

## Case study



## London-based data centre scoops Most Considerate Site award



Our team at NTT Global Data Centres' London 1A site was thrilled to receive the accolade of **Most Considerate Site 2024 in the >£100m category in this year's Considerate Constructors Scheme awards**, recognising the steps the team has taken to exceed expectations, strive for sustainability excellence and place innovation at the heart of the project. In fact, the judges awarded full marks, stating that **"the team excelled by becoming a beacon of innovation and construction best practice"**.

When completed, the data centre will play a critical role in delivering reliable, secure connectivity in the London area. A total of 25,600m<sup>2</sup> of data server space and 32MW of critical IT load will provide much-needed digital infrastructure suitable for the growing data needs of our society. Laing O'Rourke is proud to be responsible for the development and fitout of the final two phases of the building.

### A culture of innovation

A culture of innovation and care was fostered from the very beginning, encouraging people from across the team to find ways to do things better. Working collaboratively with supply chain partners, the project team has made several improvements to standard practices that help to reduce environmental impacts.

These include:

- **More sustainable plant technology:** Electric plant has been used in place of fuel-powered alternatives where possible. Where fuel-powered plant has been necessary, there has been a drive to minimise emissions. Hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) has been used throughout the site as an alternative to diesel, resulting in >90% reduction in emissions, and a Flybrid generator was deployed to work with tower cranes, reducing the generator size from 500kVa to 300 kVa, and fuel use by up to 50%.
- **Closed loop recycling schemes** are in place for cable drums and temporary protection sheets used to cover walls, floors and door areas. For the latter, the site is trialling magnetic sheet fixings to eliminate tape use and help reduce site waste.
- **Reusable boot covers** are provided for all staff. This idea was generated during one of the on-site team's sustainability briefings, with a team member identifying traditional boot covers as an unnecessary source of plastic waste.

### The CCS assessors said:

**"Accelerating its path to net zero carbon, the company has implemented impressive ISO 14001-certified environmental procedures, including: regular risk assessments; training and toolbox talks; timely inspections; monthly reporting on waste; and the development of an environmental emergency plan."**

**Image:**  
Bug hotels are situated adjacent to the site, NTT LON1A, London, UK

## Case study continued



### Working with the natural environment

The site is situated close to a lake and woodland area, so taking careful steps to protect the natural environment - and help it to flourish - has been a real priority.

Although there is a body of water close to the site, it is not suitable for use on the site, and in fact the area is considered water scarce. **Eco drainage** is in place around the site to retain the volume needed for site operations and **optimise water efficiency**. Tightly controlled pollution prevention measures are in place and carefully monitored to ensure there is no impact to the lake.

The on-site team also spotted an opportunity to enhance local biodiversity by **installing a series of bug hotels** and **two beehives** around the site. Given the proximity to woodland, both initiatives are **proving successful and well occupied by wildlife!** Extensive **planting around the site** is helping species to flourish and add important biodiversity improvements to the local area.

### The CCS assessors were:

“Impressed by Laing O’Rourke’s commitment to enhance local biodiversity, the company has set ambitious targets beyond its contractual requirements too, installing two beehives and supporting extensive planting.”

An interim assessment at design stage by BREEAM UK, completed in July 2024, assigned the site an **‘Excellent’ rating, with particular recognition for excellence in site management, energy management and waste management.**

Matt Armitage, Project Leader at the site, said:

“From the very beginning it was important to us that we established high standards for all aspects of the project. I’m proud of the culture we’ve developed; every member of the team has risen to those high standards, finding ways to work smarter, to deliver beyond our requirements and to do the right thing for the client, the community and the local area. It is deeply satisfying to see that hard work and attention to detail recognised through external awards, and I am immensely proud of our achievements so far, and the quality of project we’re delivering for NTT.”