

UNICORN GROCERY, MANCHESTER

Groundbreaking natural wetlands pond delivers the ultimate in biodiverse roof



The roof of the Unicorn Grocery in Manchester was treated to a biodiverse green roof which features the first roof pond.

This excellent example of a biodiverse roof has attracted considerable interest and the scheme to install the living roof is part of the 'Make Room for Black Redstarts' project, part of the wider biodiversity action plan for Greater Manchester. The installation of the roof was supported by a £24,685 funding donation from the SITA Trust.

As this green roof installation was a retro-fit, the existing waterproofing layer of Permaphalt mastic asphalt, which had only been installed 3 years ago, provided the perfect base. The clients wanted to upgrade the insulation and the installation of the brown roof provided the ideal opportunity to do this. Supertherm XPS insulation was installed.

IKO's Plasfeed 4+1 drainage / retention board was applied to provide a base for the biodiverse roof mix. IKOgreen edge retention trim, part of IKO PLC's extensive range of living roof products, was then installed to perimeter kerbs to complete the project. Permaphalt is a specially formulated mastic asphalt roofing, using advanced polymer technology to give the ideal combination of long term durability, increased fatigue resistance, improved temperature stability and ease of installation. The Permaphalt system was installed with a 20 year guarantee and it was the best option for the building owner to keep the continuity.

Project Sector: Private Co-operative

Products Used: Permaphalt, IKOgreen System

Contractor: Paragon Roofing & Asphalt Ltd

Started: July 2007

Completed: 600m²

Size: September 2007

Contact: Tim Wood

The entire project took just four weeks to complete. The final bags of growing material were lifted up in 1 ton bags and volunteers from BTCV helped to spread it. Graham Jones, Greater Manchester Biodiversity Manager explains; "We are absolutely delighted with the Unicorn Grocery project, but are just as pleased with the amount of interest it is generating. Green roofs are a key part of the biodiversity action plan for Greater Manchester."

Leah De Quattro of the Unicorn Grocery is also pleased with the finished roof; "We are really pleased with the finish result of the roof. Being the first commercial property in Manchester to install a brown roof it was important to ensure the roof looked good and performed well. Because the end result was so good we are able to recommend to other businesses the benefits of installing a green roof. IKO PLC and the contractors truly understood our needs and what we were trying to achieve."

