

Boningale plants its expertise at Rathbone Market's new eco-friendly landscape

Written by Darren

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Boningale Nurseries, one of the UK's largest nurseries, has combined its unique horticulture and green roof expertise to help transform the landscape at an historic area of London that is undergoing a £180 million revitalisation.

The Shropshire-based nursery not only provided hundreds of semi-mature trees and perennials to the ongoing Rathbone Market redevelopment in Canning Town, it also supplied with sister company Boningale GreenSky, bespoke native Green Roof Plugs for the community's new green roofs and living walls.

As part of the development, which will revitalise the once-thriving east London market and create 650 homes, shops, cafes, a market square and new council offices, there is a commitment to improving the outside space with attractive landscaping and planting schemes.

Maggie Fennell, Technical Green Roof Expert at Boningale GreenSky, confirmed that the development at Rathbone has a strong ecological focus, with the designers keen to create a rich diversity of habitat areas within the urban complex.

"By giving us enough time to contract grow plants to order, we were able to extend beyond our normal stock species and supply more unusual native species, alongside our more popular wildlife-friendly SkyPlugs, to create bespoke habitat areas," said Maggie.

Boningale's SkyPlugs are specifically grown in conditions that mimic the harsh conditions of a rooftop environment. This ensures the rootball is strong and is able to grow out of the plug space as soon as possible, giving them maximum chance of establishing and surviving.

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Maggie added: “We now look forward to seeing the green roofs and living walls flourish at Rathbone, so that they provide a lush and long lasting eco-friendly environment for the residents in Canning Town.”

Frank Sandford, Boningale Nurseries’ Sales Director, said as the only nursery in the UK to be able to grow both traditional nursery and specialist green roof planting stock, the developers and landscape architects were able to draw on its depth and breadth of expertise to supply quality stock for phases one and two of this development.

He said: “It was very satisfying to combine the expertise of both sides of the company to work on this exciting redevelopment scheme in London. The biggest challenge was coordinating and delivering all the nursery stock and Green Roof Plugs when they were needed. Using our expertise of working on projects of this size, and by keeping in close contact with the team in London, we successfully achieved this.”

Phase Two of the Rathbone Market will be completed early in 2015, with Phase 3 beginning shortly after.

To find out more about creating bespoke habitat areas, visit www.boningale-greensky.co.uk . Or, for further detailed information on all of Boningale’s SkyPlugs, call 01902 376500 to request a free copy of the company’s latest ‘Plants For Wildlife’ catalogue, which has been created with a BREEAM-certified ecologist.

‘Plants For Wildlife’ sets out hundreds of approved plant species and varieties that encourage ecological diversity and attract myriad wildlife to new-build sites and green urban spaces, including green roofs.