

Case Study: Enhancing ecological diversity at Bristol

Harbourside



Crest
NICHOLSON

Bristol Harbourside is a 16-acre landmark development of former historic docks, gas works and railway yard in the western heart of Bristol City Centre. The development features apartments, shops, offices and leisure facilities set around tree lined walks, boulevards and waterside promenades within five acres of open space with extensive areas of new public realm.

Key features include:

- Opening up the waterside to public use, creating the final piece of the Brunel Mile walkway from Temple Meads railway station.
- Landscaped promenades between buildings
- Landmark restoration of the listed harbour wall and inlet
- Redevelopment and restoration of Pavilion Community Hall.
- Public Art trail with contributions from local artists and both temporary and permanent art.



Sustainable transport

One of the key criteria within the project brief was to provide a sustainable transport plan to form part of the wider Bristol Travel Plan. The plan includes car free pedestrian zones, cycle paths, ferry stops/landing stages, footpaths and a reduced ratio of car parking spaces to discourage car use. The site is close to the centre of Bristol and is well served by public transport.

Working in partnership with the City Car club the development also offers residents an innovative pay as you go car rental service using new cars located in the centre of the site. This allows residents the freedom of a car when they want it without the cost of owning one.

Ecological diversity

One of the commercial buildings which incorporates a gym, casino, bar and restaurant was specifically designed to enhance the ecological diversity of the site and incorporates two unique features – a green veil, and a green roof. Both of the features enhance the visual appearance and provide a level of passive shading/cooling for the building and the residential block opposite.

“The four green veils at Bristol Harbourside are the first type of this system in UK.”

The green veil is a living wall completely covered in vegetation which forms part of the building. The four green veils at Bristol Harbourside are the first type of this system in UK and require specialist design and construction skills.

The green roof was constructed on split levels and can be viewed from the top floors of the adjacent buildings. The main area supports a wildflower meadow, with species stocked from a local seed bank that have been selected for their resilience to the poor irrigation and the exposed position.