

Are green roofs the solution to a loss of habitat? A comparative study between green roofs, urban green space and brownfield sites.

by Eleanor Spratt

With cities sprawling into the countryside and reducing natural landscapes, new habitats have been developed as surrogates. A green roof is one of the types of habitats that can be created to sustain wildlife populations where ground level environments are lost.

With this understanding of green roofs, and my ever-growing interest in them, I devised a project based on this topic as part of my Masters at Imperial College London. My focus in this project is to consider if roofs are a good alternative to the loss of brownfield sites and ground level urban space.

I have been collecting results from 3 types of urban habitats (green roofs, green space and brownfield sites) over the past six weeks and my findings will be published here when concluded. Within this study I have been focusing on recording spiders and beetles caught in my traps. One of my sites is Poets Road, the location to a green roof, which I visit weekly to collect and analyse results. So far at Poets Road I have found the following:

- Apionidae (beetle)
- Clubionia reclusa (spider)
- Cicurina cicur (spider)
- Chysomelidae (beetle)
- Coccinellidae (beetle)
- Erigone promiscua (spider)
- Erigone dentipalpis (spider)
- Harpalus affinis (beetle)
- Lepthyphantes mengei (spider)
- Lepthyphantes tenuis (spider)
- Oedothorax retusus (spider)
- Oedemeridae (beetle)
- Pachygnatha degeeri (spider)
- Staphylinidae (beetle)

I hope in the future that I can continue studying green roofs and their positive impact within the urban environment.

