

# How it's done:

## Anglian House case study



Anglian Water enhanced the grounds of their former head office for wildlife, with help from Buglife. Staff worked hard to transform amenity grasslands into colourful wildflower meadows.



A flowerbed of drought tolerant plants was also created, to highlight the importance of conserving our precious water supply, while also giving pollinators a helping hand!

### Wildflower meadows

Meadows were created at Anglian Water's former head office to make a more welcoming and wildlife-friendly area for both staff and visitors. An interpretation board was also put up to explain the value of the meadow for local pollinators.

### Preparation

The grass was mown short and the cuttings taken away. The site was then scarified to break up the grass thatch and create bare ground for seeds to germinate. A herbicide was then applied to slow down the growth of grass.

### Seeding

Anglian Water staff volunteers helped hand sow the meadow areas. A mix of cornfield annuals was used including Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*) and Corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*) for a quick burst of colour in the first year! A diverse wildflower seed mix was also sown which included Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum*

*vulgare*), Wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), knapweeds (*Centaurea spp.*), as well as Yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) to help suppress grass growth. The seed mix was mixed with sand and broadcast by hand, with staff trampling the seed into the ground!

### Maintenance

The meadow will now be mown annually, once the wildflowers have set seed. The cuttings will be removed from the site, to reduce the soil fertility over time, an important step to ensure the meadow doesn't get overtaken by tall grass.

### Results

The meadow is now alive with wildflowers in the summer, with abundant Wild carrot, one of the favourite plants of hoverflies and beetles!



Top tips to save drops:  
[anglianwater.co.uk/pottingshed](http://anglianwater.co.uk/pottingshed)



# Get Britain Buzzing...

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### Drought tolerant flowerbeds

Drought tolerant beds were planted near the entrance to Anglian Water's former office, to raise awareness of ways to save water and still create havens for wildlife. The area had been scruffy, unattractive and devoid of wildlife, until Anglian Water staff got involved! It shows that formal garden areas can also be useful to insects when carefully thought out.

### Preparation

Firstly, the old bushes and plants were cleared and the roots pulled up. The soil bed was then levelled out, ready for planting.

### Planting

Anglian Water staff helped plant out a range of plants that attract pollinators and are also able to cope without watering in the dry, hot summer. Plants such as Lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina*), catmints (*Nepeta spp.*), lavenders (*Lavandula spp.*), Ruthenian globe thistle (*Echinops ritro*) and Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*) helped create a stunning display as well as exciting educational habitat! The beds were then covered with mulch which helps lock in water and also suppress weeds.

### Maintenance

Anglian Water staff looked after the flowerbeds by regular weeding throughout the summer, to allow the plants space to spread and establish.

### Results

From having virtually no wildlife at all, Anglian Water has now recorded at least 7 butterfly and 4 bumblebee species feeding in the flowerbeds. Their staff enjoyed creating the new areas, looking after them and using a 'Spotters Guide' checklist to record the wildflowers and invertebrates that they found!



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