

GREENSPACE VOLUNTEERING PROJECT

ZIG ZAG BRIDGE - HARLOW TOWN PARK: HARLOW COUNCIL



One of the largest urban parks in the country, Harlow Town Park covers over 160 acres of beautiful green space. With so much to explore and a number of events for all the family throughout the year, Harlow Town Park is a favourite of both locals and visitors. The park has received a Green Flag Award, recognising the highest quality green spaces in the country, for the last 7 years in a row.

Built around 1965, the Zig Zag Bridge is a locally listed asset, recognised for its local historic value. Named after its zig zag design, the bridge is a unique feature in the centre of Harlow Town Park, connecting Burnt Mill to the south of the River Stort to Moorhen.

OUR APPROACH

Having met with the Town Park Manager to explore local greenspace volunteering initiatives, the opportunity arose to support with improving the appearance and safe usage of the Zig Zag Bridge. This volunteering project seemed particularly suitable, as the bridge is a means of active travel for local people – directly tying into the Harlow Sustainable Transport Corridor (STC) project, where active travel will be promoted through the construction of new footpaths and cycle lanes in the community.

Colleagues from across our supply chain at Colas - Henderson & Taylor, Lynch TM, Fortel and Randstad – joined Colas by volunteering their time on this project. The primary focus of this volunteering session was to prepare the metal railings to be repainted, which required volunteers to scrape and sand-down the existing rust and paint work. Volunteers also helped to clear overgrown vegetation that was hampering access on the walkway and posing a potential safety risk. There was also the chance to improve the area for local wildlife by clearing and recycling any litter that was picked; facilitating steps towards a sustainable environment.

OUTCOME

Across a sunshine-filled Friday 7th June, 20 volunteers contributed a total of 60 hours of their time to support the activities on the bridge. The opening rampway was cleared of vegetation, railings were all rubbed-down ready to be painted, and litter was cleared from the site. There is still further support needed to complete the bridge renovations, and to sustain the legacy of this initiative, Colas are actively introducing the Town Park Manager to other subcontractors and companies in the area to replicate our activities.

