

BIRMINGHAM: BROWN ROOF DEMONSTRATIONS



WHAT ARE BROWN ROOFS?

The term **brown roof** is used to describe a type of green roof that is designed to mimic **brownfield** sites at an early stage of succession. A **green roof** is a general term for any roof covered with a growth substrate with plants growing on it, and as such, green roofs vary enormously in their type and function. They are generally split into two main types: **intensive green roofs**, which are essentially roof-top parks and gardens, and **extensive green roofs**, which are characterised by thin growth substrates, low maintenance and lower costs.

WILL BROWN ROOFS HAVE IMPACT IN IUWM?

Innovation in Brown roofs lies in the transparent integration of environment and biodiversity with urban water control and reuse. The potential exists to have significant impact, using a single set of architectural elements, on a range of important issues including 1. Innovative reuse of waste materials, 2. Energy reduction, 3. Biodiversity enhancement and the retention of endangered species, 4. Storm water mitigation, 5. Chemical conditioning of drainage water, and 6. Reuse of water for non-potable applications. Demonstrating this potential is key to their widespread uptake.

WHERE ARE THE DEMONSTRATIONS LOCATED?

The two brown roof demonstration projects are located in Birmingham's city centre: they are the BVSC (Birmingham Volunteer Service Council) brown roof, and the ICC (International Convention Centre) brown roof. More roofs are likely to be built.

WHO IS SUPPORTING THE DEMONSTRATION?

The demonstration is supported by the Birmingham City Council, SITA Trust, Sustainable Eastside (which is funded by Advantage West Midlands through the East Birmingham North Solihull Regeneration Zone and ERDF through Government Office for the West Midlands), Hyder Consulting and the Environment Agency. These supporting organisations are all members of the Birmingham Learning Alliance.

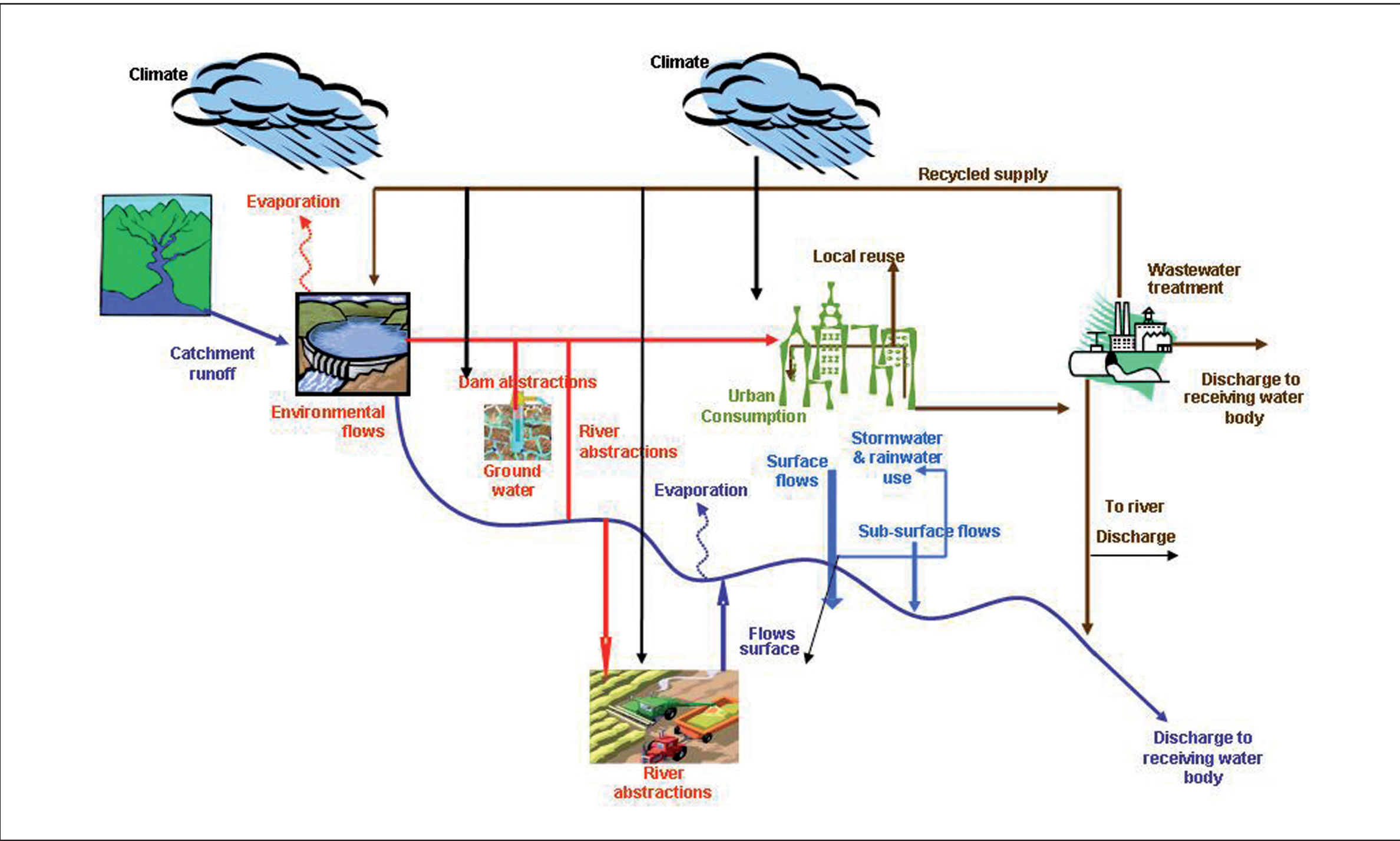
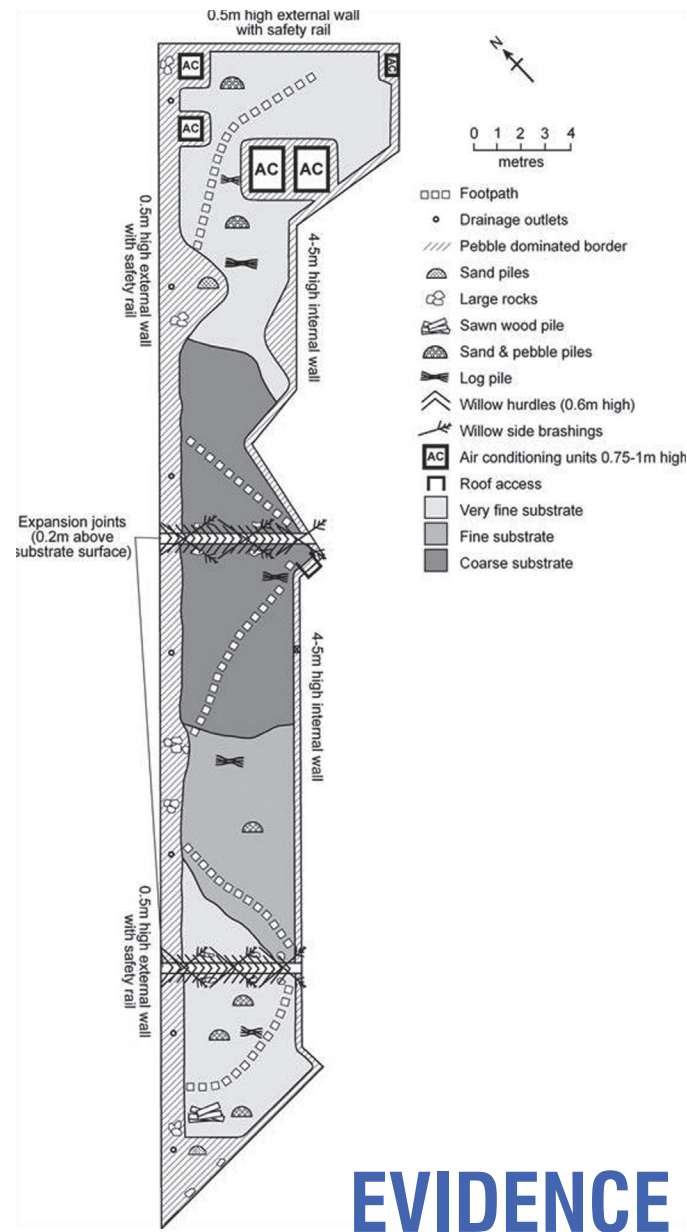


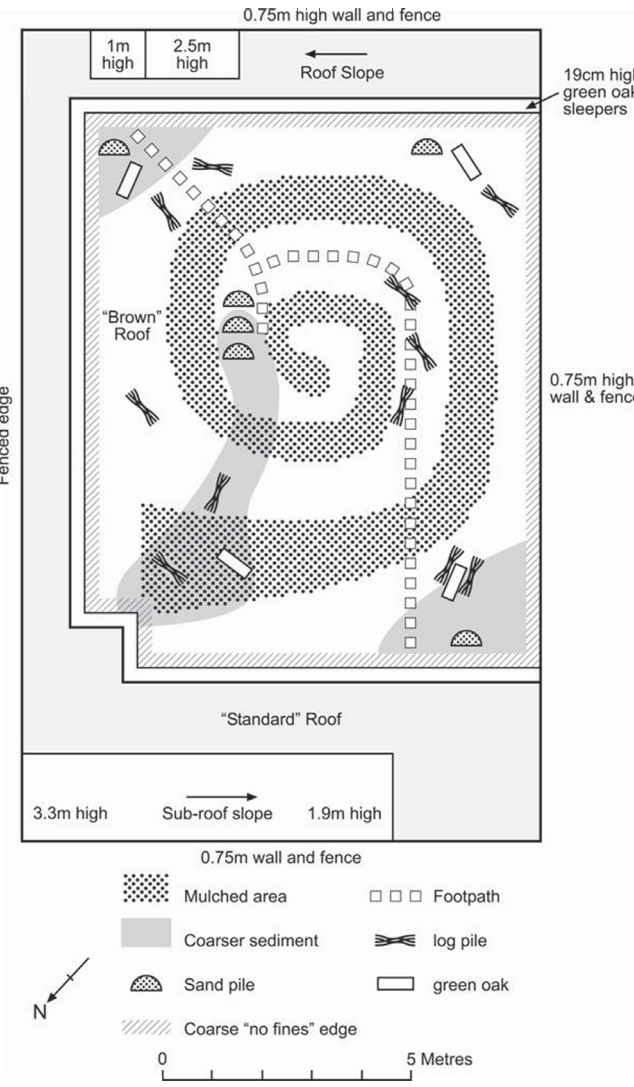
Image of the BVSC roof at the climate change festival



ICC Plan View



BVSC Plan View



EVIDENCE OF WIDE INTEREST?

A broad range of activities have been requested by stakeholders around the Brown Roof demonstration and research facilities in Birmingham. Examples include:

- SWITCH Training - Planning for storm water management in the cities of the future 14/10/08
- Guided tours of the University of Birmingham brown roof research facility - 7/8/07
- Two tours for 50 architects and planners during the Birmingham Climate Change Festival - 3&4/6/08
- Midlands Environmental Business Company (MEBC) green roof tour - 23/4/08
- A workshop on Actions to combat climate change and benefit biodiversity in an urban environment - 25/7/07
- A meeting looking at 'What makes green roof affordable' - 20/3/07
- Using the Brown roofs as a teaching resource for Landscape design at the University of Birmingham (annual)

