

Bristol Floating Harbour: new mooring pontoons



New moorings constructed from 'Earthwood' adjacent to the innovative floating reedbed in Bristol's Floating Harbour



A sustainable recycled material offers an attractive alternative to timber decking

A major regeneration project adjacent to Bristol's Floating Harbour has created a series of new public spaces in association with new waterside housing and facilities for boats. New moorings have been provided incorporating a large floating reed bed through which surface water drainage from the development is filtered and cleaned. These improvements form part of two wider campaigns – Bristol Living Rivers and 'Get on Board' – which seek to protect and enhance environmental quality in the harbour as well as all of the city's watercourses in the longer term.

The moorings have been developed using an innovative material called 'Earthwood' decking. This is manufactured from a mix of post-industrial and post-consumer polymers, typically from bottles, drums and plastic sheeting, sourced by recycling companies in the UK and Ireland. Wood-flour is also used as a by-product from timber production in Scotland.

'Earthwood' is made using 95% recycled materials and is itself completely recyclable. It was chosen for use at Bristol because it contains no harmful chemicals, glues, preservatives or agents and meets criteria for sustainability, safety and low maintenance. Made with high density composites 'Earthwood' does not suffer from wet or dry rot and remains impervious to attack from wood boring creatures, thereby reducing the need for repair or replacement. Its non-slip surface acts better than hard or soft wood decking in both wet and dry conditions, and it can be power washed without affecting performance. In addition, no harsh cleaning solutions or chemicals are required.

The new mooring pontoons have the full appearance of timber and provide a high quality facility next to the reed bed and associated hard and soft landscape work.