

University of Birmingham Block C

Edgbaston, Birmingham

Interserve Construction Limited

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Temporary

Project overview

This is a £8.3M refurbishment project for Birmingham University that started in March 2014 and will complete in September 2015. There are 6 members of staff on site.

What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?

There was little biodiversity on site, The area being mostly covered with university buildings. A small area with four cherry trees was fenced and protected throughout the construction works.

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?

This site compound was in a urban area with very little room within the compound. The site hoarding when erected left an unsightly bare corner. In order to make the site more appealing we landscaped the area.

Bird feeders were also hung from the hoardings in order to make a positive impact both on the visual and biodiversity aspect of the site compound during our time there.



Photo: Planting along site perimeter

The Team wanted to add to the biodiversity of the site and achieve interserve's target of increasing biodiversity on all our projects.

This was not a client requirement or required for any environmental assessment.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

A small amount of planting was done during the temporary occupation of the area by the site compound. This was done by the site team.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

Further information

This planting made the site look more visually attractive and provided a little oasis for any passing animals. This has been repeated on more Interserve sites and is rapidly becoming standard practice. We hope to be able to leave some of our mini planting areas on some sites.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Construction Sites can be eyesores within an area and look unwelcoming to local residents. A small amount of soft landscaping can help to integrate the site into the urban environment and make it a positive part of the local community.