

GEIC Pocket Park

Promotion of biodiversity and ecology at GEIC

Background

The University of Manchester opened the Masdar Building, home of the Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre (GEIC), a world class **£60m industry-led development centre**, in late 2018. Key to the development of the 8,400 m² site was the transformation of the area's green space, with a focus upon **promoting biodiversity and ecology**, and therefore encouraging greater use of the area.

Project

A project team consisting of the University, Project Manager, Architect, Environmental Sustainability Advisor, Landscape Architect and City of Trees looked at the site in detail and discussed principles and potential key species to support the area's environmental and practical functionality.



Following this meeting, the Architect led a multi-disciplinary effort involving the Landscape Architect, Environmental Sustainability Advisor, Ecologist and the BREEAM Assessor to **develop a 'Pocket Park' and a landscaping scheme to promote biodiversity** while improving access to the area by moving the perimeter of fencing.

Outcomes

Despite an on-site reduction of green area to allow for the growth in building capacity, the ecological value of the site proportionally increased. Integrating more species into the lawn areas and substituting some of this previously dominant lawn habitat with bulbs, shrubs and evergreens helped facilitate this.

As a result, the landscaping **enhanced plant species diversity by 13%**. The increased accessibility to green space in the area, particularly to the GEIC Pocket Park, benefits the health and wellbeing of staff on North Campus, as well as the general public.

GEIC was awarded **2019 Project of the Year at the RICS Awards, North West**. A key factor was the project's 'exemplary commitment to adding value to its local area', with the green area development contributing to this.

Future

The site Ecologist has prepared a habitat management plan to ensure that biodiversity is enhanced over the next 5 years.

For further information

<https://www.graphene.manchester.ac.uk/about/geic/>

South Sackville Street,
The University of Manchester

BENEFITS



Recreation
& Leisure



Health &
Wellbeing



Economic
Growth &
Investment

TIMESCALE



2015-
2018