

Station South
Stockport Rd, Levenshulme

Biodiversity Statement

The site adjacent to the building was partially covered in brambles and ruderal species that attracted and trapped litter and fly-tipping. There wasn't a diverse range of plant species but the scrub will have provided benefit as wildlife habitat so following the removal of bramble from the area annual and perennial wildflower seeds were sown to create a wildflower meadow on the space in the interim.

A large part of the Station South site that is not included in this phase of works will remain as wildflower meadow (previously sown with perennial wildflower mix) to complement the adjacent orchard planted and maintained by the Friends of the Fallowfield Loop and Sustrans volunteers. The large meadow area will continue to offer ecological benefits for a range of insect and bird species that have been observed following the sowing in 2019.

The planting in the other areas of the garden will be chosen for the benefits to wildlife including top pollinator plants to support pollinating insects throughout the year. There is also a large amount of scrub along the Fallowfield Loop greenway to provide habitat for local wildlife and the introduction of areas of grassland habitats adjacent to the loop will be of significant benefit.

Bat friendly solar studs have been chosen to illuminate the path up from the Fallowfield Loop.

Station South will provide a range of habitats for wildlife by adding a fruiting hedge around the perimeter of the garden, planting native plants, growing herbs and vegetables and installing bug and bee habitats in the space. Herbicide and pesticide free organic growing methods will be employed to grow a range of perennial and annual plants with specific focus on planting for wildlife. The diversity of plants included in the garden will increase and the range of potential habitats and food plants for insects and birds will too.

Station Green sits on the Fallowfield Loop wildlife corridor that is managed as part of Sustrans Greener Greenways Project to improve biodiversity and engage community with the wildlife on their doorstep. Volunteers lead monthly wildlife wanders to identify which species make the greenway their home. Station South is installing a shipping container for tools and equipment to support volunteers task days.

Station South will help to promote the walks and task days and offer facilities for their volunteers to support wider activities along the greenway including habitat creation and management days and that look at improving the route for wildlife and connecting important habitats adjacent to the wildlife corridor along the route.

The Sustrans Habitat Management plan for the Fallowfield Loopline is submitted as part of this application.