance of the area and local connectivity. These plans also included added security measures for the Station and surrounding area including improved lighting and fencing.

On 22 August 2022, local residents and stakeholders were invited to an event at Northwood Community Centre in Kirby. This was followed up by an event in November 2022 in Kirkby Town Centre which was attended by 12 local residents.

Network Rail have kept local residents informed as work has progressed through a series of letter drops in the immediate area, details as follows;

Noisy Work for 6 weeks closure	13 July 2022
August Drop-in Event	5 August 2022
Up-date on Planned works September – November	15 September 2022
Works Up-date	13 October 2022
Newsletter	21 November 2022
November Drop-in Event	21 November 2022
January Drop-in Event	9 January 2023
February Drop-in Event	13 February 2023
March Drop-in Event	27 March 2023

Liverpool Combined Authority have also regularly attended Local Ward Councillor Engagement Meetings in Kirby to keep local members up-dated as work progressed and deal with any concerns raised by members of the public.

The development also has its own website which gives members of the community an opportunity to learn more about the development. The website provides a platform for partners involved in shaping the scheme to up-date on planned work/good news stories etc.

<https://headboltlane.commonplace.is/>

Inspiring Young People

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Buckingham's and Network Rail have supported a number of events in local Knowsley schools aimed at inspiring the next generation of rail and construction site workers.

Careers Events



In May 2022, 17 people attended a Careers Carousel event at All Saints High School in Knowsley. This event was well received and resulted in a significant increase in young people choosing Engineering as an option for the school year ahead. In the 2021 school year, 36 young people chose Engineering whereas in 2022, 49 young people chose the subject. Of these 49 young people, 6 were young women as opposed to only 2 the year before.

The team attended a further event at All Saints High School in December 2022. They spent time talking to 60 Y9/Y10 Engineering students about their jobs and their career paths. They also provided an up-date on the project.

In July 2022, Tony Killen from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority attended a Careers Carousel event at Yew Tree Primary School in Knowsley, talking to Y6 pupils about their career aspirations. Part of Positive Footprint's award-winning 'Raising Aspirations' Programme, Tony spent the morning talking to the young people about jobs in rail and the world of work!



Engaging Local Primary Schools

Pupils from seven Knowsley primary schools were involved in creating 260 pieces of artwork for the hoarding on County Road. The result was a 300m display on the site hoarding.

<https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/art-attack-school-childrens-artwork-brightens-up-headbolt-lane-station-building-site/>



Support for local community groups

Knowsley Eco-Therapy Garden

Buckingham and The Combined Authority took part in a volunteering day in support of Local Charity 'Eco Therapy Garden' which is close to the new rail station at Headbolt Lane. The projects provides informal eco and more formal talking therapy to Knowsley and Liverpool residents. The therapy garden is a place where the community can meet and learn new skills while engaging in eco therapy for mental and physical wellbeing. They also promote recycling and conversation.

Works completed on the day included:

- Installing a new footpath to allow good access into site and to all locations around the gardens
- Installing a flagged area to enable outdoor activities such as yoga or tai chi
- De-vegetation works – along with some brush cutter requirements, general weeding and cutting tree branches back
- Topping up the timber chippings area at the back of the gardens
- General tidy up of the gardens.



Eco therapy are also supported the development of a Peace Garden at the station – they will be running mindfulness sessions to create a calm safe space for people to reflect.

Tower Hill Boxing Club

In September 2022, Buckingham's reached out to local amateur boxing Club 'Tower Hill ABC' to offer a series of improvement works to their facilities. Tower Hill ABC is a boxing club and a Community Hub that has been at the centre of the local community for almost 50 years. Buckingham's site staff volunteered their time, equipment and resources to re-stone the Boxing Club car park. This will greatly benefit the local community and will make the centre more accessible to local residents. As a thank you, the boxing trainer at the Club agreed to put on some boxing fitness classes for Buckingham's site staff in October 2022.



Charitable Donations

In the Summer of 2022, a vending machine was installed at the Headbolt Lane site, providing snacks and refreshment for office and site workers. At the request of Buckingham's Social Value Manager, the vending machine company agreed to donate a % of sales generated through use of the machine to a local charity.

In September 2022, a donation of £300 was made to local charity Eco-therapy Garden. The Board of Trustees for the charity were delighted with the donation;

'On behalf of our board of trustees and the community, thank you so much for your kind donation. I have spoken to our volunteers and we have decided to use the donation next month to purchase more fruit trees. This year we have had a bumper crop of apples, pears and plums which we have donated to local food banks and residents. The community and volunteers have found harvesting the fruit really enjoyable and your donation will allow us to help even more people in the local area.'

Sustainability



Case Study: Headbolt Lane BNG

Date: 2021-23

Location: Kirkby, Merseyside

Funding: Network Rail

Background

Network Rail committed to providing a Net Positive Biodiversity gain for the Headbolt Lane project. Headbolt Lane New Station is an infrastructure project that will extend the Merseyrail network from the existing terminating station at Kirkby to a new station to be constructed at Headbolt Lane in Kirkby. Network Rail commissioned Mersey Rivers Trust to scope interventions to reclaim the biodiversity credits associated with the construction of the new station.

Project

Six public parks across Kirkby were chosen as the focus for this project:

1 Mercer's Dell - creation of wetland scrapes along Kikrby Brook, rewilding mown grassland and planting hedging along the park boundary.



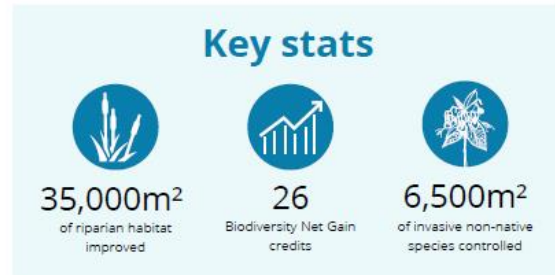
Area to rewild and plant hedging



Approx. location of wetland scape

2 Mill Dam Park - creation of a large offline wetland pond with a mosaic of habitats including wet woodland, bogs, deep water and reed beds.

3 Northwood Forest Hills - re-landscape and manage a series of existing ponds and wet woodland, Himalayan Balsam control and wildflower planting.



4 Millbrook Millennium Green - re-landscape and manage a series of existing ponds and reed beds.

5 Eddie McArdle Playing Fields - creation of wetland scrapes along Kikrby Brook and re-naturalise river bed by removing concrete half-pipe.



Reed bed to be managed



Re-naturalise river bed

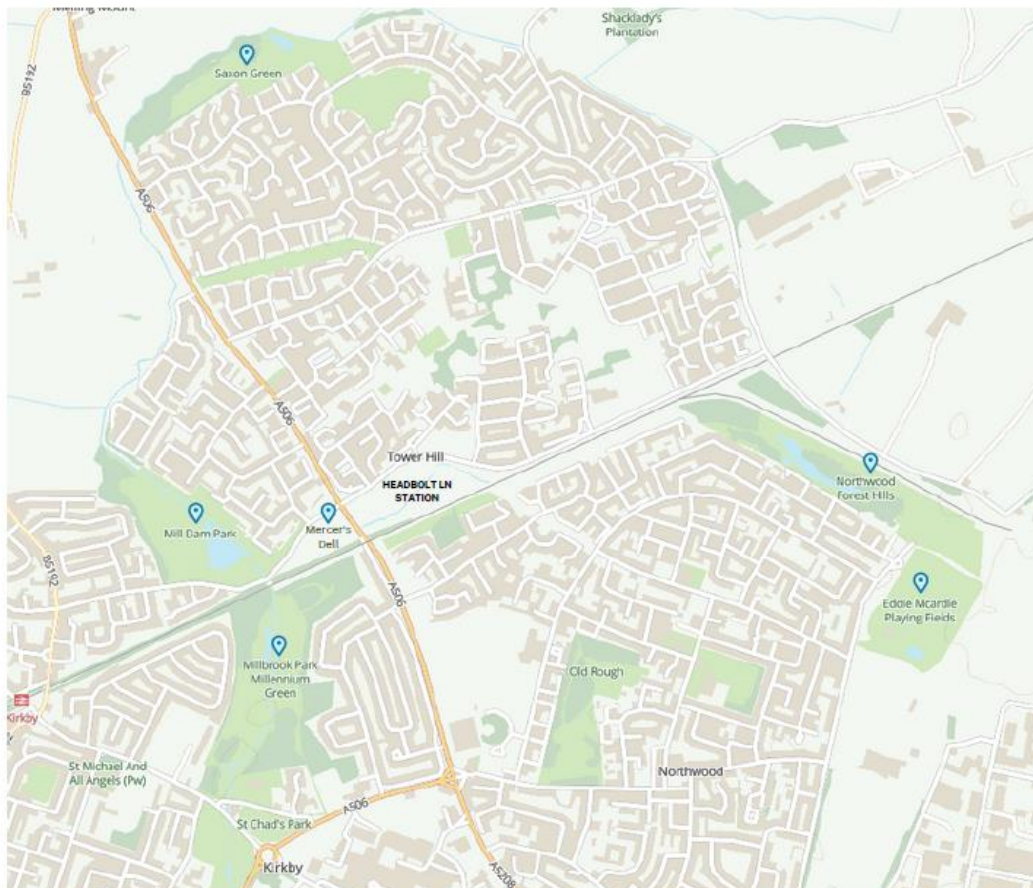
6 Saxon Green - Himalayan Balsam control, wildflower planting, rewilding and wetland management.



Wetland pond to be re-landscaped and managed



info@merseyrivers.org
www.merseyrivers.org



Outcomes

Provides habitat: the reeds trees and plants will provide habitat to a variety of birds, insects, fish and mammals, including the protected Water Vole which is present within this river catchment

Improved water quality: reeds act as a filtration system to remove sediment and nutrients which can be harmful to aquatic wildlife.

Helps to reduce flood risk: during times of heavy rainfall the wetlands will collect and store water helping to slow the flow into the River Alt.



Wildlife at Mill Dam Park

Lessons learned so far...

- Enhancement of existing habitats tends to gain more BNG credits than the creation of a new habitat type - e.g. improving a 'poor' condition pond to 'good' condition, rather than creating a new pond in an area of grassland.
- The DEFRA metric does not take invasive species into account as much as it should - there should be a greater weighting for controlling an area of INNS and replacing with a 'good' condition habitat.

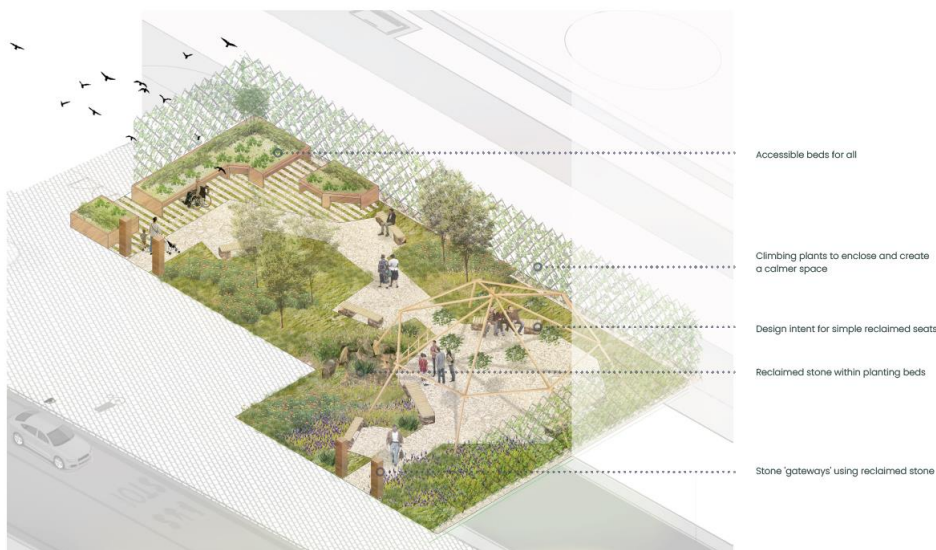
Environmental Excellence



The developments environmental innovations have been earmarked for the National Rail awards. The submission outlines several key areas of impact including:

- Specific sustainable design principles
- Battery train technology - Class 777 Independently Powered EMU (IPEMU)
- Future Network Expansion
- Prioritisation of active travel links
- Eco Therapy Gardens
- Focus on biodiversity

The full submission can be [found here](#).



Report Sign off for Fusion21: *S. Maguire*

Printed: S. Maguire

Date signed: 29 November 2023

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