

## University of York Biology Building York

Interserve Construction Limited

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Temporary

### Project overview

Duration: June 2015 to September 2016

Value: £8.5m

Design and construction of a new three storey Biology facility housing teaching facilities and laboratories.

New build with atrium and bridge links from first and second floors.

The site is in the middle of a busy campus site with many areas of green space. Trees and grassed areas.

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

The site compound has been placed on a previously grassed, but low biodiversity areas.

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

Interserve has a target to achieve net biodiversity enhancement on all its sites and seeks to find an opportunity for wildlife and green space, no matter how small the area available.

### What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The site team has used old hard hats that were destined for the skip to make hanging baskets. The hanging baskets are filled with flowering plants and hung around the site compound and offices.

This has provided a little green space within an otherwise barren site. It is not only providing a refuge for pollinators but has also improved the site for the workers, making a much more pleasant area to work in and during rest periods.



*Hard Hat hanging baskets at York University:*

This is very replicable on any site as it takes up no space and the hanging hats can be installed on cabins, fences etc. It has also reduced the amount of waste going from site as we have reused hard hats that were no longer usable.

### How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement

### Further information

It was very easy to attach chains to the hard hats so that they could be hung up. They already have holes which provide drainage. We are trying to do this on many more sites as it provides flowering plants, a pleasant environment and makes the site look a lot nicer for our neighbours. There have been no problems with the hanging hats.

### What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Just because we work on building sites, that doesn't mean that they can't be a positive contribution to the environment. Construction work is hard and the workers deserve to have a pleasant place to relax. As a keen gardener and environmentalist I believe we can always find space for living things and every little bit can help biodiversity.



*Hanging Hard hats at University of York:*