

Welcome to the Green Roof

The roof was seeded in September 2007 with a wide range of native species, many of which went on to bloom in the summer of 2008 such as: common poppies, wild pansies, cornflowers, oxeye daisies, and cornflowers. As time goes on, species such as wild carrot, selfheal, biting stonecrop, hare's foot clover and bladder campion will come into flower.

Funding from BiffAward has paid for a roof camera that beams live images of the roof into the BVSC foyer. This has given many more people the opportunity to see the roof than would otherwise have been the case. So far, the feedback has been really positive and it has given our staff and visitors a great boost to see something so natural and vibrant in a highly urbanised area.

BVSC is very proud of its green roof and the positive contribution it makes to the biodiversity of the city of Birmingham.

In partnership with The University of Birmingham, the roof is being monitored to record wildlife activity over the next three years. It is hoped that the findings of the research will demonstrate the best ways that green roofs can be designed to maximise their wildlife benefit, and that this information can inform both the ongoing development of Birmingham's city centre and more general green roof design.

If, like BVSC, you think green roofs are a fantastic idea (and who wouldn't?), why not get some expert advice to find out if it is a viable option for your building.



To find out about other roofs in the project please visit
<http://switchbirmingham.wordpress.com>

and look for the Green Roof Demonstration project where you will find more information and photographs of BVSC's green roof.

In 2006, BVSC was invited by Groundwork Birmingham & Solihull join an initiative creating a network of green roofs in the centre of Birmingham.

We were delighted to be involved in this exciting project because it allowed us to significantly reduce our building's negative impact on the environment. The roof was installed in August 2007 and has since gone through several stages of early development.



If you would like to know more,
please visit our web site at www.bvsc.org



Funded by SITA Trust, the UNESCO sustainable urban water management project SWITCH, and the Birmingham Environmental Partnership, the roof is specifically designed to provide a surrogate habitat for black redstarts and other species that can be found on post-industrial brownfield sites.

Green roofs can also be havens for wildlife in urban areas. The BVSC roof is designed to emulate new brownfield demolition sites and therefore provide a habitat for the rare, Schedule 1 protected bird, the black redstart. It will also provide habitat for a wide range of other species that will hopefully include:

- Carder bumble bees
- Starlings
- Large garden bumble bees
- House sparrows
- Wall brown butterflies
- Dingy skipper butterflies



BVSC's Green Roof

The green roof soil consists of a mix of quarried gravel, sand, and recycled demolition aggregate with only a small amount of organic matter. These harsh

conditions mean that no single species is able to take over and exclude others, so the roof will support a high diversity of species. The roof also has additional habitat features, such as pure sand piles to act as nest sites for ground nesting bees and wasps and small log piles that invertebrates can hide under and birds can perch on.

Green roofs provide a wide range of environmental benefits that have encouraged their broad uptake in the USA, Germany and Switzerland. Interest in green roofs in the UK is also flourishing as more and more developers become aware of the advantages associated with them.

Such benefits include:

- Cooling buildings in summer
- Insulating buildings in winter
- Reducing air pollution
- Intercepting and storing rainwater, thereby reducing drainage requirements and the incidence of urban flooding
- Increasing the longevity of roof waterproofing layers
- Urban cooling
- Improving a building's aesthetic appeal

